

STOP THE CARP, IMPROVE THE RIVER, PROTECT THE LAKE.



HEALTHY WATER
SOLUTIONS

ABOUT US

The Healthy Water Solutions (HWS) coalition is committed to stopping the two-way transfer of invasive species, including Asian carp, between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basins. Currently, the Army Corps of Engineers has identified 39 plant and animal species at risk of transferring either from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River basin, or vice versa. HWS is comprised of over a dozen Illinois stakeholders seeking to keep our rivers and lakes free of new invasives through the permanent separation of these two basins.



QUINN: SEPARATION THE “ULTIMATE SOLUTION”

This past weekend marked a significant development toward permanently protecting the Great Lakes from the dreaded Asian carp and revitalizing the Chicago River system.

During a panel discussion at the Council of Great Lakes Governors, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn publicly stated his support for the separation of the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River.

Speaking about the need to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes, Governor Quinn said, “Ultimately, I think we have to separate the basins. I really feel that is the ultimate solution.”

That Governor Quinn’s comments were made at the Council of Great Lakes Governors is significant. The Asian carp issue has been a contentious one among the Great Lakes states, including a lawsuit filed against Illinois by other states. Yet there will be no solution without regional cooperation. That’s why it is heartening that Governor Quinn is rising above past conflict and taking a leadership role. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT REQUESTED

Late last week, a partnership of over 40 major Great Lakes and Mississippi River basin stakeholders - including many HWS members - collectively requested a Congressional oversight hearing be held in Washington.

The hearing’s intent is to make certain that the Army Corps’ studied solutions for the Asian carp crisis includes tangible plans for permanent separation. The move publicly adds to mounting pressure for the Corps to adhere to their study’s mandate—to investigate and recommend solutions that would “prevent” invasive species transfer between the basins. Separation, the stakeholders agree, is the best way to achieve prevention. [Read more about the letter here.](#)

CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE FUNDING AVAILABLE

In October 2012, Governor Pat Quinn launched the Illinois Clean Water Initiative, a \$1 billion program in which local governments can apply for low-cost loans to invest in wastewater and drinking water capital projects. This is great news for separation! Dividing the two watersheds requires infrastructure upgrades of wastewater treatment facilities and combined sewers in the Chicago area. This means separation simultaneously creates jobs - the CWI is estimated to create 28,500 jobs across the state - while improving the local economy through increased property values and recreational access provided by cleaner waterways. [Read more online.](#)

THE BENEFITS OF CHICAGO RIVER REDEVELOPMENT

In May, Friends of the Chicago River and Openlands jointly published a new study examining the economic benefits of investments in the Chicago River system - a critical piece to successful separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins.

Already, the Tunnel And Reservoir Plan (TARP) has reduced local flood damages by \$250 million since 1998, with an additional \$130 million more in flood savings annually when the final two reservoirs are complete. The report also found that a \$500 million investment over the next 15 years in Green Infrastructure - infrastructure aimed to specifically reduce urban flooding - along the Chicago River System would provide \$864 million in business revenues, \$477 million in income, and create over 9,600 jobs. Such investments support the local economy and improve local quality of life. [Read the full report here.](#)

WRDA AMENDMENT

HWS lauds Senator Klobuchar's (MN) recent amendment to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The amendment, which passed the Senate last May, would close the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock (located on the Upper Mississippi River) within a year to help stop the spread of Asian carp further upstream. The carp are coming, and separation is key! [Read more about the amendment here.](#)

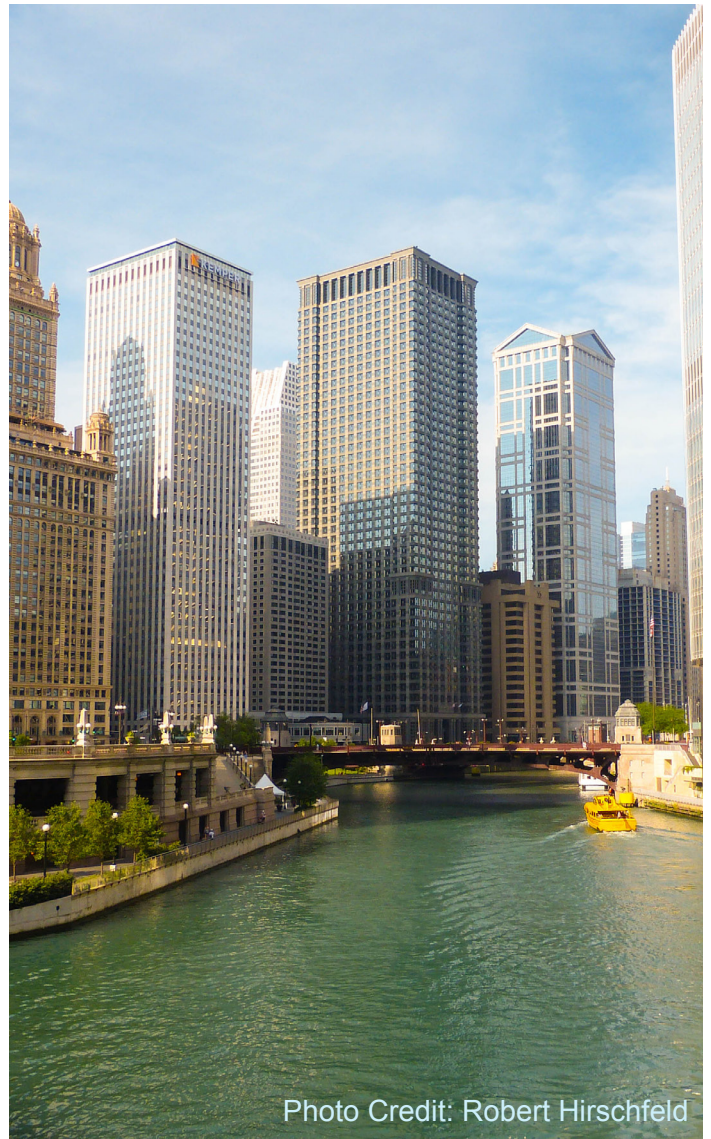


Photo Credit: Robert Hirschfeld



Photo Credit: Lisa Janes

HWS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

We were excited to see so many new faces at our April 3 event, *Changing Course: Revitalizing the Chicago River*. Over 100 environmentalists, architects, students, and citizens came out to hear HWS, Studio Gang Architects, the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative discuss the benefits of separation. [Read more here.](#)

Healthy Water Solutions takes every opportunity to engage community members! Check out the [HWS website](#) for the latest news and events!

GET INVOLVED

Healthy Water Solutions is happy to welcome the **Lower Des Plaines Ecosystem Partnership** as the newest member of our coalition!



Are you part of a group or community interested in joining our efforts? Check out [our website](#) to sign on as a coalition partner. Individuals are also welcomed to sign on as a supporter of HWS principles!

Remember to check us out on [twitter](#) and [facebook](#)!