

Wolf Lake Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Hammond, Indiana

Project Site

Wolf Lake lies on the northwest side of Hammond, Indiana, and on the far southeast side of Chicago, Illinois. The Illinois-Indiana state line nearly bisects the lake. The surrounding area has a mixture of highly urbanized land and open, green spaces. Historically, the Wolf Lake area was part of a complex of shallow lakes, wetlands, and beach ridges and was directly



connected to Lake Michigan. Currently, Wolf Lake consists of nine distinct pools separated by dikes and has a maximum depth of 18 feet. Remnants of wetlands are present, but invasive species in the lake and along the shoreline continue to spread and discourage the growth of native vegetation. The shoreline is eroding because of intense wave action, and slag that was previously deposited in and around the lake is exposed.

Project Description

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the City of Hammond, the local project sponsor, are undertaking a project to restore the Indiana portion of Wolf Lake. The selected restoration plan includes (1) improvement



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Chicago District



Tetra Tech EM Inc.

UPDATE

A public meeting about the Wolf Lake aquatic ecosystem restoration was held on October 30, 2002. Meeting presentations and other information are available on the Wolf Lake project web site (see below). Another public meeting will be held in spring 2003 to discuss the restoration design. Be sure to check the web site for up-to-date information.

and creation of aquatic, wetland, and upland habitat features; (2) restoration of over 14,000 linear feet of shoreline; (3) creation of filtration wetlands; (4) control of aquatic and shoreline weeds; (5) lowering of the lake water level and reduction of water level fluctuations by clearing channels between pools and creating openings in dikes to connect pools; and (6) boat launch improvements and installation of informational signage. The project cost is estimated to be \$7 million.

Project Status

USACE's reconnaissance report for Wolf Lake was approved in September 2000, and the project was converted to a Water Resources Development Act Section 206 aquatic ecosystem restoration project in July 2001. The feasibility study phase of the project was initiated in September 2001 and included Tetra Tech EM Inc.'s preparation of the detailed project report for the restoration as well as supplemental studies.



For more information about the Wolf Lake aquatic ecosystem restoration project, contact the USACE Project Manager, Kirston Buczak, at (312) 353-6400, extension 3107; contact the Hammond Parks and Recreation Department Administrator, Curt Vosti, at (219) 853-6378; or visit www.lrc.usace.army.mil/projects/projlist.htm.