

RESTORING OUR LAKEFRONT

During recent years, the Great Lakes experienced high water at levels we haven't seen in decades. Because of this, we saw erosion and slumping of the bluffs and damage to our seawall and jetties. While some of this is part of the natural cycle in the lakes, we needed to invest in measures to protect and repair our waterfront areas in Great Lakes Shores.

In 2018, a special assessment of \$375 per lot with a house, and \$185 for vacant lots and businesses was approved. With these funds, GLS began to fix the causes of erosion at the top of the bluff (blocked or collapsed down drains), and started having large boulders placed with a crane, to shore up the sea walls in the most critical areas. Over the next months, these boulders helped keep the sea walls in place while gradually settling into the sand to provide a base for the next step.

In 2021, our membership approved an additional special assessment of \$200 per property to fund projects that would make the entire area more stable and resistant to wave damage. We developed a plan to place several tiers of large boulders against the seawall and jetties, which would not only shore up failing areas that were in danger of collapsing, but also allow new sand to be captured and deposited to replenish the beaches.



The first complete tier of boulders in front of the entire seawall, and all of those stacked out along the jetties, were placed in 2022, using a construction crane working from the road on top of the bluff. When the construction crane was no longer available to us, there was a pause in the project. This gave us the opportunity to assess how to best finish the work, and the final placement of the last tier of boulders along the seawall was accomplished in 2023 using a smaller excavator which could carry boulders down a construction path on the bluff to do the work from the top of the seawall instead of from the road above.

During the final phase of the project, when we began doing more detailed work, we were able to stretch funds by reallocating within our overall budget, so that no additional special assessments were needed.



A section of seawall along the Huron Bay beach was raised. A missing jetty cap was replaced. The stairways to the beach were rebuilt, replaced, or repositioned.

A wide, walkable pathway of crushed limestone was created along the top of the seawall, which can also be used for equipment access in the future, if needed.



The access at Huron Bay beach was graded and shaped, fixing an erosion problem, and finishing it off with grass seeding and a handrail and stairs.

To make the area at Huron Bay even more attractive, a kayak rack was built and positioned on the beach, and a new sign board was placed at the road, both done by one of our outstanding volunteers.

We have also been able to address drainage issues along Lakeview Drive between Aspen and Cedar by working with the County Road Commission. A cost-share project which was approved by the membership at a cost of \$18,000 to GLS was instead accomplished at no cost to us, freeing up those funds to allow us to put in the crushed limestone walkway.

In late 2023, this ambitious project is nearing completion, and we expect to put the final touches on it, including repainting all of the beach stairs, before Memorial Day 2024.