

Beachgoers crowd Chicago's Foster Beach, one of many that periodically experience high levels of bacteria pollution.



Rough Waters Ahead

The Impact of the Trump Administration's EPA Budget Cuts on the Great Lakes

The Great Lakes supply millions of Americans with drinking water and recreation opportunities, but intense human activity has polluted the region. The Environmental Protection Agency has been vital to restoring and protecting the Great Lakes, holding polluters accountable and supporting research for stronger protections. That work is in jeopardy because the Trump administration has proposed cutting the EPA's budget by 31 percent.

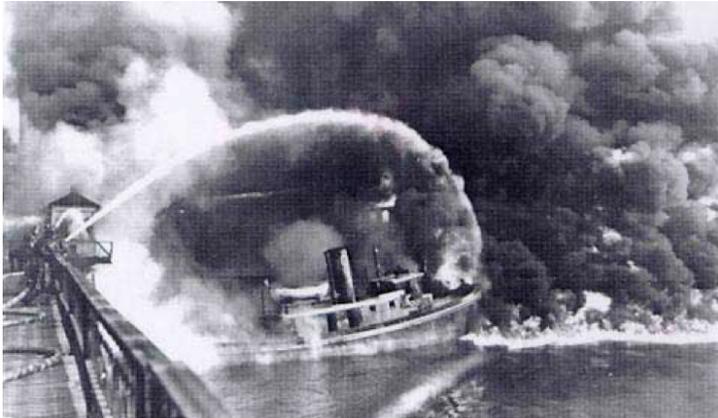
Clean Water in the Great Lakes Requires a Strong EPA

The Great Lakes are being restored to health with funding and effort from the EPA. For example, the EPA has worked to:

- **Restore waterways to health:** In 1981, the EPA declared Waukegan Harbor had the “highest known concentrations of uncontrolled [cancer-causing] PCBs in the country” and recommended that people avoid eating fish caught there. The EPA-funded cleanup removed tons of polluted sediment from Waukegan Harbor, where people may now safely consume in moderation the fish they catch.
- **Hold polluters accountable:** A 2010 pipeline breach spilled more than a million gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River. The EPA oversaw the cleanup and reached a \$67.4 million settlement with Enbridge, the polluter, in 2016. In addition, Enbridge agreed to additional spill prevention measures.
- **Conduct research and educate the public:** Agricultural runoff contributes to Lake Erie's yearly algal blooms, which can make water unsafe for drinking or swimming. The EPA funded researchers to work with farmers to reduce nutrient pollution that causes algal blooms, while increasing crop yields.
- **Keep Asian carp out:** Asian carp, an invasive species with no local predators, are threatening to enter the Great Lakes, where they could decimate underwater grasses and overwhelm native fish populations. The EPA has spent more than \$56.6 million since 2010 to erect barriers and monitor waterways near the Great Lakes for Asian carp. Thus far, these efforts have prevented Asian carp from becoming established in the lakes.
- **Reduce raw sewage pollution:** The sewer district that serves Cleveland and nearby communities regularly dumped raw sewage into Cleveland-area waterways and Lake Erie each year in the 2000s, one reason for frequent beach closures. The EPA fined the district \$1.2 million and required system upgrades to greatly reduce releases of raw sewage.

More Restoration Work Needed

The Great Lakes are being restored to health with funding and effort from the Environmental Protection Agency. Water quality in the Great Lakes has greatly improved since the middle of the 20th century, but the job is not done. Pollution from sewage pipes, stormwater, farm runoff, and industrial facilities continues to imperil water quality and human health, while new threats, such as Asian carp, may add to the region's water quality problems. Now is not the time to hobble the essential work of protecting and restoring the Great Lakes.



In the mid-20th century, the Cuyahoga River, a tributary to Lake Erie, was so polluted it caught fire on multiple occasions.



Despite decades of cleanup, the Great Lakes continue to experience pollution. Here, a satellite image shows a 2011 algal bloom, concentrated in Lake Erie's western basin.

The Trump Administration's Proposed Budget Cuts Would Reduce State Grants for Clean Water

State	Estimated Losses for:		
	Water Pollution Control Grants	Nonpoint Pollution Control Grants	Drinking Water Protection and Enforcement Grants
Illinois	\$1,569,900	\$6,397,000	\$912,600
Indiana	\$859,200	\$4,237,000	\$584,700
Michigan	\$2,637,300	\$1,987,970	\$1,234,500
Minnesota	\$1,379,400	\$2,711,850	\$743,700
New York	\$2,271,300	\$5,799,513	\$1,320,600
Ohio	\$1,541,400	\$4,388,897	\$793,800
Penn.	\$1,795,200	\$4,653,006	\$1,226,100
Wisconsin	\$1,929,600	\$4,023,001	\$1,041,600
TOTAL	\$13,983,300	\$34,198,237	\$7,857,600

Full Funding for the EPA

To build on the progress of recent decades, funding for the EPA and the state and local efforts it supports should be increased, not cut. For example, aging drinking water and sewage infrastructure need \$180 billion of investment. The agency also needs money to continue its critical role in supporting cleanup of past pollution and restoring damaged rivers and streams so that they can provide clean water. Ensuring that people who live in the Great Lakes region have continued access to clean water requires full funding for the EPA.

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