SAVING OUR WATERS:

PROTECT YOUR WETLANDS FROM INVASIVE PHRAGMITES

THE VALUE OF WETLAND PLANTS

Food and shelter for wildlife, stable shorelines, reduced flooding, fresh air and clean water

The benefits our native wetlands provide are under threat from invasive Phragmites. Phragmites has undesirable impacts.

Aesthetics and Recreation:

- Obstructs views on waterfront properties
- Reduces access for boating, swimming, fishing, birding and hunting
- Eliminates desirable native plants
- Reduces food and shelter for watchable wildlife

Safety and Financial Costs:

- Increases the risk of wildfire
- Blocks drainage and irrigation ditches
- Slows water movement and increases mosquito breeding
- Can dramatically lower property values

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES CENTER

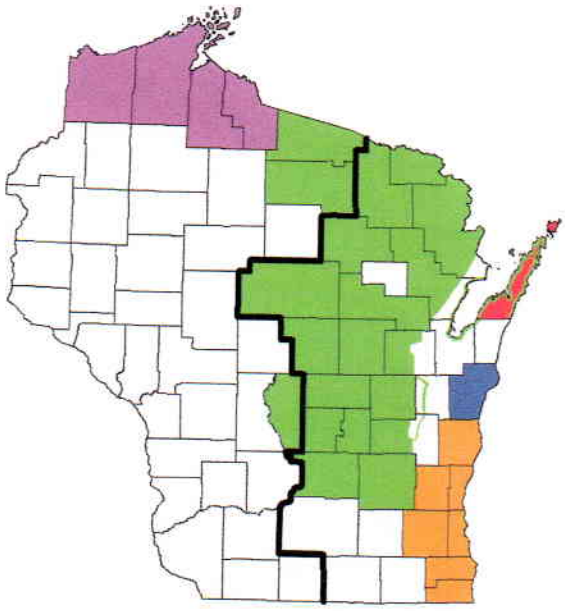
FIND YOUR BEST PLAN OF ATTACK:

Work through the following three questions, and reference the map below, to determine your best approach to managing non-native phragmites in Wisconsin.

Further resources are represented by bold colored text in the questions (**Contact, Control, Funding,** and **Prioritizing**), and are further explained in the colored blocks on the opposite page.

LARGE NON-NATIVE PHRAGMITES CONTROL PROJECT AREAS IN WISCONSIN (PAST AND PRESENT).

- Door County invasive species team
- Manitowoc County
- Ozaukee Washington Land Trust (OWLT)
- WDNR & Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)
- WDNR and Partners Great Lakes Restoration Initiative treatment areas through 2016
- NR40 line



QUESTION 1:

Do you have non-native Phragmites on your property? (Report all sites to WDNR)

A) Yes: (Confirmed by DNR or local expert) - ***Go to Q2***

B) Not sure or unconfirmed: Learn to identify Phragmites (back page has tips and references), **CONTACT** WDNR or area specialist to confirm the site. Once confirmed - ***Go to Q2***

C) No: Learn how to identify Phragmites (back pages have tips and references) so you can monitor your area. Should you find any suspicious plants, look at **CONTACT** list in your area.

QUESTION 2:

In what area on the map are your non-native Phragmites located?

A) In the Green or Purple Areas: Typically smaller stands, many treated, some eliminated. **CONTACT** WDNR or GLIFWC for **FUNDING** - ***Go to Q3***

B) East side of NR-40 line and outside of the Green Area: Stands of all sizes, most untreated. **FUNDING** may be available through existing project **CONTACTS** in area - ***Go to Q3***

C) West side of NR-40 line: A few small stands. Removal of these stands is very important. You can likely **CONTROL** small sites yourself, but WDNR funding may be available through their **CONTACT** information. Joining select local organizations to start joint control efforts is important for **FUNDING**.

QUESTION 3:

How large or dense is your Phragmites stand?

A) Small or Medium -

(Small: - can see through it, or up to 1/10th acre; basketball court size): All small sites should be eliminated. Follow instructions for medium stand.

(Medium: 1/10th acre to 1 acre; basketball to football field size): **CONTROL** Phragmites yourself, or hire a contractor. **CONTACT** DNR officials and your county for permit information, as well as other partners in the contact list, to see if the site can be part of an on-going project that has **FUNDING.** **PRIORITIZING** which areas to treat may be important.

B) Large - One acre or more: Large sites require several years of treatments and should be treated by a professional herbicide applicator. **CONTACT** WDNR to determine if **PRIORITIZING** sites to control in your area is important, especially if no surrounding sites have been treated. Partnering with other area **CONTACTS** such as the town, county, lake association or CISMA may be crucial for **FUNDING** and assistance with labor and maintenance.

RESOURCES BY CATEGORY:

CONTACT

Contact and collaborate with the following partners in your area by searching online for the bolded terms below:

- **WI DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Contacts:** WI DNR (to report all Phragmites stands and inquire about funding, on-going projects, permits, etc.) – Project leader phone numbers for Green Area of map: 608-266-2554, 608-267-9868.
- **GLIFWC:** project leader for Purple Area of map: Miles Falk, miles@glifwc.org
- **WI Land and Water Conservation Directory:** search for county contact
- **IPAW CISMA:** Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) and Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA)
- **Gathering Waters Find Local Land Trust:** Land Trust
- **www.AWRPC.org:** Regional Planning Commissions
- **WI State Contacts Ducks Unlimited:** Ducks Unlimited

Some specific organizations that treat Phragmites are noted on the map legend to the left.

CONTROL

Phragmites control resources are available. Ensure proper permits are obtained. Small sites can be treated utilizing hand wicking/spraying methods. Contractors can assist with all job sizes. Herbicides, mowing, and prescribed fire are typical control methods. Monitoring and follow-up treatments are usually needed. Online resources to plug into your search engine:

- **Guide to Management and Control of Invasive Phragmites:** Michigan DEQ
- **WI Wetlands Association's Phragmites Control**
- **Great Lakes Phragmites Herbicide Quick Guide**

FUNDING

Partnerships with other organizations to combine treatment areas may be necessary to apply for state funds. Utilize the area and state contacts listed above and highlighted on the map to see if there are existing projects or funding opportunities in your area.

PRIORITIZING

First treat smaller or less dense patches and those nearer to water or wetlands (may need permits/license to treat). Think of your patch's area and density, nearness to sensitive natural areas and available resources (time/money/manpower).

MAJOR REMOVAL EFFORTS ACROSS THE STATE

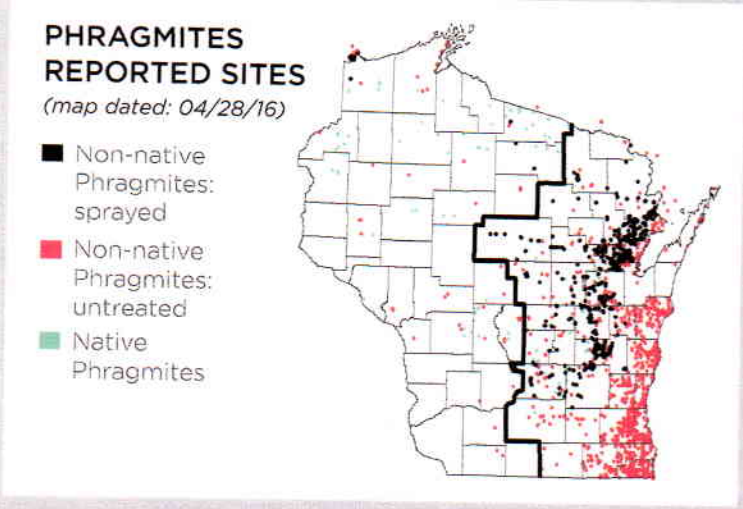
History of funding for state (WDNR) control efforts – from Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI-federal):

2011-2016: $2 million by WDNR & partners to treat 7,000 acres along Lake Michigan/Green Bay shores

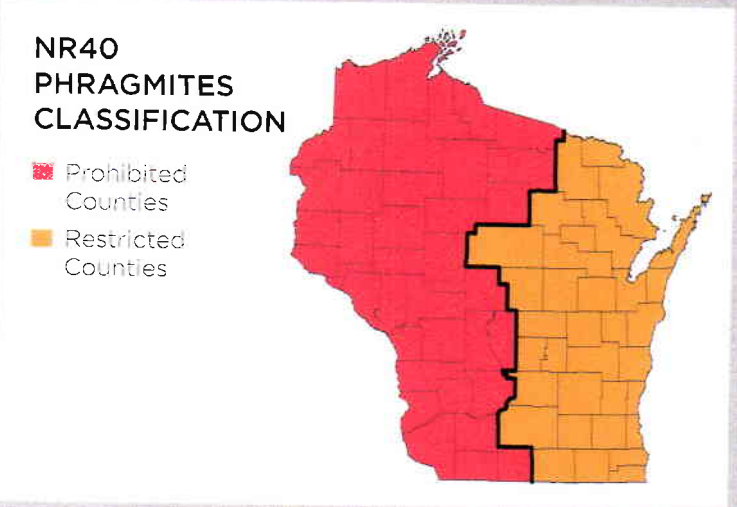
2014-2015: $413,000 by OWLT to treat/protect 1,021 acres in SE Wisconsin counties

2014-2016: $220,000 by WDNR & GLIFWC to treat all (the newer) sites in central & NW Wisconsin

Additional control money has been spent by many other organizations.



PHRAGMITES CLASSIFICATION ACROSS THE STATE



Management resources and strategies may vary based on where non-native Phragmites is located in the state.

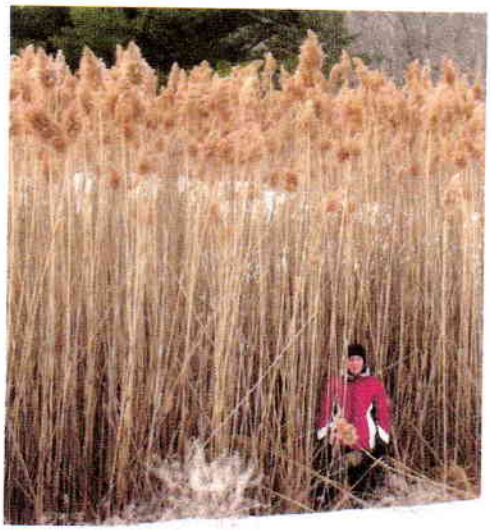
Prohibited: Phragmites patches are few and typically small. All sites will be eliminated or controlled, privately or by WDNR.

Restricted: Phragmites patches too numerous or large to eliminate all sites. Control efforts ongoing in most counties. Elimination should be attempted on all small sites and many larger ones.

Possession, transfer, transport and introduction is illegal without a permit.

HOW TO IDENTIFY NON-NATIVE PHRAGMITES

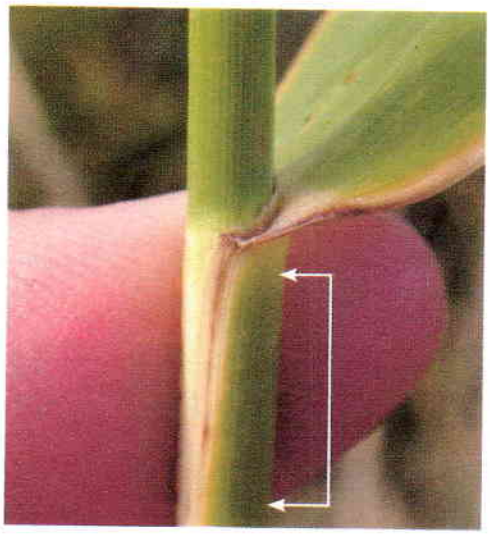
Non-native Phragmites can look quite similar to native Phragmites and a few other grasses. There are many guides to differentiate the two subspecies. For a direct comparison, search online for **Michigan Phragmites Native or Not**. Always get confirmation from an expert and report all stands to WDNR.



SIZE: Mature non-native stems can be 18 feet tall and very robust. Thinner native stems reach 10+ feet; other native grasses 8 feet or less.

SEED HEAD: Non-native plumes are large, thick, purple/brown/tan, 6-20 inches long, and up to 8 inches wide. Native plumes are feathery, much smaller and never purple. Both tops contain long silky hairs that may stay on throughout winter.

LEAF SHAPE/COLOR: Non-native has bluish-green leaves compared to native yellow-green leaves. Flat, stiff leaves flag outward from the stem and are 0.5-2.0 inches wide near the base, tapering to a point at the end.



LEAF SHEATHS: (the lower part of the leaf that wraps around the stem) persist on dead non-native Phragmites stems, (even during winter months) Native Phragmites typically sheds its leaf sheaths during the winter.

NATIVE INK DOT FUNGUS ON SMOOTH, SHINY STEMS: Native only can show a black, dot fungus under its leaf sheaths. Non-native stems are ridged & duller with only indistinct blackish molds.

These efforts are a collaboration of multiple organizations.

UW Extension University of Wisconsin-Extension

Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Great Lakes Restoration

Sea Grant University of Wisconsin

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Publication # WY-080-2016

Manitowoc County Collaborative *Phragmites* Control Project

Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

Landowner Application Form

Landowner(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Parcel # (located on your property tax bill) _____

Email address (to send project updates) _____

***By signing below I authorize inventory, treatment and monitoring on my property for the purpose of *Phragmites* control starting from the date of my signature for a period of up to three years (ending December 2020). Landowners who wish to revoke permission must do so in writing to Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership.**

The control efforts will involve the use of herbicides using spray application. There is no cost to the landowner during this treatment period. I understand that this is primarily a *Phragmites* control program and that educational follow up may be provided through Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Wisconsin DNR, partner organizations, or contractors to help maintain or control future infestations. I also understand that as a property owner, I intend to contribute to the success of this effort as feasible by following management recommendations provided to me for effective long-term control.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Landowner Site Evaluation (complete to the best of your ability)

1) Density of *Phragmites* estimate: Dense_____ Scattered_____ Sparse_____ None_____

2) Approximate total square feet of *Phragmites:*_____feet x_____feet

Please return this completed form to:

Stantec Consulting Services, Attn: Melissa Curran, 1165 Scheuring Road,
De Pere, Wisconsin 54115

Questions about the form? Please contact Melissa Curran at 920-841-1072 or Melissa.curran@stantec.com.