



Blue Accounting Coastal Wetlands

RESTORING COASTAL WETLANDS TO SUPPORT OUR NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

www.blueaccounting.org

Generations of families have enjoyed the scenery and recreation along the 4,500 miles of Great Lakes coasts. They have also benefited from the natural infrastructure provided by coastal wetlands, which buffer homes and roads from flooding, reduce wave energy from storms and improve water quality by filtering runoff. Coastal wetlands are home to a diversity of plants and provide nursery and foraging habitat for fish and wildlife, fueling the Lakes' vibrant tourism industries. Not long ago, nearly 1 million acres of coastal wetlands lined the shores of our Great Lakes.

However, since the turn of the twentieth century, over 50% of this critical natural infrastructure has been lost, with the remainder left in varying conditions from high quality to greatly degraded. Recently, a growing awareness of the important role wetlands play in human and ecosystem wellbeing has bolstered efforts by state and federal agencies to prioritize the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands. On the U.S. side, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) seeks to protect or restore 60,000 acres of coastal wetlands by the end of 2019.

TRACKING PROGRESS WITH BLUE ACCOUNTING

Blue Accounting is helping the Great Lakes Coastal Assembly track and communicate progress towards coastal wetland conservation goals. The Assembly is a voluntary PARTNERSHIP of federal, state, provincial, tribal, and nongovernmental interests focused on aligning actions around coastal priorities.

GOALS AND PROGRESS

Blue Accounting and the Assembly are focusing on one of four identified goals—that the Great Lakes support diverse wetland types that are resilient and adaptable to changing conditions. We're tracking both dollars invested into coastal wetlands projects and progress towards this goal in terms of total coastal wetland acreage protected, enhanced, or restored through GLRI and other programs. **Though our database continues to grow, our current data shows:**



Lotus flowers at dawn, Erie Marsh Preserve. Courtesy © Ron Leonetti.

67,250+ acres of wetlands protected, restored or enhanced from 2010-2019—24,300 acres funded by GLRI through 2017, just under the 30,000 acre 2017 target

\$150 Million+ invested in coastal wetlands since 2010

LEARN MORE

For more information on Blue Accounting's Coastal Wetlands Pilot, please reach out to Doug Pearsall, Senior Conservation Scientist for the Nature Conservancy Michigan Chapter, dpearsall@tnc.org.

If you are interested in learning more about Blue Accounting projects, please visit www.blueaccounting.org.

WHO'S INVOLVED

State and Provincial Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources • Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources • Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy • Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources • Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources • New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation • Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources • Ohio Lake Erie Commission • Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources | **Federal and Tribal** Bay Mills Indian Community • Environment and Climate Change Canada • National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration • Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • U.S. Geological Survey | **Private and Nongovernmental** Ducks Unlimited • Great Lakes Commission • Illinois Natural History Survey • Illinois State Geological Survey • National Audubon • The Nature Conservancy • University of Michigan



The Great Lakes Commission convenes Blue Accounting for the Great Lakes Basin, in partnership with federal, state, provincial, local and private sector organizations. Blue Accounting was initially co-led with The Nature Conservancy and receives funding support from Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation.