



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

# Fort Sheridan, Lake County, IL

## Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration

### Habitat Focus Area

**Project Location:** The restoration site is located east of Sheridan Road in the City of Lake Forest and Highland Park, Ill., along the coastline of Lake Michigan. It consists of eight main ravines, several small unnamed ravines, the ravines' watersheds, bluff along the coastline, the beach, and littoral zone of Lake Michigan.

**Project Description:** Most of the habitat destruction at Fort Sheridan was the result of conversion to military housing and a base which have caused erosional conditions along the lakeshore, infestation of invasive woody and herbaceous species, and lack of stabilizing native grass and forb species. This project would restore between 200 and 250 acres of lacustrine, beach, dune, bluff, plateau and ravine habitat along Lake Michigan shoreline and provide significant littoral zone habitat for fishes within a 25- mile area. Restoration would include approximately two miles of protected shoreline which is host to thousands of migrating birds and five endangered and threatened plants: Buffalo Berry, Seaside Spurge, Sea Rocket, Beach Grass, and Common Juniper. The project will remove/modify excessive infrastructure and urban runoff from the ravines and beach to reduce erosion, improve the habitat for endangered coastal species, migrating birds, stabilize the bluff and ravine communities to reduce erosion, remove non-native and invasive species, and restore the lakeshore habitats.

**Nonfederal Partners:** Lake County Forest Preserve, Openlands, Town of Ft. Sheridan, and City of Lake Forest.

**Ecosystem Benefits:** Restoration would lessen impacts to native fish populations in Lake Michigan; increase the coastal habitat quality, size, and viability; restore two miles of Lake Michigan shoreline; restore the lake's beach, bluff, and ravine communities; protect the coastal endangered and threatened species; reduce erosional conditions and sedimentations into Lake Michigan; allow more compatible public access to the shoreline; and provide educational opportunities for freshwater coastal systems.

**Project Status:** The project is currently in the feasibility phase. With optimal funding, construction could begin spring 2015.



Estimated Project Costs	
Federal	\$8,800,000
Nonfederal	\$4,800,000
Total	\$13,600,000

Project Milestones	
Approval of Feasibility Report	Nov 2014
Advertise Construction Contract	Feb 2015
Award Construction Contract	Mar 2015

Point of Contact
Kirston Buczak, (312) 846-5552 <a href="mailto:Kirston.A.Buczak@usace.army.mil">Kirston.A.Buczak@usace.army.mil</a>

