



Disposal of Legacy Steel Mill Contaminants and Restoration of Riparian Habitat in the Black River City of Lorain, Ohio



Funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

A \$340,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provided through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, funded this project. The project removed a deteriorating bioremediation system that was constructed by Kobe Steel within an upland riparian area along the Black River. Following removal of the bioremediation system, other steel processing byproducts that had been placed on the site were excavated and the area was restored to native riparian habitat. The bioremediation system was designed to treat steel slag that had been contaminated with hydrocarbons from leaking underground storage tanks. The City acquired the bioremediation system along with the property. Sampling results indicated the presence of elevated levels of petroleum hydrocarbons within the bioremediation cells. Over 2,700 tons of contaminated material was removed and hauled to an approved landfill. The underlying steel slag was stockpiled on-site and will be recycled by a brokerage company that is operating on-site.

Following the removal of fill materials, clean topsoil was placed over the 2.7-acre area along with native seed and mulch. Over 450 native trees, 1,070 native shrubs, and 1,300 native herbaceous plants were installed within the restoration area.



View of project area during construction. Materials excavated included steel slag, a deteriorating bioremediation system, and an abandoned railway.



View of project area after construction

