

Non-Native Phragmites Treatment

Date: June 30, 2015

The Minnesota DNR has identified non-native Phragmites reed in several locations on Turtle Lake. To reduce and prevent further spread of this invasive species, the Turtle Lake Homeowners Association Board organized and funded spot herbicide treatment of this reed in the targeted locations identified by the DNR. That treatment was largely effective and has significantly reduced the footprint. We plan to treat the remaining spots this summer.

Those with properties that directly or adjacently were identified by DNR as having non-native Phragmites were contacted. A first step in the application for a permit to treat the non-native Phragmites is notification of homeowners with the reed adjacent to their property so that the homeowners have a chance to opt-out of the treatment.

Non-native Phragmites Australis, subsp Australis, has invasive characteristics, can grow over 12 feet high, and replaces native vegetation due to its dense stands.¹ The reed causes changes in the ecosystem (hydrology, nutrient cycles) and has negative impacts on native plants and wildlife.¹

The TLHA Board is considering the following treatment. A herbicide, Imazapyr, will be hand sprayed by a licensed applicator in late-June or early July. Imazapyr has been shown to be the most effective treatment for non-native Phragmites and is approved by the EPA for this application.² The EPA believes the risk is below the Agency's level of concern for "residential post-application exposures (including incidental oral exposure to toddlers and oral and dermal exposure from swimming activities in treated lake water)".³ The EPA also states: "There are no risks of concern to terrestrial birds, mammals, and bees or to aquatic invertebrates and fish".³

These adjacent properties were directed to respond to an email (mail@turtlelakehomeowners.org) or contact the TLHA via mail at (TLHA, 855 Village Center Drive, #315, St. Paul, MN 55127) by July 8, 2015 if they do NOT want non-native Phragmites treated in the area adjacent to your home, otherwise it will be treated. The TLHA will pay for these treatments.

For additional information about non-native Phragmites please see our website at: <http://turtlelakehomeowners.com> and go to the 'Water/Environmental Issues' link.

1 MN DNR website: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/phragmites/index.html>

2 Efficacy of Imazapyr and Glyphosate in the Control of Non-Native Phragmites australis. Mozdzer et al, Restoration Ecology Vol. 16, No. 2, pp 221-224, 2008.

3 US EPA: Reregistration Eligibility Decision for Imazapyr.