

COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN ILLINOIS



Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Coastal Management Program is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the environmental, economic, and social value of Illinois' Great Lakes coast.

Recent Actions in Support of the Coast

- Funded the development of 39 regional, community, or site-specific plans in the last 5 years to protect coastal resources, develop and enhance recreation and access, and support waterfront economic development.
- Built a regional network of 35 coastal community leaders and managers from 12 communities who work together to apply the best-available science to pilot cost-effective shoreline management strategies, engage local communities, and address policy and permitting challenges.
- Secured a \$160,000 grant for community-driven park improvements at IDNR's William Powers State Recreational Area, located in an economically disadvantaged southside community.
- Funded 100 acres of prairie and forest habitat restoration and provided staff support for 96 acres of wetland habitat restoration. Connected 47,874 people to our coast through five years of education programming.



The Illinois Coastal Program manages over 1500 square miles of urban, conservation, estuarine, and coastal land.

Priorities Looking Ahead

- Establish a coastal research and education center that will champion community engagement in coastal issues and advance collaborative research on Lake Michigan sustainability and management.
 - Enhance economic and environmental revitalization of Illinois' Great Lake Ports by investing in planning, capacity building, strategic partnerships and community involvement.
 - Expand and enhance recreational opportunities at coastal parks and natural areas including promotion of the Lake Michigan Water Trail.

A State-Federal Partnership

Illinois has participated in the National Coastal Zone Management Program since 2012. This state-federal partnership is essential to the continued health and economic growth of the state's coastal communities, businesses, and population.

FEDERAL FUNDS: \$2,332,000
STATE AND MATCHING FUNDS: \$2,135,000
TOTAL: \$4,467,000

ADDRESSING COASTAL HAZARDS IN ILLINOIS

In Illinois, our communities live, work, and play on Lake Michigan's coast. With current higher lake levels and more frequent storms, we experience quick and drastic shoreline change. Through a network of leaders and managers from federal and state agencies, park districts, ports, and congressional offices, we work together on regionally-impactful and tangible approaches to public shoreline management. These projects include US Army Corps of Engineers and community agreements on shoreline nourishment and education and outreach materials that help stakeholders navigate the complex permitting process.

"Participation in the Sand Management Working Group aligns with our mission of environmental stewardship. Solutions to coastal issues need a regional approach. As caretakers of public lands, it is important that we take part by supporting research, working with fellow agencies and communities, and sharing what we learn with a wider audience."
-Rebecca Grill, Park District of Highland Park



Once a highly contaminated area with a legacy of manufacturing activity, Waukegan Harbor and the nearby waterfront area is experiencing a tremendous period of renewal and growth. The Waukegan Waterfront Working Group is a key partnership in this reinvigoration. This group unites representatives from the city, port and park district, to identify and implement projects that will maximize the area's natural and economic potential as one of Illinois' lakefront gems. Together, we are realizing a shared vision for a vibrant and welcoming locale for residents, tourists, and business alike.

Diane Tecic
Coastal Program Director
Illinois Department of Natural
Resources
312-814-0665
Diane.tecic@illinois.gov



Coastal States Organization
Hall of the States
444 North Capitol St., NW, Suite 638
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 508-3860
www.coastalstates.org