



# The Black River Restoration Project

## City of Lorain, Ohio



Funding provided by the Ohio EPA under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)



**Floodplain Restoration  
Pre-Construction (March 2010)**



**Floodplain Restoration Post-  
Construction (September 2011)**



**Fish Habitat Shelves at Low Water  
(Prior to Planting: October 2011)**

This large river and floodplain restoration project is located along the lower Black River in Lorain, Ohio. Over \$6,000,000 of ARRA funds were secured to complete ecological restoration along a 1.5-mile long reach of the river. The long-term operation of steel mills and other industry in the area has resulted in the loss of active floodplain, riparian corridor, and fish habitat along the Black River. The primary component of this project was the removal of over 1,000,000 cubic yards of recyclable steel processing byproducts (e.g., slag) from an area that was historically active floodplain. This area has been returned to its natural elevation and re-vegetated, resulting in the restoration of over 23 acres of active floodplain wetland habitat.

The project restored and preserved over 52 acres of floodplain and riparian corridor, including an existing heron rookery. Additionally, over 600 linear feet of fish habitat shelves were installed, providing structure and diversity in an otherwise habitat-poor stretch of the river. Over 1,800 trees, 5,500 shrubs, and 7,300 willow and dogwood live stakes have been installed, along with native seed mixes and erosion control blankets.



**Upland and  
Wetland  
Riparian  
Restoration  
(October  
2011)**

