



The Lower Black River Habitat Restoration Project - Phase II

City of Lorain, Ohio



Funding provided by NOAA under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

Phase II of the Lower Black River Habitat Restoration Project is funded via a \$1,089,750 grant from NOAA, which was awarded to the City of Lorain in 2011. The project design and engineering is being completed by ARCADIS U.S., Inc. and Coldwater Consulting, LLC. The project will include construction of 2,800 linear feet of fish habitat shelves, restoration of eroding river banks utilizing natural bank stabilization and bio-engineering techniques, and restoration of approximately 2.3 acres of riparian, which will entail excavation of 45,000 cubic yards of fill material (slag), soil amendments, invasive species removal and native plantings. The project will restore habitat for fish and wildlife in the lower Black River, an area that is highly deficient of aquatic structure. Design documents will be completed by June 2012 and construction is expected to be completed July—December 2012. The results to be achieved via this project are significant and include an increase in the abundance of top carnivore fish species, and increase in fish species richness, and an increase in the biocriteria scores for the project area within a two-year period.



Invasive phragmites to be removed on Monkey Island

In addition to the restoration, public outreach and education efforts to be conducted under the grant included the second annual Black River Kayak-A-Thon. This event will be coupled with the Lorain International Festival on June 23, 2012. The Kayak-A-Thon and other public outreach activities are intended to involve and educate the public about the ecological restoration efforts that are underway to improve fish habitat, recreational opportunities, and water quality in the lower Black River.

