

# **GREAT LEGACY**

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A Public-Private Partnership to  
Identify and Manage Great Lakes Habitat  
with the Goal of Preserving Regional Biodiversity

## What is Great Legacy?

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"The Great Legacy Program will create a common vision for conserving St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes natural areas. A vision that fuses an utilitarian need to use natural resources with an aesthetic quest for beauty and the ecological imperative of a healthy environment. It will provide a plan that accommodates the full spectrum of today's needs and tomorrow's requirements, a plan which recognizes that these resources belong to all people and for all generations."

"Sites in the Program are models for sustainable development. Management of the sites will require that current land and water use decisions balance economic and environmental considerations to enhance the productive capacity of the resource base for future generations. The Great Legacy Program recognizes a stewardship role in holding these lands in trust for future generations while wisely using resources to benefit its current citizens."

# Why is a New Habitat Management Program Needed?

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**Protect regional biodiversity**

**Network** existing federal, state, provincial, and local protection/management programs

Use existing **biological data** to identify remaining unique, high quality habitat

**Promote sustainable development** in the region

## Who is Working on Developing this Program?

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The Center for the Great Lakes and The Nature Conservancy

Great Legacy Steering Committee

The Center will continue to broaden membership on the steering committee

# What Characteristics Will Designate Great Legacy/Heritage Area Sites?

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Biological Criteria: Excellent Water Quality

Biodiversity/Ecological Importance

Interpretive/Educational Potential

Native American/Native Canadian Values

Research Value

Institutional Criteria: Action-oriented

Feasibility of Implementation

Network-building Potential

## How will Great Legacy/Heritage Area Sites be Chosen?

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Nature Conservancy will develop long list of 150 sites based on criteria

The Center and Conservancy will select short list of pilot sites to initiate and highlight the program

Future sites will be incorporated based upon a state or local nomination and selection by the program steering committee

# Who Will Manage the Great Legacy/Heritage Area Sites?

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Local governments or grass roots organizations will be responsible for site management

Initial assistance with site delineation, protection plan development, and site management may be provided by the Great Legacy program or one of its partner organizations

# What Type of Assistance Will the Great Legacy Program Provide for Local Sites?

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- Technical:** assistance in developing site protection plans
- Financial:** assistance provided from a program trust fund
- Publicity:** advertise site activities
- Networking:** provide clearinghouse for information concerning other site activities



## Who Will Organize and Manage the Great Legacy Program?

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Great Legacy will be organized to provide numerous partners with a centralized capacity to educate, communicate, and activate multidisciplinary projects

The program will be controlled by a board whose membership may include provincial and state representatives, NGOs, and federal agencies

Great Legacy may be managed by an existing Great Lakes organization or a new entity

The Program's "home" will be identified by the steering committee

# How Will the Great Legacy Program be Funded?

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The Center is currently working on long-term funding options

e.g., Chesapeake Bay: commemorative license plates

Puget Sound: local taxing authority

foundation grants

government grants

We will investigate other sources, such as those suggested for AOCs

# Great Legacy Program Development Schedule

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12/91 - 1/92	Discussions with Federal, Provincial, and State representatives; NGOs; and industry
2/92 - 3/92	Select pilot sites
3/92 - 12/92	Develop site-specific protection plans
5/92	Draft final program plan and model legislation to establish Great Legacy Trust Fund
6/92 - on	"Take program public"

## How can Partner Organizations Help?

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Participation on the Great Legacy program steering committee

Assistance with outreach to other federal, provincial, and state agencies; NGOs; and local communities

Provide financial support to assist with program development, data management, and site work