

9. 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 will be considered by NOAA when making future award decisions.

9.1.1. Data Sharing Plan

The Black River Landing & Heron Rookery Habitat Restoration Project, implemented by the City of Lorain, will generate environmental data and information, including:

- Pre- and post-construction habitat evaluations using the Ohio EPA Lake/Lacustrary Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (L-QHEI), an accepted metric for evaluation of habitat beneficial use impairments and AOC delisting in Ohio.
- Post-construction fish-shocking. The Lake/Lacustrary Index of Biotic Integrity (L-IBI) will be used to assess fish community improvements, including species richness, abundance, and percent carnivorous species.
- Post-construction sampling of macroinvertebrates. The Lake/Lacustrary Invertebrate Community Index (L-ICI) will be used to assess macroinvertebrates, including species richness, abundance, and percent tolerant species.

The habitat evaluations will be conducted using the L-QHEI, as detailed in *Methods of Assessing Habitat in Lake Erie Shoreline Waters Using the Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) Approach (Version 2.1)* (Ohio EPA, 2010). The fish and macroinvertebrate communities will be assessed using the L-IBI and L-ICI, respectively, as detailed in *Biological Monitoring and an Index of Biotic Integrity for Lake Erie's Nearshore Waters* (Thoma, 1999) and *Biological Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life: Volumes I, II, and III* (Ohio EPA, 1989).

Pre- and post-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 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 December 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 subconsultants, 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.

Attachments

1. Site Location Map
2. Lower Black River Restoration Projects Map
3. Black River Landing: Existing and Proposed Conditions Map
4. Black River Heron Rookery: Existing and Proposed Conditions Map
5. ODNR Natural Heritage Data Map
6. Draft Design Plans
7. Table 2-1: Animal Species Located in the Project Area
8. Photographic Log
9. City of Lorain Letter of Landowner Commitment
10. Lorain Port Authority Letter of Landowner Commitment
11. Lorain County Metro Parks Letter of Support
12. Black River RAP Letter of Endorsement
13. City of Lorain Project Manager Resume
14. Coldwater Consulting Project Manager Resume