



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Chicago Botanic Gardens Shoreline, Glencoe, IL

Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration Habitat Focus Area

Project Location: The Chicago Botanic Garden is located in the northeast portion of Cook County in Glencoe, Ill., which is approximately 25 miles north of the city of Chicago. The site encompasses 385 acres of which approximately 75 acres are aquatic and six acres are riparian in a system with nine islands.

Project Description: Sustained high and low water levels have been detrimental to the shore line, with up to 13 acres of land lost over the last 30 years and subsequent loss or degradation of wetland, riparian, and lake habitats. The lake level has been stabilized by an earlier USACE project and 3.1 miles of the 5.7 miles of shoreline restored by others. This project has restored an additional 6,400 feet of shoreline of which approximately 2,000 feet will include steel or vinyl sheet piling in addition to a shorter aquatic shelf and the installation of aquatic, emergent and riparian plants.

Nonfederal Partner: Chicago Botanic Garden

Project Benefits: The project restored 6,400 feet of eroded aquatic and riparian habitat and protected the remaining 75-acre lake bed from additional deposition of habitat smothering soils. The 6,400 feet of restored shoreline is supporting expansion of insect habitat in wetland and shallow water zones which are extremely beneficial for migratory birds. Laurence Binford, a well known ornithologist, noted that the Garden's 385 acres along with the adjacent 400 acres of the Cook County's Skokie Lagoons offer contiguous bird habitat that is **critically** important for the mostly nocturnal neotropical migrant birds that utilize the Lake Michigan lakeshore for their flight path orientation.

Project Status: Construction of this restoration project was completed August 2012. The project was expected to generate 11 new jobs in private industry.

Installing temporary coffer dam



Installing vinyl sheet piling.

Actual Project Costs	
Federal	\$3,700,000
Nonfederal	\$1,992,307
Total	\$5,692,307

Project Milestones	
Completed construction	Aug 2012

Point of Contact	
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