

Envisioning the Chicago Area Waterways for the Twenty-First Century

Solving complex societal problems through multidisciplinary expertise and stakeholder engagement

Clients and Partners



Project/Challenge

Stop invasive species from damaging the Great Lakes and Mississippi watersheds and societies.

Invasive species have been moving between the Mississippi watershed and the Great Lakes watershed via the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS), damaging both ecologies and economies, and they continue to threaten these regions.



"Greenleaf Advisors played a vital role in assessing separation options for preventing spread of invasive... Their experience was key to the formulation of our approach." –Scott Stuewe, Project Manager for HDR

Solution

Multidisciplinary team of experts analyzed options for separating the watersheds to prevent invasive species spread while also attending to the transportation, water quality and flood management aspects of the system.

Results

A comprehensive engagement with key stakeholders elevated the discussion and led to a more informed assessment of impacts and investments needed to progress the idea of basin separation. Six potential barrier locations were selected and assembled into three potential solutions and evaluated for impacts to the economy, ecology and hydrology. A suite of capital infrastructure investments has been identified to improve the Chicago Area Waterway System services to the region.

Why Greenleaf Advisors

Greenleaf Advisors was invited by the Great Lakes Cities Initiative to help conceptualize the project; Greenleaf Advisors delivered a white paper that formed the project framework. Greenleaf Advisors' experience and expertise on the Great Lakes region, environmental matters and infrastructure, together with its ability to engage across sectors of society, positioned the firm well to lead the stakeholder engagement process as well as the discovery of viable solutions to the core problem.

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Great Lakes
Protection Fund