



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

63rd Street Beach, Chicago, IL

Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration Habitat and Species 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 Drive in Chicago.

Project Description: The 63rd Street dune and swale restoration footprint is degraded 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.

Non-federal 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 permanent restoration site now supports a diverse array of native plant and fish species, as well as migratory and resident birds. The restored habitats include 14 acres of dune and dune and swale habitats along with seven acres of lacustrine cobblestone pockets and woody debris. The mandatory operation and maintenance of this project will ensure permanent long term sustainable benefits to these resources. 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 was completed in December 2011 with a two year period of establishment of the plants by the non-Federal sponsor. The project was expected to generate nearly eight new jobs in private industry.



Planting of native species

Total Project Costs	
Federal	\$524,715
Non-federal	\$269,077
Total	\$793,792

Project Milestones	
Construction contract awarded	Aug 2010
Project turned over to the Non-Fed Sponsor	Jan 2014

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