



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Northerly Island, Chicago, IL

Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration

Nearshore Health & Nonpoint Source Pollution Focus Area

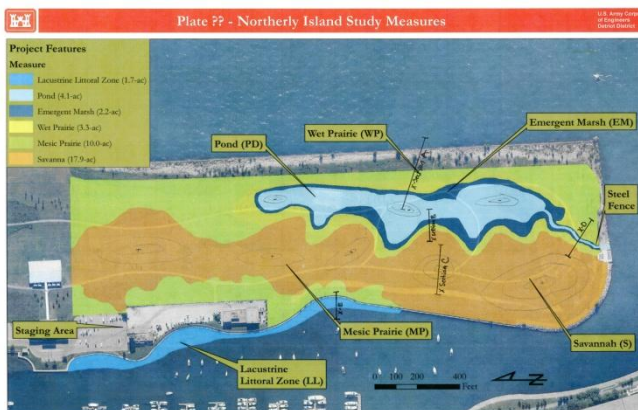
Project Location: Northerly Island is a 91-acre manmade peninsula on the shores of Southern Lake Michigan in Chicago, IL. Northerly Island is located adjacent to the Adler Planetarium in the Museum Campus Park where it provides protection to Burnham Harbor Marina from wave action. The ecosystem restoration project is located in the southern 40 acres of the peninsula.

Project Description: Until recently, the southern portion of Northerly Island was used for passive recreation. A paved bicycle path meandered throughout the park and was surrounded by a prairie-like field that provided stop-over habitat for many species of migratory birds. The field consisted of a combination of invasive species and random native plants. In addition, much of the field was mowed and had little ecologic value. Aquatic resources in the project area are limited to the surrounding Lake Michigan. The perimeter of the project area is contained by revetment walls that provide a limited ecosystem with very few macrophytes and habitat niches for aquatic organisms to thrive. Overall, the southern portion of Northerly Island is providing limited ecosystem benefits and lowering the ecological integrity of the surrounding area. The project will create 40 acres of coastal habitat.

Non-federal Partner: Chicago Park District

Project Benefits: The 40 acres of coastal habitat in southern Lake Michigan includes 18 acres of oak savanna, 10 acres of mesic prairie, 3.3 acres of wet prairie, 2.2 acres of emergent marsh, 4.1 acres of pond, and 1.7 acres of lacustrine littoral habitat. The project will greatly benefit habitat for a variety of migratory and resident bird species, fish, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and mammals. Specifically, the state threatened banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphanous*) and mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*) may benefit from this project. The mandatory operation and maintenance of this project by the Chicago Park District will ensure permanent long term sustainable benefits to these resources.

Project Status: The construction contract was awarded September 2012 using a combination of GLRI and USACE-base funding. The project is expected to support 116 jobs in private industry.



Total Project Costs	
Federal	\$5,495,000
Nonfederal	\$2,905,000
Total	\$8,400,000

Project Milestones	
Award construction contract	Sep 2012
Complete construction	Sep 2017

Point of Contact	
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