



ALLIANCE *for the*  
GREAT LAKES

# Connecting Communities, Partnering for Action

2022 Annual Report





## No one is left behind in the work to protect, sustain and restore the Great Lakes.

I know you know that water connects us all. So, my and the Alliance's commitment is to push our region past the righting of historic problems, and toward a day where the lakes are here for all the life that depends on them, far into the future.

In 2022 we made incredible strides toward this goal. Our tireless advocacy, your generous donations, and the help of volunteers enabled us to fight for and restore the health of our majestic lakes.

We empowered thousands to get involved and advocate for their local waters. We connected communities and engaged with key decision-makers on the local, state and national levels. We worked with leaders across our region to highlight the urgency of taking action for our shared resources. And most importantly, we improved the resilience of the Great Lakes and protected them against threats like pollution and inattention.

Great Lakes supporters like you made their voices heard, and our decision makers responded. In early 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the allocation of \$1 billion toward the "Areas of Concern" program so that cleanup of some of the most contaminated sites in the lakes can be completed by 2030.

This year the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also committed to funding the first year of construction of barriers against invasive carp at Brandon Road Lock & Dam in Illinois. This initiative will dramatically reduce the threat of invasive carp infiltrating the Great Lakes and is real-world evidence of the value of the Alliance's consistent advocacy.

And the Great Lakes experienced the most monumental change to how we restore the water infrastructure that keeps the lakes and all of us healthy since the 1970s. This transformation will benefit all residents by significantly reducing sewage overflows, flooding, and dangers of unsafe drinking water contaminated with lead and PFAS.

Finally, thousands of Adopt-a-Beach volunteers combed the shores of the five Great Lakes and worked together to exceed their target of collecting half a million pounds of mostly plastic debris from the lakes.

The Great Lakes are not infinite, but you have my endless thanks for your incredible dedication, compassion, and generous donations that enabled us to get this far. And while there's still a long way to go, we're continuing to make strides in furthering the protection and sustainability of the Great Lakes. Together, we will make the Great Lakes healthier and safer for all.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Brammeier". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Joel Brammeier**  
President & CEO

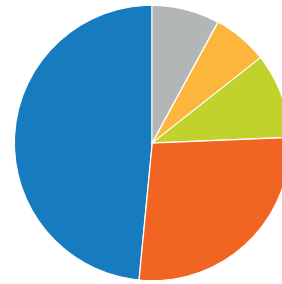
# 2022 Treasurer's Report

In 2022 the Alliance for the Great Lakes entered an unprecedented era of fiscal strength through the Lee Botts Strategic Fund, named for our founder. The Fund will preserve and responsibly grow our assets, while ensuring the Alliance leverages those assets to expand programs for the benefit of the people and wildlife who depend on the Great Lakes. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and several recent major and estate gifts, the Fund stood at more than \$5 million in unrestricted assets at the end of 2022.

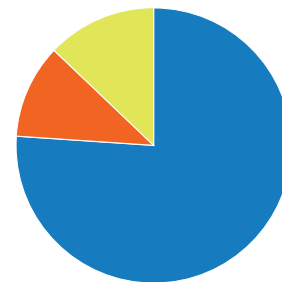
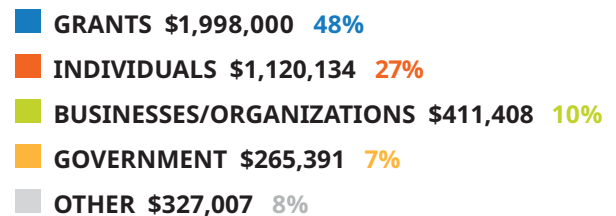
In response to our programs and staff expanding across the Great Lakes in a largely remote work environment, the Alliance also downsized our Chicago headquarters, freeing significant additional resources to redirect to our programs.

I would like to recognize my fellow board members on the 2022 Finance Committee for their dedication and the extra time devoted to creating a new investment policy that governs the Lee Botts Strategic Fund. I would also like to thank Joel Brammeier, president and CEO, and Kelly Farley, our vice president of Finance and Operations, for their guidance. We're committed to ensuring that your support receives the highest standard of financial stewardship.

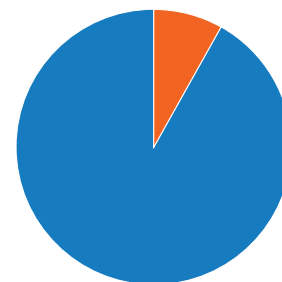
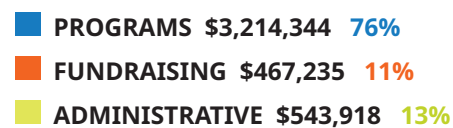
We are truly grateful for the growing number of supporters who have entrusted us to carry out our critical work. The Alliance's fiscal strength means we can use the organization's resources strategically to continue leading on Great Lakes protection and restoration for generations to come.



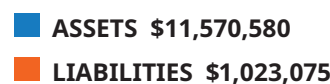
## FUNDING SOURCES



## EXPENSES



## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES



*Our annual audit was in process at time of printing. Audited financials will be posted to our website in summer 2023.*





# Accomplishments

Our progress in 2022 was the product of years of Great Lakes work by the Alliance and our partners. Here is just a snapshot of what you helped us accomplish this year:

## Advocacy & Leadership



## Great Lakes Restoration

### **Dramatically Increased Funding for Great Lakes Restoration**

Great Lakers spoke up for clean water, and Congress listened. Funding is flowing to state and local governments from the federal bipartisan infrastructure bill. It contains \$1 billion to clean up the most contaminated sites in the Great Lakes by 2030. And it includes a multi-billion-dollar investment in fixing failing water and wastewater infrastructure, a big step forward to ensure everyone around the lakes has safe, clean, and affordable drinking water.



## Acted to Stop Invasive Carp

Work is finally moving forward to build an “invasive-carp gauntlet” at the Brandon Road Lock & Dam near Joliet, IL with federal and state funds secured to finish the design and engineering phase of the project and enough federal funds for the first year of construction. The project will add new measures to keep invasive carp from reaching the Great Lakes. Tens of thousands of letters, calls, and petitions from people like you led to bipartisan Congressional support for this critical project.

## Education & Action

### Kept Plastic Pollution Out of the Lakes

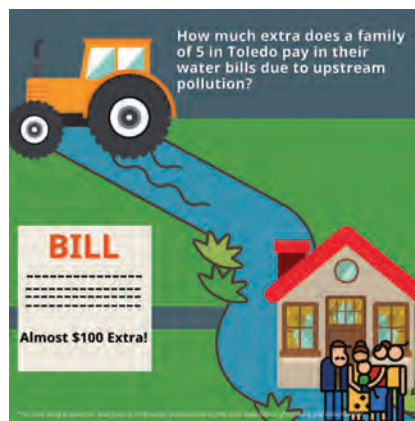
Adopt-a-Beach volunteers reached a milestone by removing 501,336 pounds of litter from Great Lakes beaches and shorelines. That’s 8,859,735 individual pieces! This amazing achievement represents the work of more than 200,000 volunteers over the past twenty years. Community and faith groups. Families and businesses. Grade schools and high schools. Alumni organizations. Surfers, scuba divers, and professional mermaids. On all 5 Great Lakes. In all 8 Great Lakes states. On the policy front, thousands of Alliance supporters urged Congress to pass a bill that would help eliminate plastic pellet pollution, or “nurdles,” at the source.



We proudly co-founded and lead the **State Revolving Fund Advocates Forum**, a diverse community working to ensure that once-in-a-generation federal water funds are allocated to the hardest-hit communities and advance resilience to climate change. Our group of community leaders and policy experts are playing a pivotal role in reforming the biggest state water funding programs to ensure that all Great Lakers have access to clean, safe, and affordable water. Learn more here: <https://srfadvocatesforum.org>

## Research & Analysis

We released an analysis highlighting how water users in Ohio are paying the costs of drinking water contamination in Lake Erie caused by toxic algal blooms and agricultural pollution—a problem they did not create. Not only is Lake Erie unacceptably contaminated, but the pollution is compounding water affordability issues faced by many Ohioans.





**The Alliance for the Great Lakes extends its deepest gratitude and appreciation to our incredible Corporate, Foundation, and Organizational Donors. Your generous support and commitment to our mission have made a significant impact on the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes.**

**OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS**

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**Lemonade Insurance Company**

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**Meijer**

**Merz Pharma**

**Now Health Group**

**Solberg Manufacturing**

**TEGNA Foundation**

**Tishman Speyer**

**Toast**

**Unilever**



# Thank You from the Alliance Board and Staff

The Alliance for the Great Lakes would like to recognize and thank the following term-limited members of the Board of Directors for their years of service: Lauren Bigelow, Claire Castleman, Sue Conatser, Adrienne Dziak, Aaron Fershee, and David Schmahl. We also extend a warm welcome to our board members that joined in 2022: Tim Frick, David Hackett, Dr. Sri Vedachalam and Dr. Wren Montgomery.

In addition, Jo-Elle Mogerman was re-elected as Board Chair. Susan McDermott was elected to a second term as Treasurer. Tom Langmyer was elected to his first term as Nominating Committee Chair and Vanessa Tey Iosue was elected to her second term as Vice Chair of Policy. Thank you to all of our board members – past and present – for their dedication and leadership.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jo-Elle Mogerman, *Chair*  
Vanessa Tey Iosue, *Vice Chair – Policy*  
Laura Payne, *Vice Chair – Development*  
Susan McDermott, *Treasurer*  
Bill Henry, *Secretary*  
Tom Langmyer, *Nominations Chair*  
Joel Brammeier, *ex officio*

Nicole Chavas  
Tim Frick  
David Hackett  
Quentin James  
Katherine Jones  
Daniel Guzman King  
Kimberly Hill Knott  
Candace Jeffers LaRochelle  
Dr. Wren Montgomery  
Dr. Alan Steinman  
Dr. Sri Vedachalam  
Christopher Winters

## Emeritus

Paul Culhane  
James Griffith

## STAFF

Joel Brammeier, *President & CEO*  
Kelly Farley, *Vice President of Finance and Operations*  
Molly Flanagan, *COO & Vice President of Programs*  
Crystal M.C. Davis, *Vice President of Policy & Strategic Engagement*  
Nora Beamish-Lannon, *Executive Assistant*  
Jennifer Betzen, *Development Associate*  
Patricia Brown, *Finance Manager*  
Anna-Lisa Castle, *Policy Director – Clean Water & Equity*  
Michelle Farley, *Staff Writer*  
Genevieve Fletcher, *Individual Giving Manager*  
Judy Freed, *Senior Marketing Manager*  
Christopher L. Garzón Rivera, *Water Policy Analyst*  
Luz Gomez, *Office Manager*  
Jonathan Heuring, *Foundation & Corporate Giving Manager*  
Don Jodrey, *Director of Federal Relations*  
Angela Larsen, *Director of Planning*  
Jennifer Lumpkin, *Cleveland Local Partnerships Manager*  
Cristal Ramírez, *Volunteer Engagement Coordinator*  
Olivia Reda, *Volunteer Engagement Manager*  
Darryn Suttles, *Data Manager*  
Tom Zimnicki, *Agriculture & Restoration Policy Director*



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