

# Lake Erie Partnership for Education and Outreach

*Lake Erie Literacy: An understanding of Lake Erie's influence on you and your influence on the freshwater lake.*

ODNR Office of Coastal Management



*Experiential education programs engage learners by using real-world issues and hands-on interaction with nature.*

## Fresh Water Stimulant

Lake Erie is the shallowest, southernmost, warmest and most biologically diverse of the five Great Lakes. The lake was the first to form after the retreat of the glaciers more than 10,000 years ago.

Smallest by volume at 127.7 trillion gallons, Erie is the fourth largest Great Lake in total surface area (9,910 sq. mi.) and frequently produces more fish for human consumption than the four other Great Lakes combined.

Ohio's Lake Erie ports handle commodities including steel, iron ore, coal, salt and grain.

One-third of Ohio's boating occurs on Lake Erie, the source of daily drinking water for more than 3 million Ohioans.

More than 119,000 northern Ohio jobs are directly linked to Lake Erie-region visitors who spend more than \$10.7 billion annually generating \$430 million in state taxes and \$320 million in local taxes.

Ohio's Lake Erie Watershed covers 11,649 square miles and drains portions of 35 counties. The eight counties along Ohio's 312-mile Lake Erie shore are home to 2.55 million people, nearly one-quarter of Ohio residents.

**We envision** *Lake Erie-literate citizens making informed decisions and taking personal actions that create a healthier lake and watershed.*

## Our Actions

Improving Lake Erie and the watershed is a collective goal of the members of Ohio's Lake Erie Partnership for Education and Outreach. To achieve our vision, we must promote environmental stewardship behaviors among Lake Erie watershed residents and visitors. Fostering an understanding of the connections between individual human actions, government policies, economic decisions and their effects on natural resources is a role of partnership members. Framing connections locally, within the social context of their communities, will make lessons more powerful and longer lasting. Individually and collectively, people's simple, sensible actions can affect positive change to Lake Erie.

To promote environmental stewardship, Lake Erie Partnership members are correlating the education and outreach components of our respective programs. This will enable partnership members to more effectively and efficiently empower Ohioans and visitors with concise information that they can use to take action. By working together, we can influence sustainable ecological and economical improvements to Lake Erie and the watershed.

## Our Programs

Partnership members administer and/or fund a variety of programs that seek to improve Ohio's Lake Erie ecosystem. These programs, listed on the back, will be used to strengthen citizens' ties to nature and their community.



*The 2009 Shore Erosion Best Management Practices Workshop held in Lake and Ashtabula counties provided place-based education and training to realtors, surveyors, environmental engineers, landscape architects, and government employees who work along the Lake Erie coast.*

Ohio Coastal Training Program

## Take Action: Support programs improving Lake Erie.

- Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan
- Lake Erie Balanced Growth Program
- Coastweeks
- Lake Erie Protection Fund
- Ohio Coastal Management Program
- Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program
- Coastal Management Assistance Grants
- Ohio Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program
- Lake Erie Shore Erosion Management Plan
- Ohio Clean Marinas Program
- Ohio Clean Boater Program
- Ohio Coastal Training Program



ODNR Coastal Management

Connecting citizens and students directly to natural resources through interactive experiences is a key element in enhancing environmental stewardship.

## Contact Lake Erie Partnership Members:

The mission of the Office of Coastal Management is to “achieve a balance between use and preservation of Lake Erie’s coastal resources, in collaboration with our partners, by effectively administering the Ohio Coastal Management Program.”

### ODNR Office of Coastal Management

105 West Shoreline Drive  
Sandusky OH 44870  
419.626.7980  
[coastal@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:coastal@dnr.state.oh.us)  
[ohiodnr.com/coastal](http://ohiodnr.com/coastal)

The mission of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission is to “preserve Lake Erie’s natural resources, protect the quality of its waters and ecosystem, and promote economic development in the region.” Commission members include the directors of Ohio’s departments of Natural Resources, Transportation, Health, Development, Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency.

### Ohio Lake Erie Commission

One Maritime Plaza  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toledo, OH 43604  
419.245.2514  
[lakeerie.ohio.gov](http://lakeerie.ohio.gov)

The mission of the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve is to “improve the understanding and stewardship of lower Great Lake estuaries, coastal wetlands and their watersheds.”

### ODNR Division of Wildlife

#### Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve National Estuarine Research Reserve

2514 Cleveland Road East  
Huron, OH 44839  
419.433.4601  
[oldwomancreek.org](http://oldwomancreek.org)

The mission of the Ohio Sea Grant College Program is to “increase understanding, assessment, utilization, development, conservation and wise management (stewardship) of our Great Lakes and ocean resources, with particular emphasis on Lake Erie.”

### Ohio Sea Grant College Program

#### Ohio State University

Research Center  
1314 Kinnear Road  
Columbus, OH 43212  
614.292.8949  
[ohioseagrant.osu.edu](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu)

Working together  
for a better Lake Erie



Lake Erie  
Commission

