



MAKING WAVES



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE
CITIES INITIATIVE
L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative Expands its Geographic Coverage

This spring, the Cities Initiative will be launching an expansion of its *Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative*, which launched in fall 2021 with generous gifts from the Erb Family Foundation and the Fund for Lake Michigan. With a new \$380,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, we will build on our ongoing programs in Wisconsin and Michigan, expanding into coastal communities in Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The *Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative* engages local decision-makers, regional climate experts, and world-class engineers to advance nature-based solutions in Great Lakes coastal communities through the development of projects aimed at strengthening coastal resilience and protecting assets in shoreline areas. The goal is to address critical coastal resilience needs and take advantage of upcoming state and federal funding opportunities, including new programs created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021.

Participating communities will receive technical support to scope priority projects as well as assistance in securing financing for their implementation. The Cities Initiative hopes to raise funds to extend this important work into Quebec and Ontario.

The *Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative* will help communities address concerns related to shoreline erosion, flooding, stormwater management, endangered species habitat, preservation of natural features and more.

The program emphasizes nature-based solutions because of the many documented benefits to people and the environment, including enhanced biodiversity, water quality, and soil health, and reduced vulnerability to extreme weather events. Nature-based solutions in coastal areas can also improve community access to beaches and bluffs and offer residents and tourists an array of social, recreational, and economic opportunities.

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