



**The Ridges Sanctuary**

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<b>PROJECT:</b> Ridges Sanctuary Lake Michigan Phragmites Control	<b>BY:</b> Matt Peter
<b>SUBJECT:</b> FINAL SUMMARY	<b>DATE:</b> 2/8/2019

**Grant Info**

*Aquatic Invasive Species*      Grant # ACEI17716      Grant Amount: \$200,000

**Overview**

Project final deliverables include: all data collected, annual reports and a final report summarizing the overall project results including methods, invasive *Phragmites* treatment and monitoring results, adaptive management recommendations, and all the education and outreach efforts completed. Clean Boats/Clean Waters and Project RED data will be entered in the SWIMS database

**Project Summary**

*Phragmites* was controlled through multiple chemical treatments over the course of 3 field seasons. Methods included foliar spraying and wick application. Each round of treatment was precluded with rigorous and detailed mapping to assess the distribution of the targeted *Phragmites* populations. Based on the baseline mapping conducted prior to treatment in 2016, 45.2 acres of *Phragmites* were targeted for treatment within the Project Area. The treatment sites were evaluated every year to determine treatment effectiveness, identify any emerging infestations, and to address possible unintended impacts on non-target species. Prior to the final treatment in 2018, this area had decreased to 6.8 acres, which is an 85% decrease in population size by area. Going forward, these *Phragmites* populations will continue to be monitored and treated every year. The Ridges Sanctuary is currently working closely with Door County and the Town of Baileys Harbor to begin an annual initiative to treat *Phragmites* within the Baileys Harbor Township utilizing the Noxious Weed Ordinance that was passed in 2017 by the Town Board. Response from both the Town Board as well as local landowners has been supportive and the project is moving forward with a goal of starting in 2019, leaving no gap between treatment years. Restoration efforts beyond *Phragmites* control will be pursued on a case by case basis when needed.

Efforts to complete the Clean Boats/Clean Waters project activity was made each year of the granting period. Trainings for CBCW were attended each of the three years and one was hosted in 2018. CBCW hours at the Baileys Harbor Marina were logged in 2017 (9 hours total) and 2018 (11 hours total). Unforeseen circumstances, such as staff turnover and an unfortunate lack of participation by CBCW-trained volunteers prevented us from successfully completing our CBCW goal of 200 hours annually. We did complete two Project RED inventories, one in 2017 and one in 2018. All data from both CBCW and Project RED have been entered into SWIMS.