

EPA Announces Grant to Tackle Invasive Common Reed Grass (Phragmites) in Manitowoc County

This highly invasive common reed grass, or “invasive [Phragmites](#),” primarily spreads rapidly underground via its root system and often requires years of treatment to manage and control. Invasive Phragmites is a perennial wetland grass introduced from Europe that grows rapidly, forming dense stands which crowd out native vegetation, in turn reducing plant species diversity and wildlife habitat quality. This menacing plant is also a safety and fire hazard and clogs drainage ways quickly.

In 2017, thanks to a Wisconsin DNR grant -- the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP), [Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area \(LISMA\)](#), [Stantec Consulting Services](#) (a private contractor) and the [Manitowoc County Lakes Association \(MCLA\)](#) completed treatments of invasive Phragmites within the county’s near-shore townships (Centerville, Newton, Manitowoc Rapids, Two Rivers, Mishicot and Two Creeks) along Lake Michigan. Previous years’ treatment efforts focused on the Lake Michigan shoreline areas and near-shore estuaries.

Herbicide treatment began this past fall in the six townships and municipalities along the lakeshore, addressing 392 acres on private lands and road right-of-ways by Stantec Consulting Services and Town and County highway departments in the project area.

A recent EPA grant awarded to LNRP will expand upon the initial control work funded by Wisconsin DNR to support a more regional and comprehensive approach throughout Manitowoc County’s wetlands. Bay-Lakes Regional Planning Commission received a similar EPA grant to extend this effort to Kewaunee County.

Landowners with mapped patches of *Phragmites* will be notified by letter this spring and asked to return a permission slip that will allow for treatment this fall by Stantec Consulting Services. **If you have this plant on your property and would like to see it treated this year, you can contact the Township to see if your site is mapped, or contact Melissa Curran at 920-841-1072 or Melissa.curran@stantec.com for more information.**

The Town of Centerville added Phragmites to our Noxious weed list in 2017. Residents and landowners are asked to control Phragmites (along with Canada Thistle, Bindweed & Leafy Spurge) on their property.

Announcement