



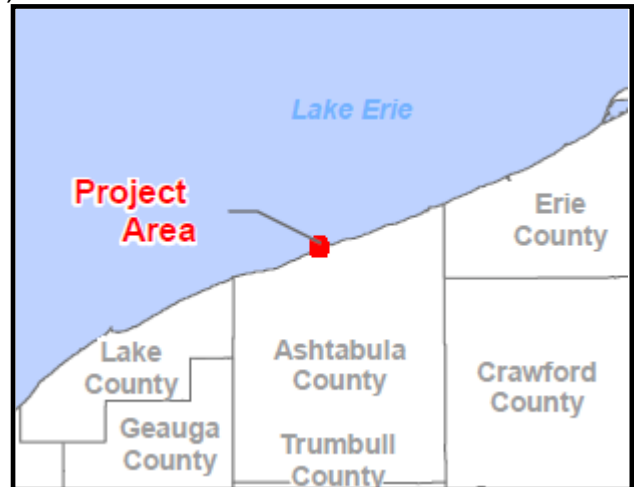
US Army Corps
of Engineers®

GLRI Aquatic Plant Control at Walnut Beach, OH

Aquatic Plant Control Research Program

Project Location: Walnut Beach is located along the Lake Erie shoreline in OH and partially within the Ashtabula River Area of Concern (AOC).

Description of Problem: 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. 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 by out-competing native species, which in turn reduces biodiversity.



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. General treatment options identified for implementation include mechanical removal, chemical treatment, and habitat modification (restoration). A combination of these methods will be performed because each of these treatment options, by itself, will not lead to long-term control of *Phragmites*.

Non-Federal Partner: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Project Benefits: Identifying and demonstrating two new and improved



Measure of Progress	Project Output
2.2.1 Number of aquatic/terrestrial acres controlled by GLRI projects	Up to 26 acres
2.2.2 Number of tributary miles protected by GLRI-funded projects	Up to 0.4 mile
2.3.1 Number of technologies and methods field tested by GLRI-funded projects	Up to 3

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. Planting of American Beach Grass will help maintain a high level of vegetative diversity. The planting of American Beach Grass will make the area more resilient against high winds and stormy conditions that are common in Ashtabula. This is expected to reduce storm damage to the area.

Project Status: This project is currently in the closeout phase with mowing, spraying, monitoring and adaptive management of aquatic plant control for five years completed as of 30 July 2019. FY19 and future year funding is being used for outreach to secure future stewardship and operations and maintenance of th site. Coordination of a transition plan back to OEPA is occurring to ensure long-term successful maintenance of Walnut Beach after the conclusion of the project.

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

Project Milestones		
Finish Year 4 field work	Point of Contact	NOV 2018 (A)
Complete construction	719-4261	JUL 2019
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