

Department of Biological, Geological  
and Environmental Sciences

&

Center for Environmental Science,  
Technology and Policy

*The State of the Lake; how would you assess the quality of Lake Erie?*

*The struggle to improve Lake Erie rests in the history of human settlement, use of the lake for transport and waste disposal, and the degradation of the shoreline for the development of heavy industry.*

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Thirty years ago, Lake Erie was a symbol of disaster. Today the Lake shows how the environment can be improved when government partners join together across state and national borders.

The success has returned the Lake not just to the wildlife, but to everyone, as a resource for pleasure and commerce. But the work is far from finished. This site is dedicated to efforts applied to Lake Erie to bring it back from the brink. Here we introduce the major success to the lake, the problems that must still be overcome, and provide the realistic goals that have been established by the Lake Erie Commission to continue to improve the Lake.

Herein you will be introduced to the reasons behind the formation of the Lake Erie Commission, and you may find information and links about the history of the environmental problems, the changes in the commercial and recreational use of the lake, and where you may go to enjoy everything the Lake has to offer today, from the many points to access fishing, docks for boat entry, and the sandy beaches that can provide an ocean-like feel while staying close to home. Furthermore, as wildlife continues to return to the Lake and more preserves are opened up to the public, the site provides the links to help you find and enjoy walks in nature and to view the variety of birds and other wildlife that live along the shores of Lake Erie.

Several sections in this site will let you explore areas of interest.

History pictures the problems associated with Lake Erie's past, highlighted by the urban sprawl around Cleveland, Lorain, and Toledo.

The Lake may be viewed as a composite of many indices, that show its use and misuse. The methods identify how these concerns are being met and how improvements are graded within the detailed exploration of the State of The Lake, and the goals set by the Lake Erie Commission to correct as many problems in the Lake as may be realistically and affordably accomplished.

A downloadable model in an Excel format can introduce you to the report card of the Lake, and let you assign a grade that represents your opinion of how Ohio is succeeding to correct

the past. You are even encouraged to report your view back to the Commission.

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