



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

# Aquatic Plant Control at Walnut Beach

## Invasive Species Focus Area

**Project Location:** Walnut Beach, located along the Lake Erie shoreline and partially within the Ashtabula River Area of Concern (AOC), where regional stakeholders have indicated that aquatic invasive species (AIS) plant species management would be beneficial for this site that 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. 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. The site encompasses approximately 43 acres, of which approximately 26 acres are dominated by invasive plant species. 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 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 contribute to addressing three delisting criteria for the Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) and three for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitats BUI for the Ashtabula River AOC.

**Project Status:** It is anticipated that FY12 GLRI funding will be used to initiate mowing, spraying of aquatic plant control. Future year funding will be used for additional mowing, spraying, monitoring and contract supervision over the five year project life.



Estimated Project Costs	
Federal	\$1,000,000
Non-Federal	\$0
Total	\$1,000,000
FY 2012 Funding	
GLRI	\$200,000
FY 2013 Funding	
GLRI	\$800,000

Project Milestones	
Award adaptive manage contract for 26 acres at Walnut Beach	Sep 2013
Start field work for Walnut Beach	May 2014
Complete construction	Dec 2019

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