



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Zion Beach Ridge Plain Restoration

Lake County, IL & Kenosha County, WI

Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Habitat Focus Area

Project Location: The Lake Plain area, located from Kenosha, Wis. south to Waukegan, Ill. totals about 2,000 acres of publicly protected lands within the Lake Michigan coastal zone. The project would include Chiwaukee Prairie, Spring Bluff and Illinois Beach State Park.

Project Description: The main goal of the project is to reestablish and naturalize lake plain hydrology with the intent of restoring coastal zone native fish and plant communities. Project features would include remeandering natural sloughs and streams, day-lighting once natural sloughs and streams, rerouting / detaining unnatural drainage from urban development, placement of cobble control structures, if necessary, to reestablish hydrology, removal of invasive plant species and removal of barriers to fish passage.

Nonfederal Partners: Illinois DNR, Lake County Forest Preserve, Wisconsin DNR, Nature Conservancy

Project Benefits: This restoration project would provide a unique coastal wetland zone that is a necessity for a multitude of taxa. The Zion Beach-Ridge area makes significant contributions to the biodiversity of the Lake Michigan watershed and our Great Lakes ecosystem. This area connects 14 different plant community types and provides habitat for 63 state-listed species and four federally-listed species. Equally important, the Zion Beach-Ridge Plain provides critical stop-over habitat for 160 migratory bird species and serves as important breeding habitat for many wetland-dependent bird species. Fish associated with the tributaries and outlets to Lake Michigan include Yellow perch, Northern pike (*Esox lucius*), Longnose sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*), Lake Chub (*Couesius plumbeus*), Blackchin shiner (*Notropis heterodon*), and Blacknose shiner (*Notropis heterolepis*).

Project Status: The project is in feasibility and with optimal funding construction, could begin in 2015.



Mouth of Dead River at Lake Michigan

Estimate Project Costs	
Federal	\$1,820,000
Nonfederal	\$980,000
Total	\$2,800,000

Milestone	Date
Approve feasibility study	Sep 2014
Award construction contract	July 2015

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