



Great Lakes Region to Receive Nearly \$3 Million to Advance Coastal Resilience Projects through the Cities Initiative

Projects address top needs identified by Great Lakes cities

Chicago, Illinois - November 25, 2024 - The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and its member cities have been awarded nearly \$3 million through the [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#) to advance eight critical shoreline resilience projects across the Great Lakes region. This funding represents a significant milestone in addressing the growing threats of climate change, such as coastal flooding and erosion, while enhancing community access to waterfronts, restoring fish and wildlife habitats, and improving water quality.

The projects, located in **Dunkirk, New York; Toledo, Ohio; Sheboygan, Wisconsin; Waukegan, Illinois; Romulus, Michigan; Euclid, Ohio; and Grand Marais, Minnesota**, will use the \$2.98 million to complete essential design and planning activities, bringing them one step closer to construction. The projects address longstanding resilience issues that have increased in severity in recent years including coastal and neighborhood flooding; erosion and loss of dunes, beaches and bluffs; failing infrastructure; compromised public safety; and degraded habitat.

“This funding is a testament to the importance of collaboration among cities to improve the resilience of our Great Lakes coasts,” said **Ryan Sorenson, Cities Initiative Co-Chair and Mayor of Sheboygan, Wisconsin**. “These projects represent hope and opportunity for our communities, ensuring they are better prepared for the future while enhancing access to waterfronts and improving the health of our natural resources.”

This milestone accomplishment reflects the Cities Initiative's commitment to advancing climate resilience through bipartisan and regional collaboration. Each project addresses a critical need identified by local communities, emphasizing solutions such as restoring natural floodplains, coastal wetlands, and in-water habitats. The projects aim to reduce future risks and costs, improve public safety, and catalyze local economic development.

“This initiative emphasizes the collective effort needed to protect our communities,” added **Bill Bazzi, Cities Initiative Board Member and Mayor of Dearborn Heights, Michigan**. “Together, we are securing the future of our lake- and river-front communities while fostering economic growth and environmental stewardship.”

To date, the Cities Initiative has supported over 80 coastal resilience projects in the Great Lakes region, helping cities secure funding to tackle longstanding issues such as eroding bluffs, failing infrastructure, degraded habitats and health and safety concerns.

For more information on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative, visit www.glsicities.org.

About the Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative (RCPI)

The RCPI supports local communities in planning sustainable, fundable projects that protect shorelines and community assets. These projects address coastal hazards like flooding or erosion, while adding community benefits such as public spaces, recreation, wildlife habitat, and improved water quality. More information on the Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative is available on the Cities Initiative's website (<https://glsicities.org/initiatives/resilient-coastal-projects-initiative>).



About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a multinational coalition of U.S. and Canadian mayors, and chief elected officials dedicated to the environmental, social and economic health of communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. With more than 260 members, the Cities Initiative is the largest local government driven organization in the basin focused on issues impacting residents.

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