



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

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



In order to continue the successful removal of invasive plants from the Black River AOC, Lorain County was awarded a \$499,500 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). This grant will allow an additional 30 acres of invasive species eradication along the lower 6 miles of the river. The project will create 10 seasonal, part-time jobs in Lorain County. These employees will become a part of the Black River Civilian Conservation Corps (BRCCC).

Four plant species (common reed, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, and narrow-leaved/hybrid cattail) will be eradicated within the project area, thereby improving riparian and in-stream habitat for a variety of wildlife. Following removal of the invasive species, the BRCCC will plant native shrubs and native seed. The new, native vegetation will provide food and shelter for wildlife along the Black River and improve plant community diversity within riparian areas. Close monitoring of progress will be used to assess the effectiveness of different invasive species control procedures.



Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is present in many wetlands and along the banks of the Lower Black River. BRCCC crew-members remove purple loosestrife (above) which is identified by its purple flower and square stems (left).



Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) will be removed from several areas along the River