



Lower Black River AOC Invasive Species Control “Challenge” Grant

Lorain County Community Development Department

Funding provided by NOAA via the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative



Coldwater assisted the Lorain County Community Development Department with conceptualizing this project for the NOAA “Challenge” Grant and completed the grant application proposal. The proposal was one of seven selected by NOAA and garnered the County \$973,500 in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding. The goal of the project is to remove a minimum of 40 acres of invasive species along six miles of the lower Black River while creating at least 20 new jobs within the County. The “challenge” was developing a project that combined ecological restoration in a Great Lakes Area of Concern while putting local unemployed people to work.

In addition to authoring the grant application, Coldwater was selected by the County to assist with technical assistance related to implementation of the grant. Our scope includes facilitating public outreach, coordinating with stakeholders, project planning, assessment, monitoring, technical reporting, training of the work force to be hired by the County, field supervision, and progress reporting. The project aims to remove four target invasive species in the project corridor, including common reed (*Phragmites australis*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*).

Coldwater assisted the County in training hired personnel to ensure they can identify the target invasive species, properly apply herbicides, and manually remove the plant material. Following treatment of invasive species, Coldwater also assisted the County with harvesting and installing live stakes to help to re-establish native plant communities. Removal of invasive species throughout the lower Black River will be a key component to the success of restoration activities in the AOC.



Invasive *Phragmites australis*

