

# ONTARIO PHRAGMITES ACTION

With thanks to Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Phragmites Action (OPA) program is enhancing the coordinated response to invasive Phragmites across Ontario. Through initiatives such as the Invasive Phragmites Control Fund, genetic testing, biological control research, map creation, outreach and education, training, and resource creation, OPA supports timely, effective, and efficient decision making for the monitoring and management of invasive Phragmites. By having the right information and tools available when and where they are needed, OPA is protecting resources, communities, and the economy in Ontario from the impacts of invasive Phragmites.



## KNOWLEDGE SHARING ACROSS ONTARIO

Training, outreach, and shared success stories build capacity across Ontario and empower more communities to take action.

## SAFER COMMUNITIES

Managing roadside and shoreline infestations improves sightlines, reduces fire risk, and protects infrastructure.

## RESTORED ECOSYSTEMS

Managing Phragmites helps protect wetlands, shorelines, species at risk, and native biodiversity.

## LOCAL ACTION, PROVINCE-WIDE SUPPORT

Communities receive guidance, tools, and coordination that strengthen on-the-ground efforts and support long-term success.

## STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

The program builds collaboration among municipalities, conservation authorities, Indigenous communities, landowners, and other necessary parties to maximize impact.

## LANDSCAPE-SCALE IMPACT

Phragmites does not respect property lines. Coordinated management addresses entire watersheds and corridors, limiting spread and reinfestation.

## SCIENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES

Standardized, evidence-based control and monitoring methods improve effectiveness and long-term results.

## BENEFITS OF COORDINATED PHRAGMITES MANAGEMENT

With support from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Phragmites Action (OPA) program was created to address Canada's "worst" invasive species, *Phragmites australis*. OPA developed the following strategic framework to strengthen coordination and collaboration through a regional implementation model.

### STRATEGIC GOALS AND ACTIONS:

- Coordinated Phragmites control across Ontario
- Prevention, control, and monitoring
- Research and innovation
- Program sustainability

## INVASIVE PHRAGMITES...

- Can grow into tall, dense monoculture stands that can out-compete other species, including species at risk.
- Spreads rapidly by seed and root fragments (rhizomes) carried by wind, waves, vehicles, heavy equipment, and people.
- Is a part of the larger invasive species issue that is responsible for an estimated \$3.6 billion of impact each year to forestry, fisheries, agriculture, infrastructure, tourism, and recreation in Ontario.

The Ontario Phragmites Action program is building capacity throughout Ontario to assess and manage invasive Phragmites through regional coordination and Phragmites Management Areas (PMAs) within each region. PMAs are comprised of representative groups necessary for comprehensive management in an area, including municipalities, conservation authorities, Indigenous communities and groups, non-governmental organizations, and community groups. Funding provided to PMAs allows these groups to implement collaborative Phragmites management plans while building capacity for future needs.



Visit our website to be connected to the Regional Coordinator for your area.



**Learn more**  
[ontariophragmitesaction.ca](http://ontariophragmitesaction.ca)

The Ontario Phragmites Action program is jointly delivered by the Invasive Species Centre and Nature Conservancy of Canada, alongside a network of dedicated partners.