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COASTAL SMART GROWTH ELEMENTS IN PRACTICE: CASE STUDIES FROM THE GREAT LAKES REGION

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This abstract is for an oral presentation and most closely aligns with the conference theme of c*oastal communities adapting to changing conditions*

This presentation will highlight the results of 3 case studies of coastal smart growth in the Great Lakes region. The case studies were selected using 10 waterfront and coastal smart growth elements developed collaboratively by U.S. EPA and NOAA, largely building of the national smart growth elements but with a focus on the unique attributes of coastal areas and communities, such as waterfront revitalization, preserving, and enhancing coastal heritage, public engagement in the application of public trust doctrine, and public access to the water.

The case studies were produced by the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) and NOAA's Coastal Services Center (CSC) to serve as models for other communities around the Great Lakes. Of the 25 communities that were nominated, three were chosen as to be developed as full case studies: Oswego, NY; Ashland, Wis.; and Porter Co., Ind. Selections were based on the number of smart growth elements demonstrated by each community, upon review of available local program and planning documents.

This presentation will elaborate on the methodologies used for developing the case studies, including:

- Identification of drivers for community adoption of the waterfront and coastal smart growth plans or practices.
- Discussion of the procedures that each community followed in adopting these elements.
- Assessment of economic and environmental benefits of applied smart growth management practices using a suite of environmental and economic indictors.

Although the presentation will focus on Great Lakes coastal communities, these case studies will serve as models for other coastal communities across the U.S and beyond who are looking to achieve sustainable development, by demonstrating that coastal communities of varying population sizes and decrees of resources can successfully implement and benefit from application of coastal smart growth elements.

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