



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

# Little Calumet River Riparian, Chesterton, IN

**Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration**

**Habitat and Species Focus Area**

**Project Location:** The project footprint covers an area 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, many 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. Additional human induced disturbances to the remaining natural areas include fire suppression, altered hydrology, increase colonization of invasive species and fragmentation.

**Non-Federal Partner:** Shirley Heinze Land Trust

**Project Benefits:** The 43 acre restoration includes 6 acres of bottomland forest, 7 acres of mesic forest, 28 acres of wetland and 2 acres of riverine habitat. The restoration increases the biological integrity of the Little Calumet River, restores the natural floodplain morphology and hydro-periods, and increases floristic quality 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. The mandatory operation and maintenance of this project by Shirley Heinze Land Trust will ensure permanent long term sustainable benefits to these resources.

**Project Status:** Construction contract was awarded in September 2012. The project is expected to support 5 jobs in private industry. This project was Federally funded using USACE appropriations and the USEPA managed Great Lakes Restoration Initiative appropriations.



High quality wetland endangered by invasive species

Total Project Costs	
Federal	\$223,000
Nonfederal	\$120,000
Total	\$343,000

Project Milestones	
Award construction contract	Sep 2012
Complete construction	Sep 2015

Point of Contact
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