



Bioremediation System Removal and Riparian Wetland Habitat Restoration in the Black River City of Lorain, Ohio

Funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

A \$340,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provided through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, funded this restoration project. The goals of the project were to remove a deteriorating bioremediation system that was constructed by Kobe Steel, to excavate other steel processing byproducts that had been placed on the site, and to restore the area to native riparian habitat. The bioremediation system was designed to treat steel slag that had been contaminated with hydrocarbons from leaking underground storage tanks. The City acquired the bioremediation system along with the property. Sampling results indicated the presence of elevated levels of petroleum hydrocarbons within the bioremediation cells. Over 2,700 tons of contaminated material was removed and hauled to an approved landfill. The underlying steel slag was stockpiled on-site for recycling by a brokerage company that is operating on the site.

Following the removal of fill materials, clean topsoil was placed over the 2.7-acre area along with native seed and mulch. Over 450 native trees, 1,070 native shrubs, and 1,300 native herbaceous plants were installed within the restoration area.



View of project area during construction. Excavated materials include steel slag, a deteriorating bioremediation system, and an abandoned railway.



View of project area five years after construction

