



The Black River Kayak-A-Thon

City of Lorain, Ohio



**For More Information About
the Black River Kayak-A-Thon
Visit the Project Webpage:
www.lorainblackriver.com**

In 2011-2013, Coldwater assisted the City of Lorain with planning, coordination, and implementation of the annual Black River Kayak-A-Thon. The first and second annual Kayak-A-Thon were funded in part by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The City of Lorain has also contributed funding and provided personnel to assist with the event. The Kayak-A-Thon is intended to involve and educate the public about the ecological restoration efforts that have been undertaken by the City to improve fish habitat, recreational opportunities, and water quality in the lower Black River. The event features both a long and short race, each of which are separated into several classes based on type of paddlecraft. There is also a casual float, which allows participants to stop at designated locations along the river to view the restoration projects and get “tokens” to be exchanged for prizes. Coldwater has helped with all aspects of the event, including design of the event webpage, preparation of fliers advertising the event, coordination and planning meetings, preparation of application materials and procedures, securing sponsors and prizes, arranging for transportation of participants, and oversight of the event. Over 80 kayakers and canoers have participated in the event each year.

