



**Volunteers Playing a Valuable Role in Beach
Health Data Collection through Adopt-a-Beach™
Erie, PA
October 20, 2010**





What's ahead?

- Who is the Alliance for the Great Lakes?
- Adopt-a-Beach™ overview
- Three Case Studies
- Adopt-a-Beach™ Next Steps: GLRI





Who is the Alliance for the Great Lakes?

We are a group of volunteers and professionals working for clean water throughout the Great Lakes.





Our mission is to:

Conserve and restore the world's largest freshwater resource using:

- Policy
- Education
- Local Efforts



Ensuring a living resource for future generations of people and wildlife.



The Adopt-a-Beach™ Program

Today the program is a **year-round opportunity** for businesses, schools, community-based groups, families and individuals **to conduct litter monitoring and beach health assessments** along the Great Lakes shorelines.

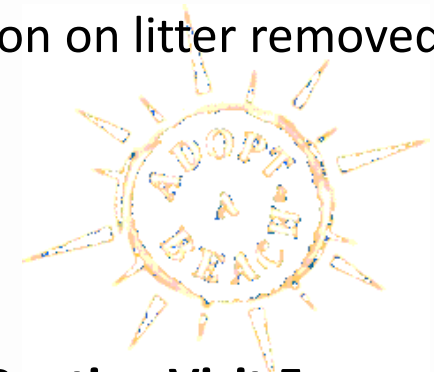


2009 Data Sets Completed by Adopters

Routine Visit Form: Adopters collect information on beach health using science-based observations and testing. (Aligns with U.S. EPA Sanitary Survey Form.)

Litter Monitoring Forms: Adopters collect detailed information on litter removed from beaches.

Results: Entered into online data collection system



State	Litter Monitoring Forms	Routine Visit Forms
ILLINOIS	157	194
INDIANA	45	58
MICHIGAN	275	146
OHIO	51	57
WISCONSIN	48	55
2009 Totals	576	510

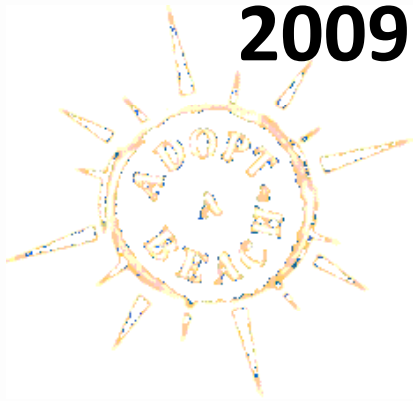


2009 Adopt-a-Beach™ Results:

All States (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI)

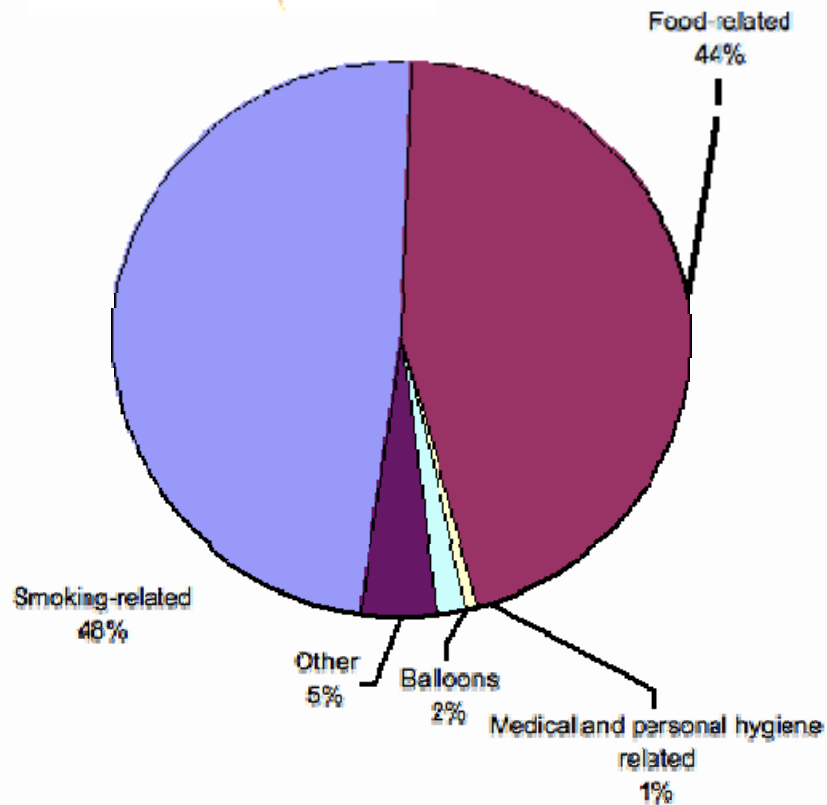
State	Estimated number of volunteers	Total hours logged by volunteers	Wages in volunteer participation (based on state minimum wage)
ILLINOIS	3,783	11,907	\$95,256.00
INDIANA	668	1,630	\$11,815.69
MICHIGAN	3,634	11,256	\$83,294.40
OHIO	365	1,074	\$7,786.50
WISCONSIN	568	2,065	\$14,968.06
2009 Totals	9,018	27,931	\$213,120.65

2009 Adopt-a-Beach™ Litter Results:



Top Ten Items

All states (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI)



Cigarette filters	186,767
Food wrappers & containers	50,652
Caps and lids	45,567
Straws and stirrers	23,942
Cigar tips	22,937
Plastic bags	16,689
Cups, plates, eating utensils	14,448
Glass bottles	11,980
Plastic bottles	11,180
Beverage cans	9,112



Cleveland Case Study



- Project partners

City of Cleveland, Division of Water

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer
District

Youth Opportunities Unlimited

City of Cleveland, Office of
Sustainability

- Began in 2008 – current
- Students in the lab
- Annual review of data collected through program

Wisconsin Case Study

- Project partners

 - Racine County Health Department

 - South Milwaukee Health Department

- Protocol document for volunteers developed

 - Stresses importance of data

 - List of issues of concern to watch for

- Filled gaps in beach monitoring

 - Off season monitoring

 - Additional data/monitoring

- Identified potential sources of pollution

 - Grant Park, Milwaukee – outfall pipe

 - Carre-Hogle Park – confirmed litter issues



Ottawa County Michigan Case Study



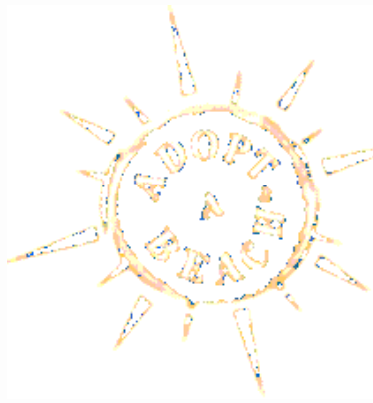
- Project partners

Lend A Hand Program

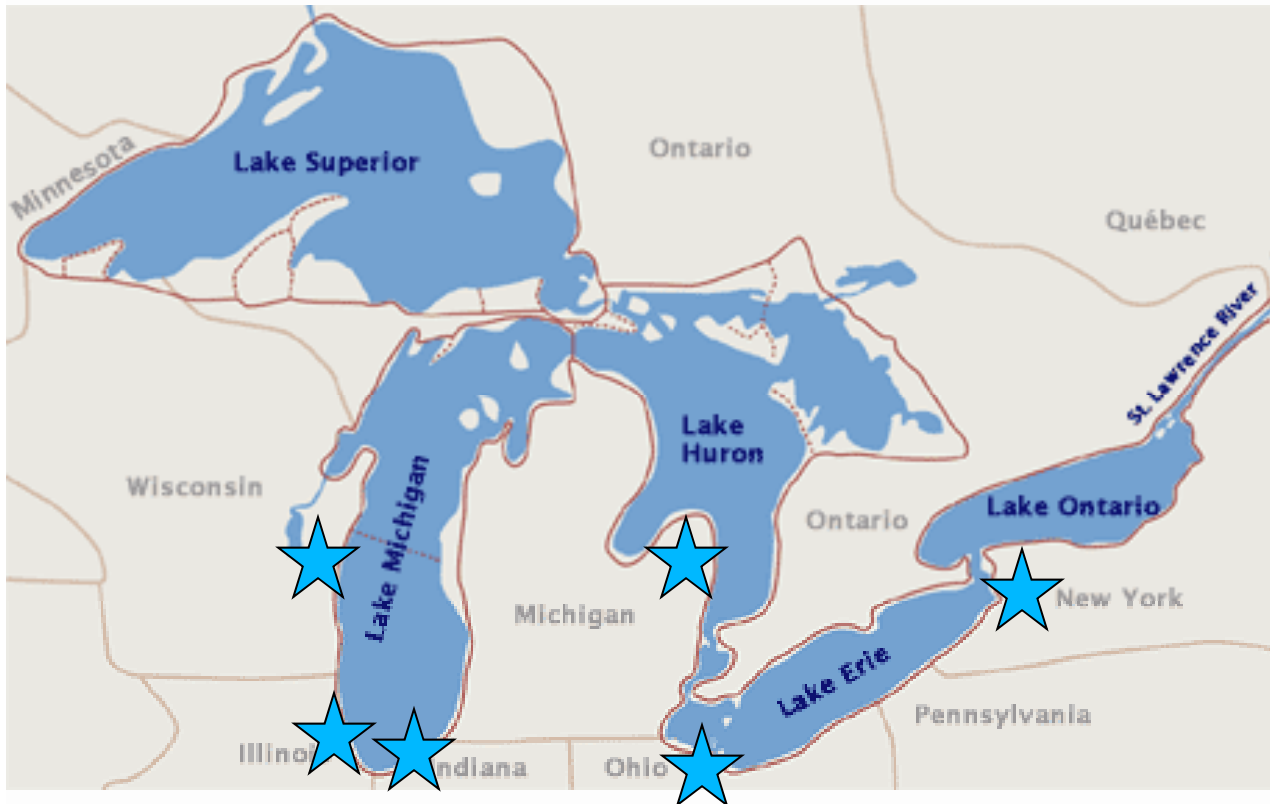
Ottawa County Health Department

USGS

- Team visited 2 beaches 2 times weekly
- Trained by Ottawa County Health Department to collect and prepare water samples for bacteria
- Water samples analyzed in the lab along with Petri film method used by Adopt-a-Beach™ program
- Trained by USGS intern on collecting modeling information



Adopt-a-Beach™ Next Steps: GLRI



- Expand the Adopt-a-Beach™ program into areas not currently served
- Focus on beaches in AOC's with BUI's for beach closures
- Develop partnerships with beach health officials in target areas



Adopt-a-Beach™ Next Steps: GLRI

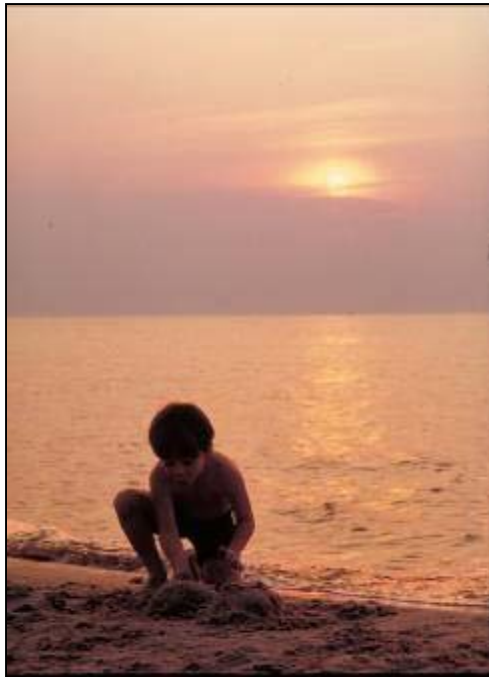


- Develop and implement Tiered system for volunteer monitors
 - Tier Two – increased beach visits, higher level of training
 - Tier One – more flexibility with beach visits
- Develop and deploy improved online data entry system with a web interface for the public to view results
- Work with volunteer monitors and beach officials to identify actions to improve beaches



Contact Information!

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