

8. Data/Information Sharing

The City of Lorain acknowledges that environmental data and information collection and/or created under the proposed project must be made visible, accessible and independently understandable to general users, free of charge or at minimal cost, in a timely manner (typically within two years of collection/creation), except where limited by law, regulation, policy or security requirements. Further, the City understands that failing to share environmental data and information in accordance with the Data Sharing Plan, described below, may lead to disallowed costs if the project is awarded and be considered by NOAA when making future award decisions.

8.1.1. Data Sharing Plan

The Lower Black River Heron Rookery Restoration Phase II Design Project, implemented by the City of Lorain, will generate environmental data and information, including:

- Collection and analysis of soil, sediment, groundwater and/or surface water samples to determine the nature and extent of contamination on the property, if any.
- Pre-construction monitoring of four plots in the restoration area for vegetation species and cover.
- Pre-construction survey of project area topographic contours to provide a baseline to quantify the amount of material removed via the restoration.

The collection of soil, sediment, groundwater and/or surface water samples will be conducted in accordance with *Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Process* (ASTM E1903-11). Vegetation monitoring will be conducted visually using a modified Braun-Blanquet cover scale for the visual assessment of cover. Plant species will be identified by scientific and common names. The topographic survey will be performed by a Professional Surveyor in accordance with accepted methods of surveying practice and procedures.

As part of the proposed project, only site assessment and pre-construction monitoring data will be collected. Post-construction monitoring will be conducted at a later date under alternative funding secured to complete the implementation of the restoration design. Pre-construction data will be collected by Coldwater Consulting, LLC (Coldwater) and their subcontractors selected to assist in implementing the project. The procedures for data collection will be detailed in the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), which will be prepared for the project as described in the grant proposal. Data will be transferred from field notebooks, or transferred from field data loggers (e.g. GPS units), into spreadsheets (for numerical data) and/or GIS shapefiles (for spatial data) for storage and analysis by Coldwater and their selected subconsultants.

Project data will be available only to Project Investigators and NOAA during the grant award and closeout period. The City will transmit to NOAA the completed site assessment and pre-construction monitoring data before or with the final award reporting. The collected data and details regarding collection methods will be available to the public upon request starting on May 1, 2016 by contacting Ms. Kathryn Hoffmann, Lorain Storm Water Manager, at kathryn_hoffmann@cityoflorain.org. In the past we have shared similar data through grant progress reports and presentations at the U.S. Areas of Concern Program Annual Meeting, Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference, and Black River RAP Coordinating Committee Meetings. We do not plan to submit our results to a peer-reviewed scientific journal. The City will work with the NOAA Restoration Center to determine if they have interest and the resources for wider dissemination of the data and work with them as necessary to make the data publicly available in the future.

This Data Sharing Plan (and any subsequent revisions or updates) will be made publicly available at the time of the grant award and, thereafter, will be posted with the published data. Coldwater, their

subcontractors, and any other future sub-awardees not identified herein, will have as a condition of their contract acceptance of this data sharing plan. Any additional data sharing stipulations for future sub-awardees may be outlined at that time and described in their contract.