



Implement and Fully Fund Invasive Carp Protections

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

- 💧 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should, in keeping with the President's 2025 memoranda, implement the Brandon Road Interbasin Project with "maximum speed and efficiency." This includes continuing the construction of increment one while proceeding in parallel with Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) for increments two and three, and providing the public and stakeholders with regular project updates.
- 💧 The President should request and Congress should appropriate necessary funds in the FY2027 budget to support increment two construction, to begin in 2027.
- 💧 Congress should authorize full (100%) federal funding for the remaining operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement (OMRR&R) costs for the project in the 2026 Water Resources Reform and Development Act, or other legislation as appropriate.
- 💧 Congress should ensure the continuity of coordinated interagency efforts to monitor, research, and address invasive species.

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 (Corps) 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 \$274 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.

In 2025, the Corps began construction of increment one and the State of Illinois completed the major land transfers required for the project to proceed. On May 9, 2025, President Trump issued a Presidential Memoranda directing federal agencies "to achieve maximum speed and efficiency" to implement the Brandon Road project.

Annual operations and maintenance costs for the project are also shared 90-10

federal and state. This arrangement creates a long-term obligation that an individual state is expected to assume. On October 6, 2025, the Governors of the Great Lakes states signed a letter to Congress calling for full federal funding for operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement (OMRR&R) costs for the project.

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