



# 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 GLRI grant from NOAA, which was awarded to the City of Lorain in 2011. The project design and engineering was completed by Arcadis U.S., Inc. and Coldwater Consulting, LLC. The project includes construction of 2,800 linear feet of fish habitat shelves, restoration of eroding river banks utilizing bio-engineering techniques, and restoration of approximately 2.3 acres of riparian area. Excavation of 45,000 cubic yards of fill material (slag), soil amendments, invasive species removal and native plantings will be performed in the riparian area. A total of three acres of riparian will be treated with glyphosate-based herbicide and mechanical removal methods in order to control invasive species.



**Invasive *Phragmites* will be removed on Monkey Island**

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.

In addition to the restoration, public outreach and education efforts conducted under the grant included the second annual Black River Kayak-A-Thon. This event was coupled with the Lorain International Festival on June 23, 2012. The Kayak-A-Thon and other public outreach activities are intended to reconnect local citizens with the river and provide information involve about the ecological restoration efforts that are underway to improve the habitat and recreational opportunities provided by the Black River quality in the lower Black River.



**Public outreach was a major component to the GLRI-funded project**

