



American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Advocating for healthy coastlines.

For nearly a century, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) has been a leading voice in Washington, DC, advocating for the resilience of our nation's beaches, coasts, and shorelines. While a lot has changed in the past 100 years, ASBPA's science-guided commitment to coastal restoration and protection has not wavered.

ASBPA recognizes that the health of the nation's shorelines is instrumental to advancing the economic vitality of the entire country. We can and must do more to protect our precious coastlines. To that end, and to ensure that coastal resources remain available for generations to come, ASBPA has the following federal priorities for the 118th Congress:

Maintain the biennial schedule of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

WRDAs are the key legislative vehicle for ensuring that the policies and procedures of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) prioritize and promote coastal communities. ASBPA applauds passage of WRDA 2022 which included the Shoreline Health Oversight, Restoration, Resilience, and Enhancement (SHORRE) Act.



ASBPA actions:

- Work with committees and USACE on the implementation of WRDA 2022 and request prioritization of implementation guidance for coastal provisions.
- Communicate to Members of Congress the importance of passing WRDAs on a biennial basis.
- Support the development and passage of WRDA 2024.

Support sustained funding for coastal programs in the annual appropriations bills

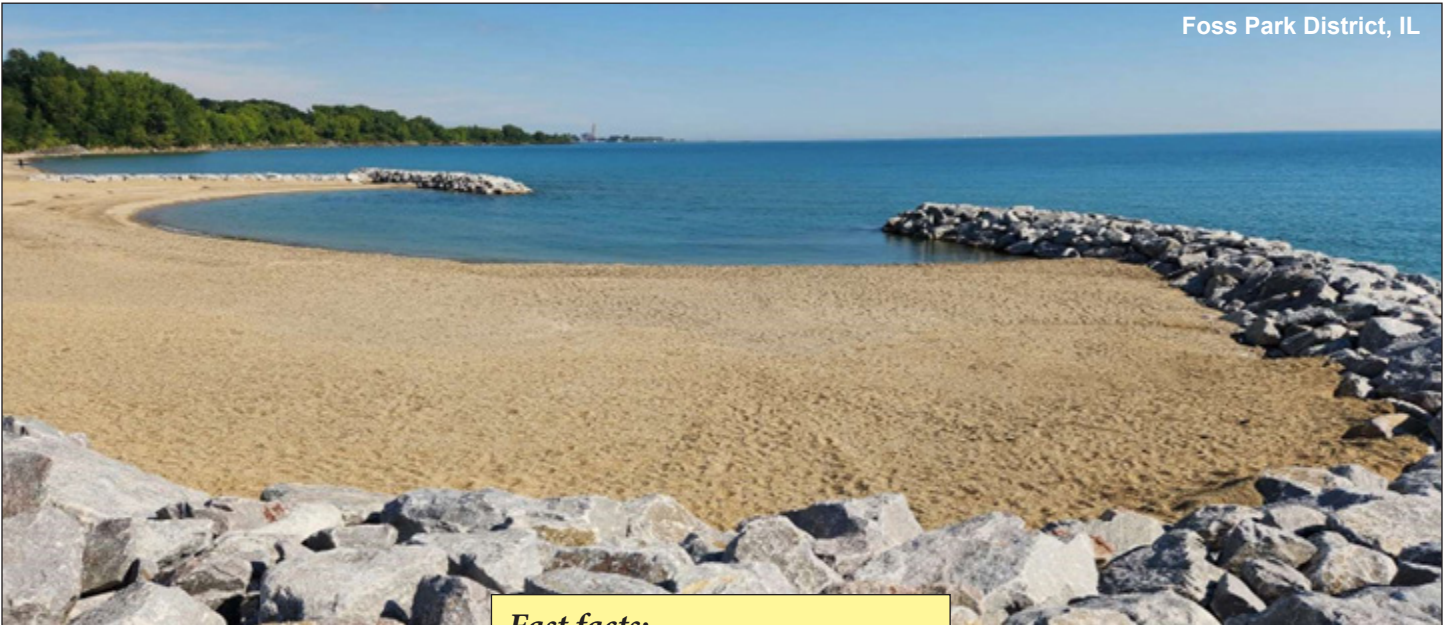
For investments in coastal resiliency to be realized, sustained funding for a variety of key coastal programs is needed.

ASBPA actions:

- Support at least \$91.7 million for USACE Coastal Investigations, Construction, and Operations & Maintenance, including \$18 million for Beneficial Use of Dredge Materials and \$6.3 million for Regional Sediment Management R&D.
- Support at least \$16 million for BOEM's Marine Minerals Program, an increase of \$2 million for the National Offshore Sand Inventory.
- Support at least \$63 million for USGS Coastal/Marine Hazards and Resources Program, an increase of \$19.9 million for forecasting coastal change hazards, risk-reduction & community resilience, and coastal blue carbon sequestration.
- Support at least \$34 million for the NOAA National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund/Coastal Resilience Grants; annual consistency is critical to coastal communities.
- Support at least \$194 million for NOAA's Navigation, Observations, & Positioning, which provides critical foundational information to address coastal resilience needs.
- Support at least \$42.5 million for the 11 U.S. International Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Regional Associations to address climate resilience needs and



Holden Beach Central Reach Reimbursement Project, NC



priorities, particularly in frontline and underserved communities.

- Support up to \$15 million for EPA’s Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act.

Support a whole-of-government approach for coastal resiliency

Passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have funded coastal projects at historic levels and created an unprecedented need to harmonize the regulatory process, fund foundational data collection, and expand the workforce. ASBPA is committed to working with federal agencies to permit, implement, and sustain opportunities created under BIL and IRA and supplemental appropriations.

ASBPA actions:

- Encourage obligation of funds from the following programs and communicate the challenges and lessons learned during this process by communities to federal agencies:
 - FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant.
 - NOAA coastal resilience, marine debris, ocean and coastal observing systems, habitat conservation, and fisheries grants.
- Provide comments on the Principles, Requirements & Guidelines update to

Fast facts:

- *Travel & tourism is the largest employer in the United States, providing 15.8 million jobs in the U.S. (10% of jobs). It is the leading U.S. small-business employer accounting for 1 out of every 4 new jobs in 2022.*
- *In 2022, U.S. travel & tourism generated \$2.6 trillion in total (direct, indirect, and induced) economic output.*
- *Survey data indicates that beaches are the leading tourist attraction in the U.S., with ~50% of Americans saying it is their favorite vacation destination.*
- *Annually, beach tourists generate \$520 billion in economic output, \$240 billion in direct spending, and \$36 billion in taxes to federal, state, and local governments.*
- *Beaches are not only magnets for tourism, but they also perform a double duty of protecting land infrastructure during storms.*
- *For every \$1 spent on beach nourishment annually, beach tourists generate about \$3,000 in economic output, \$1,400 in direct spending, and \$200 in taxes.*

ensure that USACE’s benefit-to-cost calculations are updated to capture non-economic project value such as environment and equity.

- Communicate state, local, and stakeholder challenges regarding the recent interpretation of federal laws related to easements and property rights on shore and beach preservation projects.

Strengthen support within Congress for coastal priorities

Forty percent of the nation’s total population lives along the coast and coastal communities contribute \$9.5 trillion in goods and services to the national economy. ASBPA applauds the strong support that Members of Congress in coastal states have shown to support ASBPA’s priorities.

ASBPA actions:

- Expand support with non-coastal Members of Congress by educating offices on the link between coastal and non-coastal economies.
- Support the following intent of the following legislation in both houses of Congress:
 - Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems Act (RISEE Act).
 - Strengthening Coastal Communities Act
 - Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act

