



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley  
National Park

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## Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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### Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to Benefit National Parks

**Brecksville, Ohio** - The National Parks of the Great Lakes region are taking part this year in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), an unprecedented Federal investment in the health of the Great Lakes. This interagency effort will provide focused, coordinated funding to address long-standing Great Lakes ecosystem issues. At the request of President Obama, Congress has appropriated \$475 million for the GLRI in 2010; these funds are administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which in turn is providing approximately \$10.5 million to the National Park Service (NPS). Funding will support 13 projects in 11 park units this year, in what is projected to be a 5-year program. According to NPS Midwest Regional Director Ernie Quintana, “This effort is an outstanding opportunity to accomplish restoration work in our parks that would not otherwise be possible.”

The GLRI is based on the 2005 “Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy,” to which a broad range of governmental and non-government groups contributed. It addresses five focus areas:

- Protection and cleanup of the most polluted areas in the lakes
- Combating invasive species
- Protection of high priority watersheds and reduced runoff from urban, suburban and agricultural sources
- Restoration of wetlands and other habitats
- Implementation of accountability measures, learning initiatives, outreach and strategic partnerships

In addition to the funds to be administered directly by 16 Federal agencies, a portion of the GLRI is being made available through grants; more information is available at [www.epa.gov/greatlakes](http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes).

The NPS administers sites on or near Lake Superior (Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Grand Portage National Monument, Isle Royale National Park, Keweenaw National Historical Park and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore); Lake Michigan (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore); and Lake Erie (Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial). Most of the NPS’s GLRI projects will address ecosystem restoration in multiple park units.

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park will participate in the GLRI by presenting to the public a greater emphasis on the ecosystem restoration initiatives, through increased interpretation and education, as well as continued invasive plant removal activities. Funds will be used to prepare and finalize plans to restore wetlands at the park and participate more fully in the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan, which focuses on actions to protect and restore the Lake Erie ecosystem.

“Our participation in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative will fulfill an outstanding need of communicating the importance of removing exotic species; restoring wetlands, and restoring a critical ecosystem. This initiative is not only a park issue - it is a community issue. The funding will help engage visitors and the outlying communities in exotic species management and wetland restoration,” said Paul J. Stoehr, Superintendent (Acting).

Additional NPS projects are listed at [www.nps.gov/cuva/great-lakes-restoration-initiative.htm](http://www.nps.gov/cuva/great-lakes-restoration-initiative.htm).

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