

Door County Aquatic Invasive Species Control Within Four Landscapes of Distinction, Marina, Boat Launch, and Watercraft Rental Facilities: FINAL REPORT

Sponsor: Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department
Project Period: October 1, 2007 – December 31, 2009
Project Number: AEPP-096-08

GOAL: Maintain and enhance the water and habitat quality of Door County near shore waters, shorelines, wetlands, and inland lakes.

WORKSHOPS

Aquatic Invasive Species Demonstration Control Workshops

A total of twenty-five demonstration control workshops were held throughout the project period. These workshops involved hands-on control work and multiple informational handouts on aquatic invasive species and control. These control days included glossy buckthorn control at Whitefish Dunes State Park (2), Lake Forest Park Drive Owners Association (1), Portage Park (1), Door County Land Trust 's Krueter Preserve (1), and Crossroads at Big Creek (8). *Phragmites* control days occurred at Crossroads at Big Creek (2), Frank Murphy County Park (1), Newport State Park (1), Baileys Harbor (1), Kangaroo Lake (1), and an all day event for the Clark Lake Advancement Association (1). Shoreline and wetland invasive plant identification and control workshops held at Crossroads at Big Creek (1), Little Sturgeon Bay (1). Japanese Barberry workshop at Kangaroo Lake (1), Exotic Bush honeysuckle workshops at Portage Park (1), and at Door County Land Trust's Krueter Preserve (1).

These workshops allowed for the ability for neighborhood groups to organize and implement work parties on their properties to control aquatic invasive species. These work parties increased the control effort county-wide allowing for the contribution of more volunteer hours dedicated to invasive species work.

WORK PARTIES

Work parties continued within numerous landowner associations and friends groups. Work parties that were organized within an organization tended to have good to excellent attendance. Work parties for the general public, attendance continue to be minimal. Efforts to raise stakeholders' education level will most certainly increase participation in work parties and subsequent volunteer control efforts.

Clean Boats, Clean Water (CBCW) / Watercraft Inspection Program

In 2008, a limited term employee was hired to perform CBCW activities. CBCW workshops were held for the Clark Lake Advancement Association and the general public. Educational CBCW sessions were also held for marina personnel and watercraft rental facility employees.

In 2009, the SWCD and DCIST were able to participate in the Watercraft Inspection Program. This project was a huge success in Door County. The DNR, UWEX, SWCD, Work Force Development and the Women's Employment Program; all came together to higher a young individual who was able to inspect 121 boats while educating at least 207 people on the importance of having a clean boat to prevent the spread of Invasive species. Survey results can be found at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/cbcw/cbcw-waterforce.html>

Combining this effort with Sea Grant inspection efforts provided at least one inspector on Door County waters for 6 out of 7 days a week for the peak summer boating months.

PRESENTATIONS

Numerous presentations were given to various agencies, organizations, and groups throughout the county. Presentations on various invasive species education and control were given to The South Lake Michigan Drive Property Owners Association, Little Sturgeon Bay Property Owners Association, Mink River, Gibraltar School biology students, University of Wisconsin-Extension field research day, Going Garbage-Door Property Owners Association Environmental speaker series, Lake Forest Park Road Property Owners Association, Niagara Escarpment Program with biodiversity & invasive species relationship, 2009 Sustainability Fair, Sevastopol School Earth Day, and Volunteer Center of Door County Youth Program.

AQUATIC INVASIVE INFORMATION AND DISTRIBUTION

The new and improved DCIST website continues to be a useful resource for anyone interested in invasive species information. This website is kept up-to-date by the Door County SWCD, and county webmaster.

Information on Aquatic Invasive Species Information continues to be available at the SWCD office, the Ridges Sanctuary, The Nature Conservancy, and The Door County Land Trust. Additionally, the DCIST steering committee continues to distribute information to local libraries, state parks, etc. DCIST coordinator makes information available for distribution at demonstration control workshops.

Information on *Phragmites* was distributed widely throughout the county during the *Phragmites* Education and Control project. Packets were assembled and distributed to each landowner who participated in the program.

ADDITIONAL GRANTS

A variety of funds were sought during the project timeline. Grant applications were submitted for the following grants, not all of the applications were selected for funding. The grants applied for include:

- Door County Community Foundation
- Sustain Our Lakes Community Grant
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- Wisconsin Coastal Management

DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEER HOURS

During the grant project period a total of \$7,455.00 in donations was received. There were also several in-kind donations acquired during the duration of this project through SWCD in-kind staff time, meeting space, equipment use, steering committee time, and volunteer hours.

A total of 2,140 volunteer hours were acquired during this project.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES LIMITED TERM EMPLOYEE

In 2009 the SWCD LTE worked on several educational projects with local residents, watercraft related businesses, and inland Lake Associations. Two clean boats clean waters workshops were conducted for the inland lakes and two were conducted for the Marina and water craft rental businesses. Unfortunately these workshops were again poorly attended, even though an effort was made to improve upon last year's attendance. LTE highlights included the revisions to the website, the *Phragmites* Control Options and Certified Herbicide applicators handouts. These handouts were given two

dozens of landowners that had participated in past *Phragmites* treatment programs and to new landowners that had *Phragmites* on their property. The one on one educational meetings and inventories enable the SWCD to pursue a larger *Phragmites* education and control project which is also summarized in this report.

PHRAGMITES EDUCATION AND CONTROL OPPORTUNITY

The Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department (SWCD) and the Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) proposed to utilize Aquatic Invasive Species Control (Education Prevention and Planning) grant monies to revive a successful herbicide application program initiated in 2007. The goal of this program was to again emphasize the need for landowners to get educated for proper management and to cooperatively control and prevent future invasions of *Phragmites*.

This project was initiated by requesting proposals from 13 identified aquatic approved applicators that have requested to be on a contractors list. The SWCD also put a public notice in the Door County Advocate requesting proposals for the activity of treating *Phragmites* for Door County property owners. Specifications were then provided to interested and potential contractors. Proposals were received from four interested parties with proposals ranging from 7 ¼ cents to 87 ¼ cents per square feet of treatment. (It is worth noting that the contractor who bid 87 ¼ cents later reported a mathematical error that should have resulted in a bid of 8.725 cents per square foot). The range in bids should have been 7 ¼ to 25 cents per square foot.

The County of Door then entered into an agreement with Invasive Species Control Specialists that required the Contractor to hold any and all permits with the DNR which included a \$20 application fee and \$25 for every acre treated up to 9 acres per permit. The contractor was then periodically provided with authorizations to proceed with individual landowners via an email message with attached PDF of the site location, land owner name, contact information, and estimated square footage.

The SWCD coordinated; with the assistance of DNR, Nature Conservancy, The Land Trust, and The Ridges Sanctuary staff; an educate, inventory and verification effort to efficiently contact landowners about the program opportunity. The SWCD decided not to advertise for this program due to an existing “waiting list” that was created for the original 2007 program. This list was reviewed and added to for two summers by LTE staff that monitored landowner sites where treatment occurred and also inventoried and offered direct educational assistance with landowners who did not receive treatments. Contacts were made first to the landowners that were not treated in the original grant and was then opened up on a first come first serve basis. Many of the participants in the 2009 program were new landowners that were neighbors to those contacted on the original list. A very large percentage of the landowners when contacted stated they had already pursued professional treatment efforts on their own without cost share assistance. This was a very positive indication that our previous education efforts were successful and that this program could spur additional individual efforts.

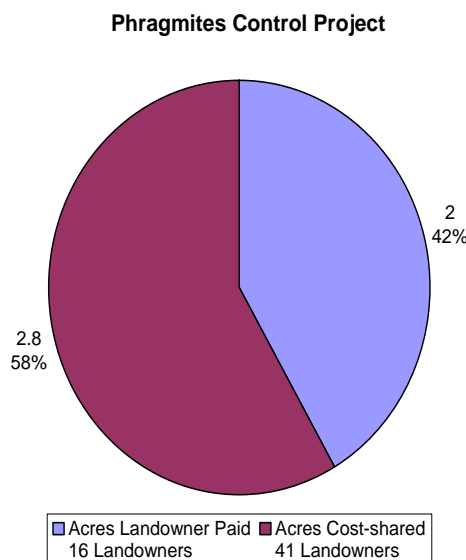
Eligible landowners were limited to 4,000 square feet of treatment through this program with the option to work directly with the Contractor if additional treatment was desired for areas that exceeded 4,000 square feet. Seventeen landowners were inventoried to have more than 4,000 square feet and sixteen of those land owners hired the contractor to treat the additional *Phragmites*. An application fee ranged from \$5 - \$40 and was based on increments of 500 square feet. Landowners that signed the application were given educational materials and were then inventoried and verified for the presence of *Phragmites*. An estimate was given to the landowner and when payment was received, authorization for the Contractor to proceed was given. Landowners were strongly encouraged to be present for the herbicide application. After the contractor treated the site for the authorized amount and any additional treatments, the contractor provided the DNR with the actual areas treated for the permit obligations. This process involved a PDF aerial map of the site with the estimated square footage, which the Contractor then forwarded to the DNR to indicate where applications took place.

In the end the SWCD and the partners mentioned above, made over 100 individual contacts that resulted in 41 landowners being chemically treated with Habitat™. The treatment areas included 119,410 square feet authorized and cost shared with an additional 89,810 square feet treated by the contractor and solely paid for by the landowner, for a total of 209,220 square feet or 4.8 acres. Authorizations for all of the landowners took place between September 18th and October 8th. On October 14th the SWCD after consulting with DNR and other local experts terminated the program due to widespread and patchy frost and the extended cool temperatures forecasted.

Educational materials provided to the landowners included a DCIST brochure, The DNR publication on *Phragmites Australis*, the DNR publication on Beach Maintenance Activities, a volunteer form, a contractor list of aquatic approved applicators, and a Door County *Phragmites* Control options pamphlet.

Statistics:

- 41 land owners authorized for treatment.
- 4.8 acres or 209,220 sq. ft. treated.
- 16/17 (94%) of the landowners with > 4,000 sq. ft. treated additional area at their expense.
- Additional cost was estimated @ \$25/1000 sq. ft.
- The landowner that did not treat additional area had 44,000 sq. ft. @ an estimated \$1,100 in cost.
- Total Square footage per landowner ranged from 490 to 48,000.
- Average square footage per landowner was 5,103.
- 2 acres (43%) of the area treated was solely paid for by the landowners.



OVERALL EDUCATION & OUTREACH SUMMARY

There continues to be a core of concerned members of the Door County community dedicated to safeguarding biodiversity and combating invasive species. Though this group is converted, they need constant attention, information, and development of leadership skills. The general public, however, still lacks much basic knowledge about biodiversity and the threats of invasive species. The DCIST program needs more outreach and education and a more thorough media campaign to educate and keep attitudes positive.

The Coordinator has participated in several outreach activities beyond the demonstration workshops and presentations. Outreach occurred with Gibraltar High School students with AIS information for their contemporary issues class, Lawrence University research on *Phragmites* control on Bjorklund property, and Detroit Island Landowner group *Phragmites* control grant.

CONCLUSION

The DCIST program continues to grow in Door County. The Door County Invasive Species Team Steering Committee and Coordinator alike are finding their balance in this evolving effort. Continued energy put towards strengthening the core of the program will ensure success and efficiency.