



Invasive Vegetation Control in the Lower Black River AOC Phase II

Lorain County Community Development Department



Funding provided by the U.S. EPA via the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

In order to continue the successful removal of invasive species from the Black River Area Of Concern (AOC), Coldwater assisted the Lorain County Community Development Department with a grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Lorain County was awarded a \$499,500 grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). This grant will fund an additional 30 acres of invasive species eradication along six miles of the Lower Black River while creating 10 new seasonal jobs within Lorain County. These employees will become a part of the Black River Civilian Conservation Corps (BRCCC). Four invasive species are targeted, including common reed (*Phragmites australis*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*).

In addition to authoring the grant application, Coldwater is providing the County with technical assistance related to implementation of the grant. Our scope includes coordinating with stakeholders; project planning, assessment, monitoring, and technical reporting; workforce training and field supervision; and progress reporting. Additionally, Coldwater is assisting with public education and outreach for the project, which includes project signage, a project website, and targeted youth education. Educational materials will include a puzzle/activity book for children in grades K-3 that focuses on invasive species and watershed-based science.

Following treatment of invasive species, Coldwater will be assisting the County with harvesting and installing live stakes to help to re-establish native plant communities and improve plant community diversity within the riparian area. Removal of invasive species throughout the Lower Black River is a key component to the success of the overall restoration effort that is occurring in the AOC.



Invasive Japanese Knotweed



BRCCC crew members remove Purple Loosestrife, which is present along the banks of the Lower Black River and in many wetlands.

