

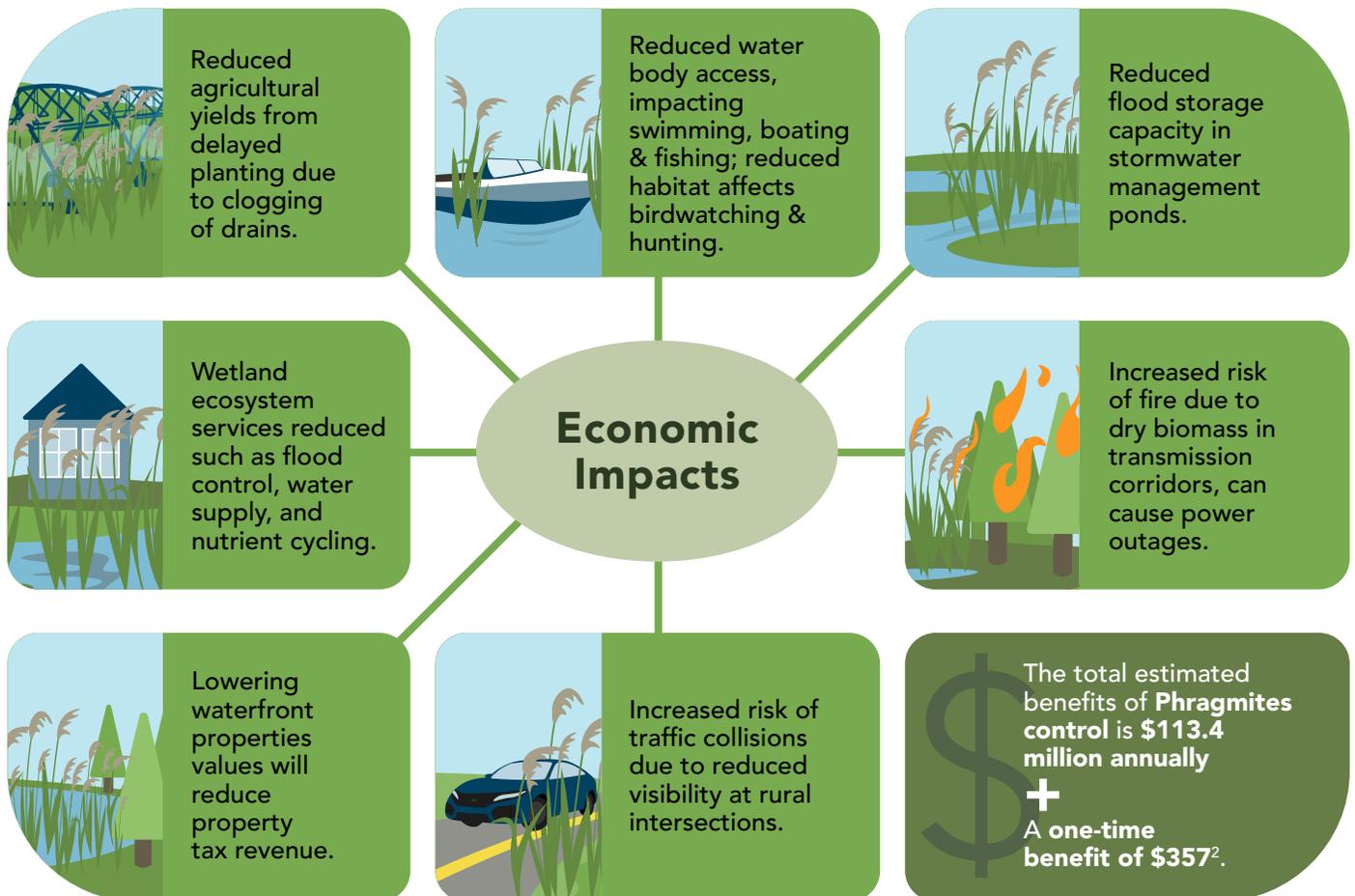
# Cost-Benefit Analysis

## Phragmites: An Expensive Invasive Species in Ontario



**Invasive species can threaten community safety and the natural world.**

Phragmites is an invasive perennial grass, commonly found along roadside ditches, that forms dense monocultures and can reach heights of up to 5 metres. Phragmites reduces **biodiversity**, threatens **Critical Habitat & Species at Risk**, and contributes to a variety of **economic impacts**.



In 2019, an estimated expenditure survey completed by Ontario municipalities and conservation authorities determined **Phragmites** ranked **fifth most costly** among all invasive species<sup>2</sup>.

It's estimated that in 2019, **6.3%** of funding for **invasive species control and management in Ontario** was directed to **Phragmites**<sup>1</sup>.



Phragmites can grow tall, **reducing visibility** for **birdwatchers** and **hikers**.

The most **common pathway** of spread for Phragmites is through **heavy equipment**.

Phragmites forms dense stands, **restricting access** for **swimming, boating,** and **angling**.

Costs for roadside Phragmites control often **exceeds \$1,100 per kilometer**.

Phragmites **stems** and **seeds** can be flattened, getting **stuck in the tracks,** and **introduced to a new area**.

<sup>1</sup>Vyn, R. (2019). Estimated expenditures on invasive species in Ontario: 2019 survey results. Report written for the Invasive Species Centre, July 2019.

<sup>2</sup>Vyn, R. (2021). Preliminary Cost-Benefit Analysis for Prevention, Treatment and Control of Phragmites in Ontario. Green Shovels Collaborative.



Invasive  
Species  
Centre

**GREEN SHOVELS** is an informal coalition of conservation organizations working collaboratively to address invasive species, delivering co-benefits to support local communities and the environment.

The **INVASIVE SPECIES CENTRE** is a non-profit organization that connects stakeholders, knowledge and technology to prevent and reduce the spread of invasive species that harm Canada's environment, economy, and society.

For more information and to sign up for invasive species news, visit [www.invasivespeciescentre.ca](http://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca).   