

Sheboygan County Collaborative Invasive Species Control Project Update

Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) received state and federal funding to control invasive Phragmites and Japanese knotweed on public and private lands across Sheboygan County. Invasive Phragmites is a tall, colony-forming grass, introduced from Europe, that is invading both urban and rural areas. It can form dense, impenetrable stands that choke our wetlands, streams, beaches, and shores. Japanese knotweed is an Asia forb that can form dense thickets of bamboo-like vegetation that aggressively outcompete native plants, and negatively impacts wetland and riparian areas. This species quickly spreads and forms dense colonies by extensive underground stems that can damage infrastructure such as roads, walkways and foundations. The need for control is urgent to stop the aggressive expansion of these species.

LNRP is partnering with the local townships and the County, Sheboygan River Basin Partnership, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Inc. and Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec) to control these species for up to two additional years on participating parcels. Approximately 179 acres of invasive Phragmites and 8.2 acres of Japanese knotweed are known to occur in the county. Treatments were initiated in 2019, with 89 acres of Phragmites and 2.6 acres of Japanese knotweed undergoing treatment. Treatments are performed by trained/certified contractors using herbicide from June – October each year.

Invasive species mapping and outreach is on-going across the County. Landowners with mapped populations should have recently received a postcard in the mail providing a project update or requesting permission to access and control this species. Control is free and available to all residents, but permission must be received in writing. Treatment and monitoring will occur between mid-May and late-October.

A public link is available (<http://bit.ly/InvasiveWebMap>) to view the mapping data, report additional populations and to check parcel permission status. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Curran with Stantec at 920-841-1072 or melissa.curran@stantec.com; or Kendra Kelling with LNRP at 920-946-2247 or kendra@lnrp.org.



This photo shows a dense stand of the aggressive invasive Phragmites that we are working to control.