



# Indiana Brownfields Bulletin

*Bi-annual Newsletter, Spring 2024*

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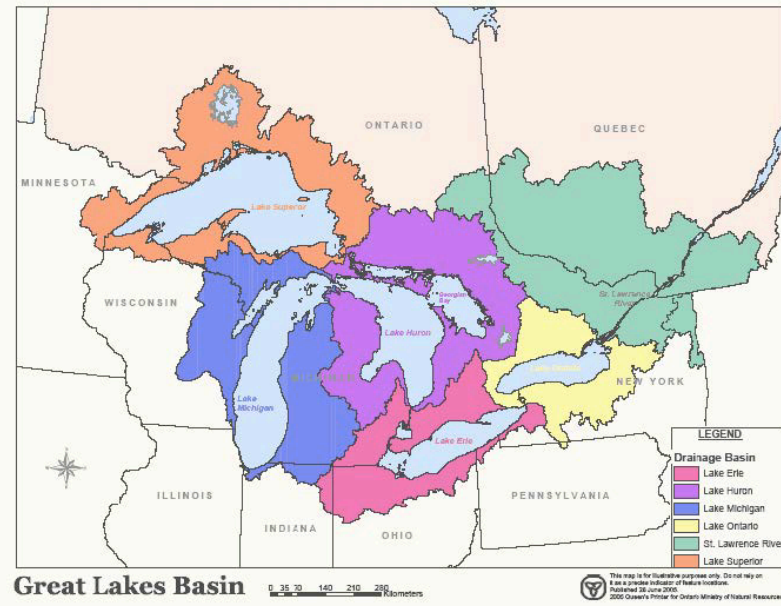
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## **Great Lakes Commission Funding**

The Great Lakes are an environmental and economic asset for the United States and Canada. The lakes fuel a \$6 trillion regional economy and hold 90% of the U.S. supply of fresh surface water (roughly 20% of global fresh water), providing drinking water for more than 40 million people. More than 1.5 million U.S. jobs are directly connected to the Great Lakes and those jobs generate \$62 billion in wages annually. With so many people depending on this water source, it comes with a few drawbacks; more than 23 billion gallons of untreated sewage is dumped into the Great Lakes from the Great Lakes Basin.

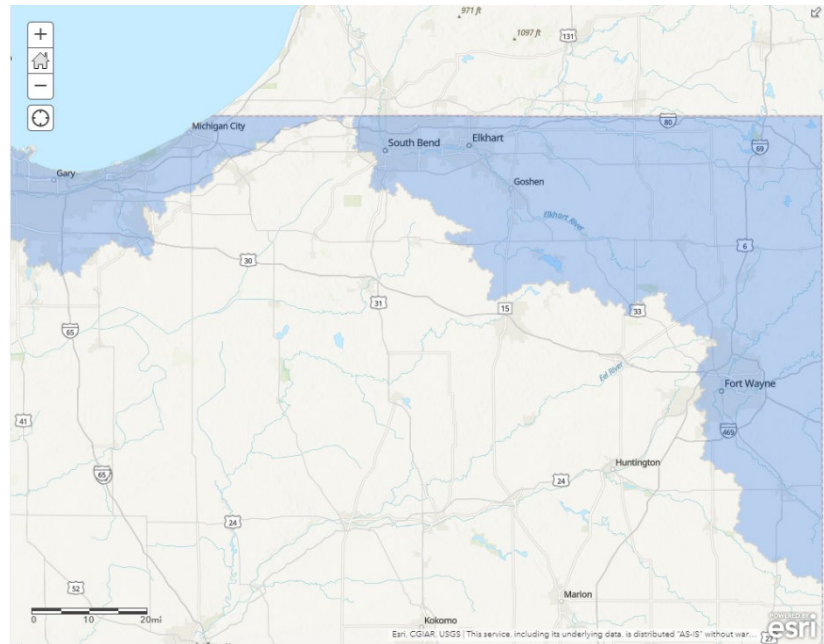
To ensure that this vital resource is protected, the eight Great Lakes states created the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) in 1955 via the [Great Lakes Basin Compact](#). In 1968, Congress provided its consent to the Compact and the interstate compact agency it created. The eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces are represented on the nonpartisan GLC by a delegation of [government-appointed commissioners](#). The GLC recommends policies and practices to balance the use, development, and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes and brings the region together to work on issues that



no single community, state, province, or nation can tackle alone.

Unless you are from northern Indiana, it may be hard to conceptualize the impact contamination in Indiana could have on the Great Lakes. This illustration is a great depiction of the [Great Lakes](#) Drainage Basin.

Funding deployed by the Indiana Brownfields Program within the Great Lakes Basin includes 49 sites in Allen, DeKalb, Elkhart, Kosciusko, Lake, LaPorte, Noble, St. Joseph, and Steuben counties. Indiana counties within the Great Lakes Basin are in portions of the Lake Michigan and Lake Erie drainage basins. Ranging from \$1,800 to as much as \$469,000, the sites within these counties have utilized over \$6 million for redevelopment and cleanup efforts.



## IFA Renovations and Updated Logo

The Indiana Finance Authority's footprint at the Indiana Government Center North has been renovated. We returned to our floor in early April and look forward to hosting in person meetings once again. A main change visitors will notice is that we no longer have a reception desk. A list of staff phone numbers is now located on a shelf in the south end of the elevator lobby and we're hoping that since most people carry a cellphone, you can just call to let your host know you've arrived. If this system doesn't work, we will be installing a phone that visitors can use to call their meeting host.

On the topic of updates, some may have already seen on our email signatures or noticed on the cover of this edition of the Bulletin, but we are happy to unveil an updated logo to go along with our renovated office space. Our original logo was introduced in October 2005 and we are excited about this refresh!



## Social Media

The Indiana Brownfields Program has been overdue for a social media presence and that wait is close to over. Posts will include upcoming webinars that may be of interest, listserv messages, updated cleanup standards, and everything in between.

With our impending social media presence, we would like to notify our readers that we expect to convert our biannual Brownfields Bulletin to more of an annual report format that we anticipate issuing sometime in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the calendar year. This new Bulletin format will include more comprehensive articles and provide a snapshot of the Program's annual performance, expanding on some of the milestones we are already capturing for U.S. EPA grant funding reports.



## CWAG Info and Announcement

The Indiana Finance Authority, through the Program, was awarded a five-year, \$2,000,000 Community-Wide State Assessment Grant (CWAG) by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in 2022 to conduct assessment activities in five (5) geographic target areas in the State: the Cities of Evansville, Frankfort, Gary, Lafayette, and New Castle (Target Communities). Under this grant, the Program has allocated approximately \$390,000 for each Target Community for site-specific tasks that include performing assessments (Phase IIs), preparing sampling plans, and reuse planning, to determine whether further assessment, cleanup, or no action is required before redevelopment can occur. With these funds, the Program anticipates completing a total of 23 Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) and drafting 19 Remediation Work Plans (RWP).

The Program issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for environmental consultants in early 2023 and selected one firm for each of the five Target Communities. Working with local community representatives, the Program and designated environmental consultants began to identify sites within each respective Target Community. Through February 29, 2024, site-specific activities and accomplishments include:

- 31 applications received (Evansville (6), Gary (4), Lafayette (8), New Castle (13))
- 23 Phase I ESAs under contract or completed with State funds (Evansville (4), Gary (3), Lafayette (6), New Castle (10))
- 8 sites approved for Phase II ESAs by the Brownfields Program and U.S. EPA; 1 pending (Evansville (1), Gary (3), Lafayette (1), New Castle (4))

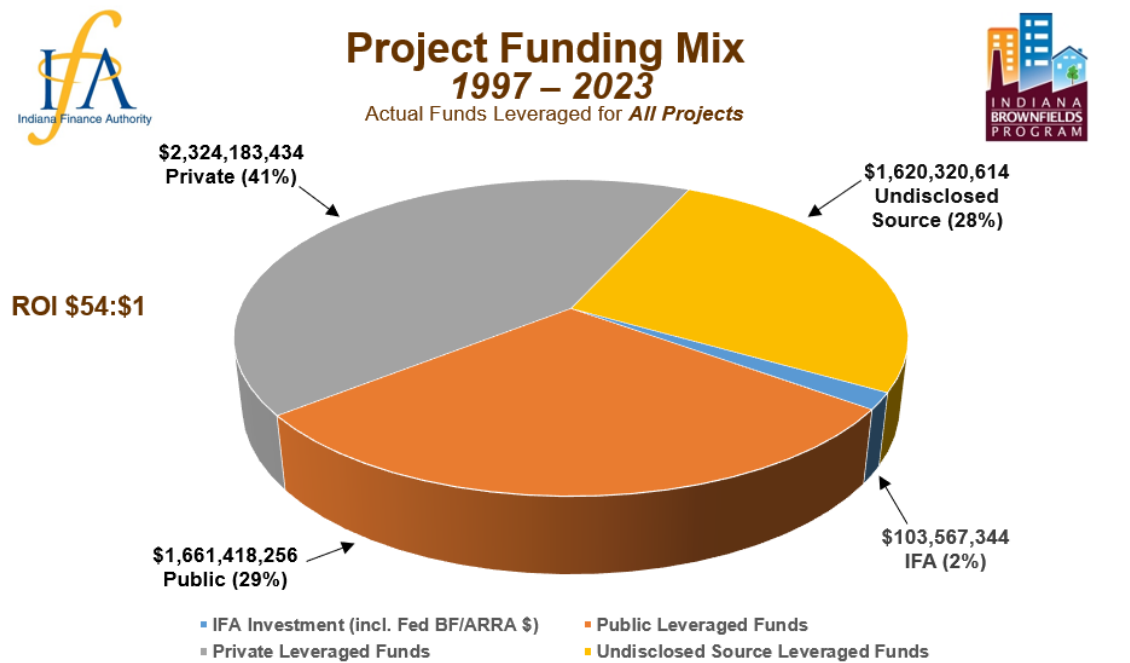
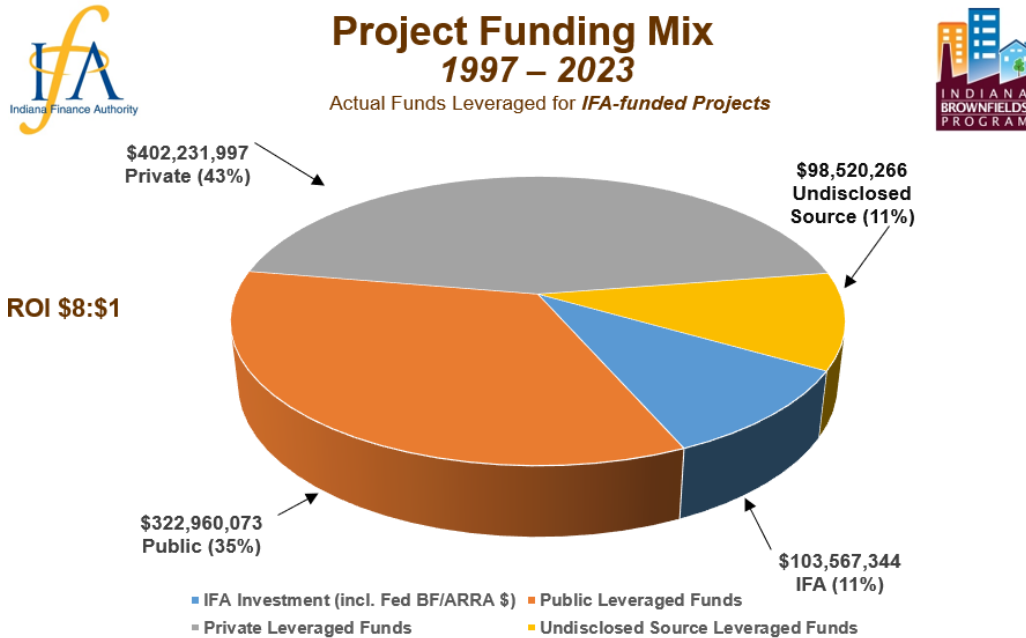
Additional information regarding CWAG, as well as contact information for each Target Community, can be found on our [website](#).

## ASTM Phase I ESA Standard Reminder

On December 14, 2022, U.S. EPA published a final rule in the Federal Register amending the All-Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) Rule by recognizing ASTM E1527-21 as a method for complying with AAI and withdrawing the reference to ASTM E1527-13. The rule became effective 60 days from the date of publication on February 13, 2023. Under the final rule, reports written under the ASTM E1527-13 will only remain AAI-rule compliant until February 13, 2024. Since this date has passed, the Program will only accept Phase I Environmental Site Assessment reports that comply with the ASTM E1527-21 standard. The final rule is available [HERE](#).

# 2023 ROI Survey Results

For years, the Program has conducted a Return on Investment (ROI) survey to help measure Program success. The graphics below help illustrate funds leveraged by the Program through 2023.



\*"All projects" includes project oversight, issuance of a Comfort Letter, etc.

## Personnel Updates

The Program is pleased to announce the following recent and pending staffing changes.

**Susie Holmes (Project Manager)** – Susie Holmes is a 2022 graduate of the Indiana University O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs where she received her B.S. in Public Affairs, Law and Public Policy. Susie first began working with the Indiana Brownfields Program as a summer intern in 2021 but extended her work with the Program through the following fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters before accepting a full-time position as a Program Associate. Susie continued to learn and grow with the Program and has recently been promoted to Project Manager.

**Breanna Tabor (Program Associate)** – Breanna is a 2023 graduate of the Indiana University O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs where she received her B.S. in Public Affairs, majoring in Environmental Management and Minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. Breanna will be completing her Masters in Public Affairs in May 2024, concentrating in Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management. Breanna joined the Brownfields Program in the summer of 2023 as an intern but extended her work with the Program through the following fall 2023 and spring 2024 and has accepted a full-time position as Program Associate with the Program beginning on June 3, 2024.



# Indiana Brownfields Program Staff Directory

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The Indiana Brownfields Program offers educational, financial, legal, and technical assistance and works in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other stakeholders to assist Indiana communities in making productive use of brownfield properties.