

WHO'S ADDRESSING ILLINOIS' WATERSHED CHALLENGES? (Partial List)

REDUCING THE NUTRIENTS ENTERING THE WATERWAYS

- **U.S. EPA:** 2008 Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force Action Plan **and** 2011 "Stoner" Memo →
- **Illinois EPA:** **2015 Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy** (NLRs) [<http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/excess-nutrients/nutrient-loss-reduction-strategy/index>] By year 2025, the goal is to reduce Illinois' nitrogen and phosphorus discharges to the Mississippi by 15% and 25%, respectively.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture: Natural Resources Conservation Service** *Mississippi River Basin Initiative*. Through a variety of programs, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. It may also help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations. The **Farm Service Agency** oversees a number of voluntary conservation-related programs.
- **Industry Groups:** Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association, Nutrient Research & Education Council, Illinois Council on Best Management Practices, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Soybean Association, Illinois Corn Growers Association, Illinois Pork Producers Association
- **Wastewater treatment authorities--e.g. Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)** is utilizing new phosphorus removal technology at its Stickney plant that will convert the removed phosphorus into a commercial, pelletized product. The Hanover Park plant will be the site of a demonstration project to remove and recover phosphorus and nitrogen. The byproduct of removal will be an algae biomass that can be harvested & converted into a saleable commodity (bioplastics & biobased industrial acids).
- **Other agencies & groups involved in nutrient management:** U.S. Department of Interior (U.S. Geological Survey, Fish & Wildlife Service), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (administering the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Zone Management Program), Illinois Department of Agriculture, Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts; academia, esp. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; non-profit groups like American Farmland Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Women Food & Agriculture Network...

RESTORING HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY IN THE GREAT LAKES WATERSHED

U.S. EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI): provides federal funding for grants, monitoring and projects to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Since the program's inception in 2010, nearly \$30 million has come to Illinois for the restoration of dunes, beaches, ravines, wetlands, and riparian areas; invasive plant eradication; sediment control; endangered species recovery; beach water quality improvements; ecosystem research; and administration. The largest projects include restoration of:

- Jackson Park (Chicago Park District), \$5.4 million;
- Rosewood Park (Park District of Highland Park), \$3.7 million;
- Horner Park-Chicago River (Chicago Park District), \$2.9 million;
- Orland Park Tract (Cook County Forest Preserve District), \$2.4 million;
- Waukegan Harbor (Waukegan Harbor AOC Citizens Advisory Group), \$2.3 million.

Additionally, the GLRI has provided over \$40 million to prevent Asian carp from reaching Lake Michigan and has funded Cook County Forest Preserve dam removal and wetland restoration projects .

