

Michigan Areas of Concern

Project Highlight: St. Clair River



Marysville Living Shoreline Project | Nov. 2012-June 2013

Project Type: Restoration
Location: St. Clair County



GLRI Funds: \$1.5 Million
Local Match: \$300,000

Project at a Glance

In the winter of 2012, workers in the City of Marysville completed a “living shoreline” project on the banks of the St. Clair River. These types of projects involve habitat restoration, establishing



native plant life and structures that resist erosion, but function like natural shoreline.

To accomplish this, workers replaced a failing vertical seawall on the St. Clair River with a reinforced rocky shoreline and an improved walkway and boardwalk. The rocky shores provide spawning and nursery habitat for Great Lakes fish, while wetland and upland prairie vegetation planted this year will benefit birds and other wildlife.

A total of 1,885 feet of steel seawall was removed and replaced creating a more naturalized shoreline. Additional plantings in spring 2013 will create a transitional area between the deep waters of the St. Clair River and the wetland and upland areas along the shore.

Local Perspective

“This project has proven beneficial to both the City of Marysville and the Great Lakes Basin as a whole. Without GLRI funding, our hazardous, failing seawall along the St. Clair River would not have been replaced nor would a ‘living shoreline’ have been established. The project enabled us to build more than 400 feet of elevated boardwalk plus create a more natural shoreline conducive for the re-establishment of aquatic plant life and fish habitat.

“As a result of the GLRI funding, the City of Marysville not only made needed repairs, but created a unique shoreline that provides a significant increase in habitat and improved fishing and recreational access. This is a feature that residents and visitors can enjoy for years to come making Marysville a ‘nice place to visit, a better place to live.’”

-Gary W. Orr, Mayor, City of Marysville



The “living shoreline” provides habitat for fish and wildlife along the St. Clair River — a sharp contrast from the vertical seawall it replaced.

Partners:



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