



Connect with your environment

Learn about environmental issues, in your community and how you can get involved.



PA CRMP

The new gas dock at the public Lampe Marina was installed using partial funding from a PA CRMP grant.

Coastal grants aid array of projects

Since 2006, Erie County has received nearly \$3 million from the state CRMP for Lake Erie coastal zone projects, which total more than \$9 million including the matching funds.

2014 Coastal Zone Management funded projects in Erie County include:

- Erie County Conservation District — to implement and track coastal non-point pollution management measures.

- Erie Times-News in Education — to provide student copies of weekly recurring Newspaper in Education page and teacher lessons focusing on coastal zone environmental issues and student participation in the yearly International Coastal Cleanup at area schools.

- Harborcreek Township — to develop a master site plan for the newly acquired Shorewood Park.

- National Audubon Society — to assess bird migration in Lake Erie's near shore waters and airspace.

- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources — to upgrade equipment for the free-to-the-public Lagoons by Pontoons operation in Presque Isle State Park.

- Pennsylvania State University, PA Sea Grant — to develop an aquatic

invasive species rapid response monitoring and surveillance system; marine spatial planning; and explore the Lake Erie coastal zone boundary expansion.

- County of Erie — to coordinate and give technical assistance with Lake Erie Coastal Zone projects and to assist in administering the Bluff Recession and Setback Act of 1980.

- Regional Science Consortium — to collect additional weather and wave data to complete an existing observation system to provide safety information for boaters on the Pennsylvania portion of Lake Erie and to develop an underwater survey team to survey and promote shipwreck conservation.

Eligible projects are reviewed and evaluated by the local advisory committee and a state level review panel and approved by NOAA for eligibility. An updated application instruction guide and link to the online application and other previously funded projects can be found at www.dep.state.pa.us/river/grants/grants.htm. Contact Amy Murdock, Erie County Planning program administrator, at 451-6018 or amurdock@eriecountygov.org. — Anna McCartney



PENNSYLVANIA COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

A PA CRMP grant will help Harborcreek Township develop a master site plan for the newly acquired Shorewood Park. Funding from NOAA helps the PA CRMP support programs that measure the sources and impact of pollution, improve public access and safety, preserve habitat and educate the public on the benefits of the state's coastal zones.

Hone in the zone

Grants help protect Lake Erie coastline

By ANNA MCCARTNEY
Contributing writer

If you love spending time at the beach, fishing or boating, or you benefit economically from coastal resources or activities, you should know about the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).

Recognizing the challenges of making the coasts accessible for everyone and maintaining their economic productivity while protecting their fragile natural habitats, Congress passed the CZMA and established the National Coastal Zone Management program (CZMP) on Oct. 27, 1972. This program addresses a wide range of issues, including coastal development, water quality, shoreline erosion, public access, natural resource protection, energy facility siting, and coastal hazards such as hurricanes and flooding.

This program is even more important today. More than half of the nation's population lives in a coastal zone and hundreds of millions of people visit U.S. coastlines each year. While this popularity is great for economic growth, it poses new challenges for protecting life, property and the environment. As human impacts have grown, so have threats to water quality, wildlife habitat and coastal wetlands. Nonpoint source pollution, shoreline erosion, and life, property and biodiversity losses are only a few of the problems.

The majority of coastal states joined this program in its early stages. Responsibility for implementing this voluntary partnership between the federal government and U.S. coastal and Great Lake states and territories rests largely with NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. Pennsylvania was approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce in September 1980 to execute its Coastal Resource Management Program (CRMP), which is implemented by the Penn-

sylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Interstate Waters Office.

Two geographically distinct coastal zones at opposite ends of the state provide Pennsylvania's citizens and economy with many benefits. The 77-mile Lake Erie coastal zone, located within Erie County, includes the shorelines of major tributaries and Presque Isle State Park. One of the state's ports for international shipping, this coastal zone extends to the middle of the lake, to the boundary with Canada, and inland an average of 1.4 miles. The 112 miles of the Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone, which lies within Bucks, Philadelphia and Delaware counties, contains islands, marshes and shore lands of tributary streams that are tidally influenced. The combined facilities of the Delaware Estuary comprise the largest freshwater port in the world.

Funding from NOAA helps the PA CRMP with administration and provides grants to undertake projects in its coastal zones to help it reach its goal of balancing coastal land use with conservation of water-related resources. The grants support programs that measure the impact of various pollution sources, improve public access and safety, preserve habitat, and educate the public on the benefits of the state's coastal zones.

The CRMP is accepting grant applications for FY2016 projects through Monday, Oct. 19 until 4 p.m. Non-profit organizations, schools and universities; local government organizations, authorities and state agencies are all encouraged to apply. Contact Amy Murdock, Erie County Planning program administrator, at 451-6018 or amurdock@eriecountygov.org.

ANNA MCCARTNEY, a communications and education specialist for Pennsylvania Sea Grant, can be reached by e-mail at axm40@psu.edu.



DAVID BOUGHTON PA SEA GRANT

The Regional Science Consortium buoy that provides safety information for boaters on the Pennsylvania portion of Lake Erie was funded in part by a PA CRMP grant.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/ Amy Murdock

This public Lawrence Park Lakeside Trail was made possible with partial PA CRMP funding.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/ Scott Goring

A PA CRMP grant is helping the National Audubon Society assess bird migration in Lake Erie's near shore waters and airspace. Laura Koitsch and Sarah Sargent band birds and record data.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lisa Bircher, far left, and Bonnie Sansenbaugher, far right, and their students get ready to study Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park.

Teachers build skills in Great Lakes literacy

One of Pennsylvania Sea Grant's cooperating teachers in the B-WET Great Lakes, Great Stewards and Center for Great Lakes Literacy (CGLL) programs was honored for her work with a Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators (PIAEE) from the U.S. E.P.A. Lisa Bircher and her colleague, Bonnie Sansenbaugher, both of the East Palestine, Ohio, school district, created a Science Club at their school as a result of their participation in the B-WET program. They also participated in the Lake Erie Shipboard Science Educator Cruise

aboard the EPA RV Lake Guardian. Their work exemplifies how teachers can build Great Lakes literacy in their students when they get support in developing programs that build ongoing relationships with researchers and environmental partners. They credit the support from PASG and Center for Great Lakes Literacy for providing the continued motivation to provide excellent field experiences and service-learning opportunities for their high school Science Club students.

— Anna McCartney

This page brought to you by:



Check out these websites to learn more:

- <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/>
- www.dep.state.pa.us/river/czmp.htm
- www.paseagrant.org

Look through the rest of the newspaper to find other examples of people and projects that improve our community. Why are projects like these important? Why is it important for Congress to pass laws that protect people and the environment? Send your ideas to axm40@psu.edu for possible publication in the weekly "your space."

