

# Phragmites in the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed

## WHAT IS PHRAGMITES (PRONOUNCED FRAG-MI-TEZ)?

Phragmites is an invasive, or a “non-native,” semi-aquatic perennial grass that came to North America in the 1700s to early 1800s. It is known as “Common Reed.” It is tall (reaching up to 15 feet) and densely growing. It is found in wetlands, river bank areas, on shorelines, and in roadside ditches.

## WHY IS IT A CONCERN?

Phragmites in the Chisago Lakes Area grow 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 are highly infested with phragmites.

## HOW IS IT CURRENTLY CONTROLLED?

Local lake associations are working with the MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC), the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District and Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District to identify and map occurrences of phragmites and determine long-term ways to treat infestations along shorelines, and in wetland and upland areas in the Chisago Lakes area.

Center Lakes Association and Chisago-Lindstrom Lakes Association are actively working with lakeshore owners to cut stands of phragmites on shorelines and treat with an approved herbicide.

## WHAT IF I HAVE PHRAGMITES ON MY SHORELINE?

Contact your local lake association and a representative will visit your lakeshore property, map the location and take a sample to send to MAISRC to confirm if it is native or invasive phragmites. If found to be invasive, the lake association will contact you on how to best treat the phragmites. Visit [www.maisrc.umn.edu/phragmites-map](http://www.maisrc.umn.edu/phragmites-map) to see if your property has been identified as infested.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

- Center Lakes Association  
[info@centerlakes.org](mailto:info@centerlakes.org)
- Chisago County Aquatic Invasive Species  
[susanna.wilson@chisagocounty.us](mailto:susanna.wilson@chisagocounty.us)  
651-213-8380
- Chisago County Soil & Water Conservation District  
[casey.thiel@mn.nacdn.net](mailto:casey.thiel@mn.nacdn.net)  
651-674-2333
- Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District  
[jerry.spetzman@chisagocounty.us](mailto:jerry.spetzman@chisagocounty.us)  
651-213-8383
- Chisago-Lindstrom Lakes Association  
[www.clla-lakes.com](http://www.clla-lakes.com)
- Green Lake Association  
[www.greenlakechisago.com](http://www.greenlakechisago.com)

Phragmites Seedhead  
Caleb Slemmons, National  
Ecological Observatory Network,  
[www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org)



# PHRAGMITES INFESTATIONS IN THE CHISAGO LAKES CHAIN OF LAKES WATERSHED

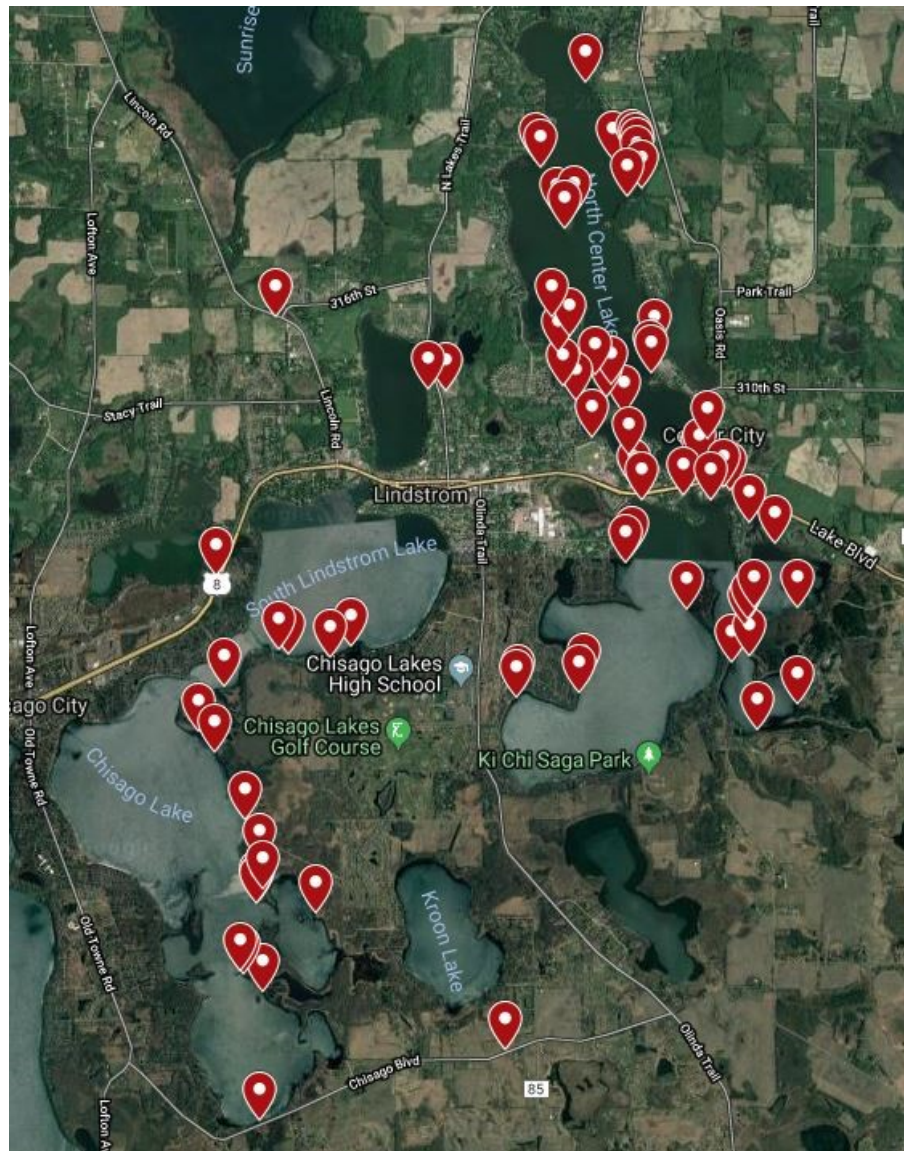
This map shows where infestations of phragmites are located in the Chisago Lakes area, as identified by members of the Center Lakes Association and Chisago—Lindstrom Lakes Association.

For more information on these specific locations, visit the interactive map at [www.maisrc.umn.edu/phragmites-map](http://www.maisrc.umn.edu/phragmites-map).



5510404

Phragmites, Caleb Slemmons, National Ecological Observatory Network, [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org)



For more information, or for help on how to identify phragmites, visit the University of Minnesota at [www.maisrc.umn.edu/identifying-phragmites](http://www.maisrc.umn.edu/identifying-phragmites).



U of M, MAISRC, [www.maisrc.umn.edu/about-phragmites](http://www.maisrc.umn.edu/about-phragmites)

## HOW TO IDENTIFY PHRAGMITES



Stem



Blade

Sheath



Ligule



Plume

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

### STEMS

Stems are hollow, ridged, and rough. They lack fungal spots (common on native phragmites). They are green with yellow nodes during the growing season and tan/yellow in the winter.

Blades (or leaves) are blue-green, 15 - 20 inches long, and 1 - 1.5 inches wide. They are arranged one side of the stem.

### LIGULES

In summer and fall, the ligule looks like a thin, brown to black fine point line.

### PLUMES

Purple flowers form in early August, golden in late season/winter producing thousands of grayish seeds.