



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

63rd Street Beach, Chicago, IL

Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration Habitat Focus Area

Project Location: The 63rd Street Dune & Beach is part of the Lake Michigan coastal zone and is located in northeastern Illinois at 6300 S. Lake Shore Dr. in Chicago. The proposed restoration footprint is approximately 21 acres.

Project Description: The 63rd Street dune and swale restoration is part of the Lake Michigan coastline and is located at 6300 S. Lake Shore Drive in Chicago, Illinois. The restoration footprint is approximately 21 acres in size and includes lacustrine and coastal beach habitat. The lacustrine habitat includes three lenses of large and small intermingled stone along the existing jetty as habitat for invertebrates, insects and a variety of spawning fishes. Interspersed among the stone is randomly placed woody debris to increase the vertical habitat structure for fishes. Three coastal plant communities were restored - two along the current beach area and one landward of the beach. The two areas within the beach area were restored to a predominant community of marram and little bluestem grass dunes, while the landward-most site was restored to a coastal savanna habitat with the predominant species of oak, sand cherry and little bluestem.

Nonfederal Partner: Chicago Park District

Project Benefits: The project has restored a portion of the Great Lakes coastal habitat while incorporating compatible educational opportunities. The 21-acre restoration site now supports a diverse array of native plant and fish species, as well as migratory and resident birds with improved water quality for aquatic resources. The restored habitats include five acres of dune, six acres of dune and swale, three acres of savanna and seven acres of cobblestone pockets and woody debris. This area is used during the migration seasons by waterfowl and several species of shorebirds, including the Tricolored Heron and the federally endangered Piping Plover.

Status: Construction started in 2010 and completed in December 2011. The project was expected to generate nearly eight new jobs in private industry.



Planting of native species

Final Project Costs	
Federal	\$515,965
Nonfederal	\$277,827
Total	\$793,792

Project Milestones	
Construction contract awarded	Aug 2010
Construction complete	Dec 2011

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