



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

# Little Calumet Riparian, Chesterton, IN

**Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration**

**Habitat Focus Area**

**Project Location:** The project footprint covers an area of 43 acres surrounding the East Branch Little Calumet River, several miles south of Lake Michigan and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The project is situated at the intersection of Indian Boundary and Brummitt roads near Chesterton, Ind., Porter County. The site is currently a nature preserve titled Little Calumet Wetlands and is situated in a highly visible area of Chesterton, adjacent to the Brummit Elementary School.

**Project Description:** Historically, the Little Calumet River stream corridor and riparian zone was dominated by several naturally occurring cover types such as wetlands, forests, savannas and prairies. By the late 1800s, much of these cover types, particularly prairies, savannas and wetlands, were converted to agricultural, urban or industrial use. Subsequently, there was a significant loss of biodiversity within the last one hundred years, and side effects included an increase in flood events and a decrease in water quality. Human induced disturbances to the remaining natural areas include fire suppression, altered hydrology, increase colonization of invasive species and fragmentation. The following restoration actions could be taken at the Little Calumet Wetlands site to improve its ecological quality 1) Restore natural habitat variability to support riverine specialist species, 2) Restore canopy structure and increase native diversity of the floodplain forest, 3) Eliminate pockets of invasive plant species that threaten other high quality wetland pockets.

**Nonfederal Partner:** Shirley Heinze Land Trust

**Project Benefits:** Benefits would include increased biological integrity of the Little Calumet River, restoration of the natural floodplain morphology and hydro-periods, and increased floristic quality scores throughout the riparian ecosystem. Through reduced nutrient and sediment loading and increased habitat variability, water quality within the river and wetlands will improve as well as their wildlife diversity and abundance.

**Project Status:** Construction contract awarded September 2012. The project is expected to generate 3+ new jobs in private industry.



High quality wetland endangered by invasive species

Estimated Project Costs	
Federal	\$250,000
Nonfederal	\$135,000
Total	\$385,000

Project Milestones	
Award construction contract	Sep 2012
Complete construction	Sep 2015

Point of Contact
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