



# Aquatic Plant Control at Walnut Beach, OH

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

**Project Location:** Walnut Beach is located along the Lake Erie shoreline in OH and partially within the Ashtabula River Area of Concern (AOC). Regional stakeholders have indicated that aquatic invasive species (AIS) plant species management would be beneficial for this site which includes a beach/dune/wetland habitat complex.

**Project Description:** This project will plan, design, and implement a full-scale project to demonstrate means of removing, adaptively monitoring, and controlling aquatic invasive plants. The site encompasses approximately 43 acres, of which approximately 26 acres are currently dominated by invasive plant species. A particular area of focus is expected to be control of the non-native perennial grass *Phragmites australis* (common reed). Its rapid expansion has devastated aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats throughout North America. General treatment options identified for implementation include: mechanical removal, chemical treatment; and habitat modification (restoration).

**Non-Federal Partner:** Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

**Project Benefits:** Identifying and demonstrating two new and improved management strategies against invasive aquatic plants will reduce spread of such plants, improve wetland quality and function, restore native wetland habitats, restore the unique dune system that is part of an ecologically unique dune habitat along the Lake Erie shoreline, minimize impacts to threatened and endangered wetland species, and support delisting of AOCs. This demonstration project will restore 0.4 miles of Lake Erie Shoreline, and treat 26 acres of invasive species over five years and planting of American Beach Grass will help maintain a high level of vegetative diversity.

**Project Status:** FY13/14 GLRI funding was used to award a contract for mowing, spraying, monitoring and adaptive management of aquatic plant control for five years. FY15 and future year funding will be used for additional monitoring, evaluation and contract supervision.



Estimated Project Costs	
Federal	\$1,500,000
Non-Federal	\$0
Total	\$1,500,000

Project Milestones	
Award adaptive manage contract for 26 acres at Walnut Beach	30SEP2013 (A)
Start field work for Walnut Beach	JUL 2014 (A)
Complete construction	DEC 2019

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