

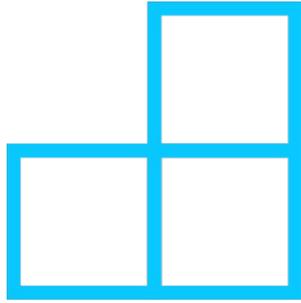


From Rust to Resilience: A Great Lakes Media Collaboration

Todd Reubold | Ensia | @ensiamedia



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From Rust to Resilience

What climate change means
for Great Lakes cities



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From Rust to Resilience

Even as Great Lakes cities cope with economic turbulence, climate change brings new challenges and opportunities.

BY: KARI LYDERSEN

This story is part of the Pulitzer Center's nationwide Connected Coastlines reporting initiative. For more information, go to pulitzercenter.org/connected-coastlines-initiative.

In the 1960s, the U.S. was enjoying an unprecedented economic expansion, and the Great Lakes region was humming with industry supplying materials to build a growing nation with well-paying union jobs and an increasingly comfortable lifestyle for a large middle class.

At the same time, the lakes themselves and many of the





After the Flood

April 21, 2020

How Chicago is coping with the effects of climate change

By Katie Pzyk

A scene from earlier this year in Chicago: Cyclists, runners, and pedestrians dodge chunks of uprooted asphalt scattered across the Lakefront Trail, some pieces as large as dinner plates. Feet away, swollen Lake Michigan laps at, and partially submerges, the public walkway that typically rests well above the water line. Farther north, the sand at two public beaches is gone, washed away in one January weekend. And residents who live near Lake Michigan are regrouping following winter flooding that inundated portions of their high-rise buildings.

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Milwaukee Neighborhood Pushes Toward Climate Resilience

By SUSAN BENCE • MAY 1, 2020

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A Walnut Way Blue Skies team installing green infrastructure at a neighborhood church to manage stormwater.

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By Walker Orenstein | 04/24/2020

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MinnPost photo by Walker Orenstein

Duluth's Aerial Lift Bridge, a city landmark and passageway for ships between the city's port and Lake Superior.

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Air conditioning cools city residents during heat waves, but also strains the power grid and fuels climate change. [Sienna Post/Flickr](#), CC BY-SA

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This story is part of the Pulitzer Center's nationwide *Connected Coastlines reporting initiative*.



Summer temperatures in Chicago normally peak in the low 80s, but in mid-July 1995 they topped 100 F with excessive humidity for three days straight.

Emergency rooms were overwhelmed with cases of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, especially in urban, low-income and minority communities. By the time

the heat wave receded, more than 700 people had died.

The Chicago heat wave spurred some cities to start providing free air conditioning for at-risk populations. But in [my lab](#) at the [University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning](#), which focuses on reducing climate change impacts on cities and buildings, we have found that air conditioning and other fossil fuel cooling systems can create long-term risks even as they solve short-term problems. As climate change makes heat waves [more frequent across the region and the nation](#), cities will need more tools to protect their residents.

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Great Lakes Now Presents

Episode 1013: From Rust to Resilience

Rebuilding Chicago's iconic lakefront, managing Buffalo's rainwater and sewage, and tracking the annual algal blooms in Lake Erie are all part of the Great Lakes region's effort to manage the impacts of climate change. This month, Great Lakes Now takes you to meet the citizens, city leaders and scientists who are working on these issues.

[Explore the Episode](#)



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Amplify News Project

The Amplify News Project is an effort to expand distribution and collaboration within nonprofit news organizations. From a base within our Midwest member newsrooms, this project has three main goals:

- To test the limits of nonprofit partnerships within INN itself through editorial collaborations;
- To create external partnerships to test distribution collaborations;
- To provide audience development support and measurement strategies to our members.

Amplify also manages editorial collaborations for INN members, often in



Photo by Cynthia Griggs, Wikimedia



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