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## **Project Partners to Share Restoration Plans for Lake St. Clair Shoreline at Ford Cove**

*The public is invited April 30 to see concepts for improving wildlife habitats during event at Ford House*

GROSSE POINTE SHORES, Mich. – The team working to restore the shoreline along Ford Cove in Lake St. Clair is ready to share its findings and design concepts in advance of the next phase of the project to restore Great Lakes fish and wildlife habitat.

The *Ford Cove Shoreline and Coastal Wetland Restoration Project* began with a feasibility study in 2021 and a goal is to transform Ford House's lakeshore back to its natural state. The area includes a mile of shoreline along Lake St. Clair plus more than 17 acres of marsh, nearshore habitat, and forested wetlands.

The project team includes Ford House, the historic estate of Edsel and Eleanor Ford, the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as well as many other area stakeholders. The project team selected Michigan-based community advancement firm OHM Advisors to execute the study.

For the past 18 months, OHM and the project team has conducted research, sought public input, and completed design concepts. On April 30, the public is invited to Ford House for a presentation and outdoor site walk to hear their ideas and findings. The free outreach event is from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. April 30, 2022, and the public is welcome, but we ask that you please register in advance at [www.fordhouse.org](http://www.fordhouse.org).

"We are eager to share the data and ideas the team has brought forward after months of surveying the shoreline, studying the cove, and seeking public input. Together, we have created exciting ideas that will improve conditions in Ford Cove," said Karl Koto, Director of Landscapes at Ford House and one of the project leads.

The plan includes removing hard, non-natural coastal features like broken concrete and seawalls and reintroducing native plant species and softer shorelines. This will reduce the heavy waves that disrupt vital habitats for local fish, waterfowl, mussels, turtles, reptiles, and other wildlife.

Field work began in May 2021, and included studies to assess the populations of fish, birds, turtles, frogs, insects, and other wildlife that call the area home. Scientists also completed mussel surveys and vegetation and geological samplings last summer. Wave and water current modeling of the site was completed to determine how structures around the shoreline could be improved to allow the waterflow to be more beneficial to wildlife.

The team has also completed public outreach, including an online survey with more than 550 respondents that offered insight into desired uses and activities in the cove.



Funding for the \$230,000 project came from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through a regional partnership between NOAA and the GLC. The project management team provides input and guidance on the project and includes members from OHM Advisors, the Great Lakes Commission, Ford House, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Macomb County, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

The project team is working to secure funding needed for the subsequent final design and implementation phases of the project.

### **About Ford House**

Ford House is located at 1100 Lake Shore Road in Grosse Pointe Shores. Since 1978, Ford House has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors to share in Eleanor Ford's vision of preserving the estate for future generations to enjoy through interpretive tours, family activities, lectures, exhibits and gardens and grounds events. For more information, visit [www.fordhouse.org](http://www.fordhouse.org) or call 313-884-4222 and connect with Ford House on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **About the Great Lakes Commission**

The Great Lakes Commission is a binational government agency established in 1955 to protect the Great Lakes and the economies and ecosystems they support. Its membership includes leaders from the eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces in the Great Lakes basin. The GLC recommends policies and practices to balance the use, development, and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes and brings the region together to work on issues that no single community, state, province or nation can tackle alone.

### **About the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

### **About the Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Department, Land and Water Resources Division**

Macomb County's Land and Water Resources Division is committed to sustainability through environmental stewardship, developing and fostering economic development for water-based businesses and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors. Through the protection and restoration of Macomb County's natural resources, the Land and Water Resources Division will achieve these goals while also improving water quality, water access and water attraction.

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