

Invasive Phragmites in Chisago County

WHAT IS INVASIVE PHRAGMITES?

(PRONOUNCED FRAG-MI-TEZ)

Chisago County and the Chisago Lakes Area has both native and non-native phragmites. Invasive phragmites is a non-native, semi-aquatic perennial grass. It is known as “Invasive Common Reed.” It is tall (reaching up to 15 feet) and occurs in dense stands when well-established. It is found in roadside ditches, in wetlands, on shorelines, and along riverbanks.

WHY IS INVASIVE PHRAGMITES A CONCERN?

Invasive phragmites grows fast and can take over shoreland and wetland areas, push out native vegetation, reduce habitat quality for wildlife, obstruct lake views and block water access. North and South Center Lakes, and Chisago and South Lindstrom Lakes all have infestations of invasive phragmites. Visit www.maisrc.umn.edu/phragmites-map to see if your property has already been identified as infested.

HOW IS INVASIVE PHRAGMITES CURRENTLY CONTROLLED?

Chisago County and Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) staff, along with local lake associations, are working with the MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) and MN Department of Natural Resources to identify and map occurrences of invasive phragmites and implement treatment strategies to control infestations along shorelines, as well as in wetland and upland areas throughout Chisago County.

Center Lakes, Chisago-Lindstrom and Green Lakes Associations are actively working with lakeshore owners to manage stands of invasive phragmites on shorelines by treating with an approved herbicide. The Chisago Lakes LID and other partners are working to treat invasive phragmites in roadsides and other upland sites.

I MAY HAVE INVASIVE PHRAGMITES ON MY SHORELINE?

If you live in the Chisago Lakes Area, contact your local lake association and a representative will consult with you to determine if you have invasive phragmites. If your property has invasive phragmites, the lake association will document the population in EDDMaps, a statewide reporting website, and will guide you on the next steps to treat the invasive phragmites.

I MAY HAVE INVASIVE PHRAGMITES ON MY PROPERTY?

If you live anywhere in Chisago County, contact Julia at bohne001@umn.edu for guidance on determining if you have native or invasive phragmites. She will ask you to take and share photos that will help in making a remote identification.

*Information obtained from www.maisrc.umn.edu/phragmites, www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/noxiouslist/commonreed, and www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/phragmites.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

- Center Lakes Association
info@centerlakes.org
- Chisago County Aquatic Invasive Species
susanna.wilson@chisagocountymn.gov
651-213-8380
- Chisago County Soil & Water Conservation District
casey.thiel@mn.nacdn.net
651-674-2333
- Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
jerry.spetzman@chisagocountymn.gov
651-213-8383
- Chisago-Lindstrom Lakes Association
www.clla-lakes.com
- Green Lake Association
www.greenlakechisago.com

Phragmites Seedhead
Caleb Slemmons, National
Ecological Observatory Network,
www.bugwood.org



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INVASIVE PHRAGMITES INFESTATIONS IN THE CHISAGO LAKES CHAIN OF LAKES WATERSHED

This map shows where infestations of invasive phragmites are located in the Chisago Lakes area, as identified by members of the Center Lakes Association and Chisago-Lindstrom Lakes Association.

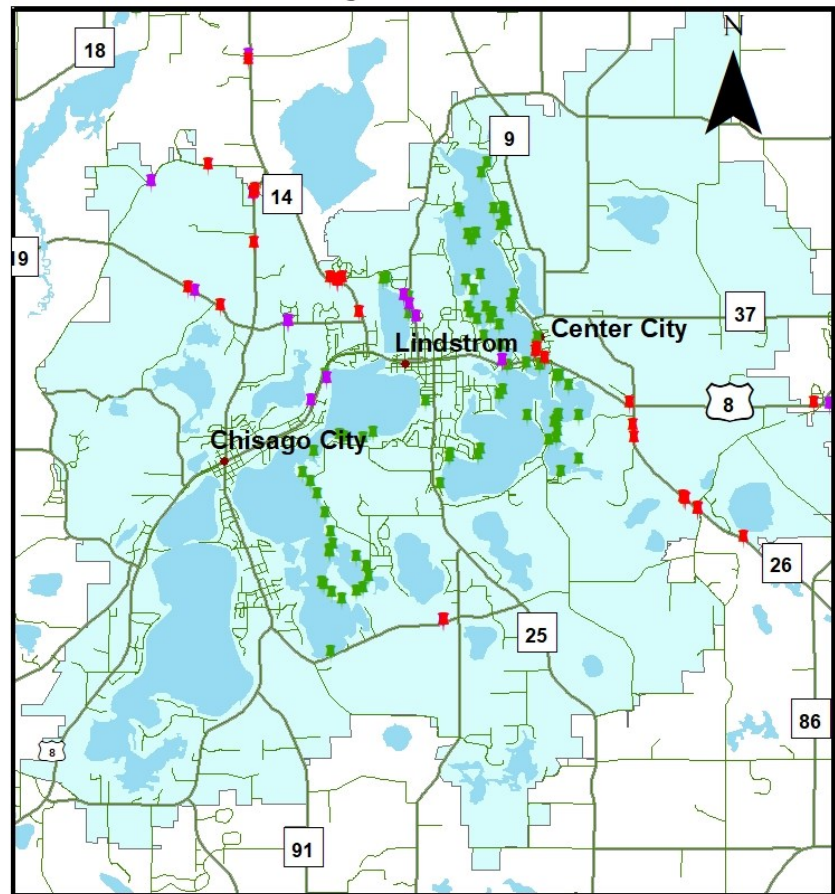
For more information on these specific locations, visit the interactive map at www.maisrc.umn.edu/



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Phragmites, Caleb Slemmons, National Ecological Observatory Network, www.bugwood.org

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District Inventoried Phragmites Identified



■ Recorded Phrag 2019

■ Previously recorded Phrag

■ Lakeside Phrag

— Major Surveyed Roads

■ LID2019

— Minor Roads

0 2.25 4.5 9 Miles

IDENTIFYING INVASIVE PHRAGMITES

For more information, or for help on how to identify invasive phragmites, visit the University of Minnesota at www.maisrc.umn.edu/identifying-phragmites.



U of M, MAISRC,
www.maisrc.umn.edu/about-phragmites



We can identify invasive phragmites by the plant stem (color and texture), leaves, ligule (area where the leaf blade joins the leaf sheath), and plume (inflorescence or flowerhead).

STEMS

Stems are green and ridged like corduroy. (Native phragmites typically has some smooth, glossy red sections of stem.)

LEAVES

Leaf blades (or leaves) are blue-green, 15 - 20 inches long, and 1 - 1.5 inches wide.

LIGULES

Found inside of the junction of the leaf blade and the sheath, the ligule is a fine, brown to blackish line with a row of short hairs.

PLUMES

Flowerheads emerging in late August, may be purplish to buff colored and are often dense, upright and conical in shape in late fall & winter.

