




Implement and Fully Fund Invasive Carp Protections

The Alliance for the Great Lakes requests the Trump administration and Congress:

-  The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should continue implementing the first increment of project construction for the Brandon Road Interbasin Project and continue providing the public and stakeholders with regular project updates.
-  The Trump Administration should request funds in the FY2026 President’s Budget to begin the planning, engineering and design for increment two of the project’s construction.
-  Congress should appropriate funds for the planning, engineering and design for increment two of the project’s construction.

Background: Invasive carp pose a serious threat to the ecological health of the Great Lakes and the people and economies these waters support, including the region’s \$5.1 billion fishing and \$16 billion recreational boating industries. Silver and bighead carp have already wreaked havoc on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, out-competing native fish for food and habitat and creating a safety threat for people who recreate on these waterways. Invasive carp grow rapidly, reproduce multiple times per year, adapt to new environments, and dominate ecosystems.

Brandon Road Lock and Dam – the next layer of protection against invasive carp

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has identified that building additional structural measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois, is the most feasible way to prevent the upstream migration of invasive carp. Congress agreed and authorized the Corps to proceed with its plans. The project consists of three increments to build a series of underwater fish deterrent measures to prevent invasive carp from entering Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes.

In 2024, Illinois and Michigan signed the Project Partnership Agreement and serve as local sponsors for the project which is cost shared 90-10 between the federal government and the states. To date, Congress

has appropriated \$374 million for the project’s construction and the states have appropriated \$115 million (equal to the 10% state share) with Illinois providing \$50 million and Michigan providing \$65 million. Annual operations and maintenance are also cost shared 90-10 federal and state.

Currently, the first increment of the project is in the construction phase with the first contract

issued in December 2024 and additional construction contract awards are anticipated in 2025.

Additional details on the project are available at: <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Stewardship/BR-Interbasin-Project/>



Image Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers