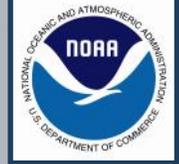




Invasive Vegetation Control in the Lower Black River Area of Concern, Lorain County, Ohio

Funding provided by NOAA through the U.S Environmental Protection Agency and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative



A \$925,000 “challenge” grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was secured by Lorain County through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to remove invasive plant species along 6 miles of the Lower Black River. The “challenge” for the project was the creation of 20 part-time jobs in Lorain County in 2013 and 2014.

Four plant species (common reed, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, and narrow-leaved/hybrid cattail) were targeted for eradication within the project area, thereby improving riparian and in-stream habitat for a variety of wildlife. Following removal of the invasive species, native plants and seed were installed. Native plants were selected based on their ability to compete with the invasive species. Success of the removal and re-vegetation effort will be monitored to provide information regarding the ability of various native plant species to replace invasives in the long-term. Project partners also evaluated the possibility of utilizing the removed plant material for beneficial re-use (e.g., compost) as an alternative to disposal within a landfill.



Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) is one of the four invasive species that will be removed during the project. Common Reed has become established in many areas along the Lower Black River.



Project Area: invasive plants will be removed along 6 miles of the Lower Black River.