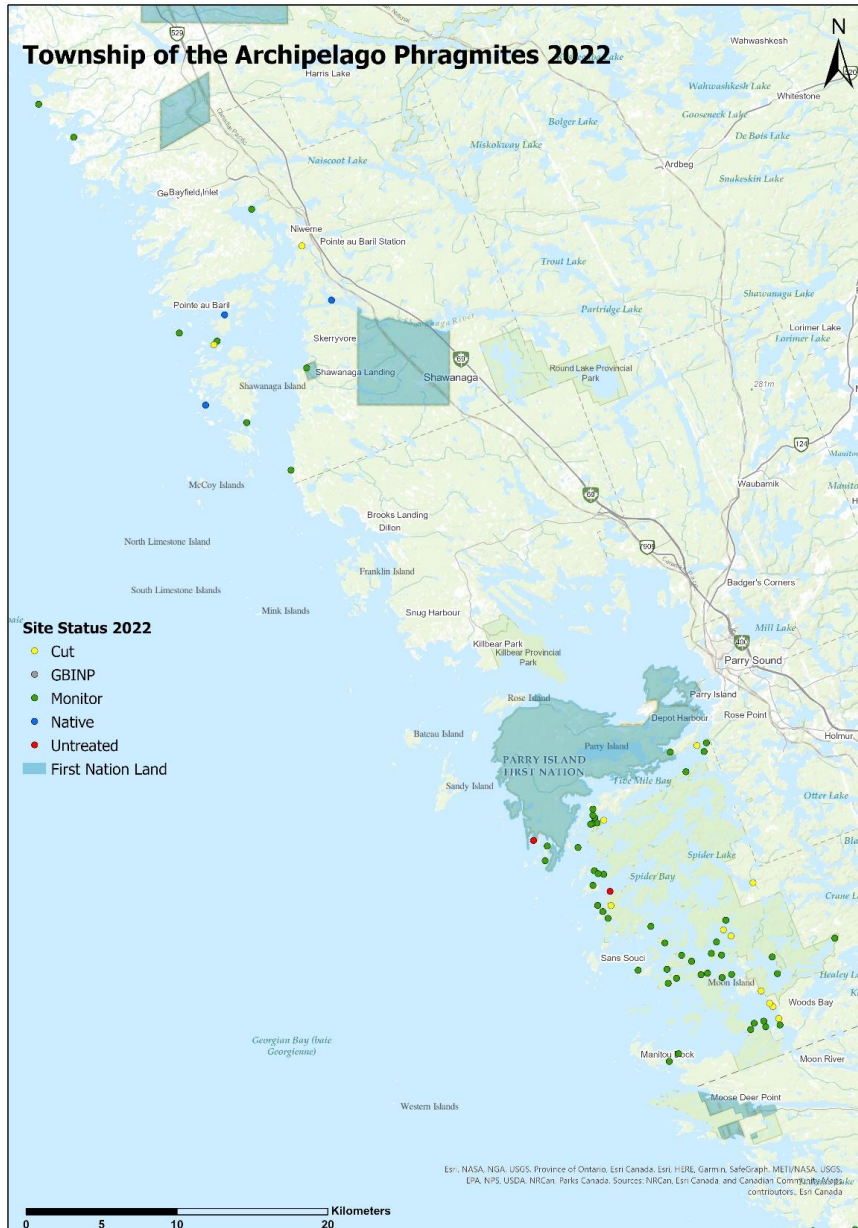


2022 Status of Invasive *Phragmites* Stands

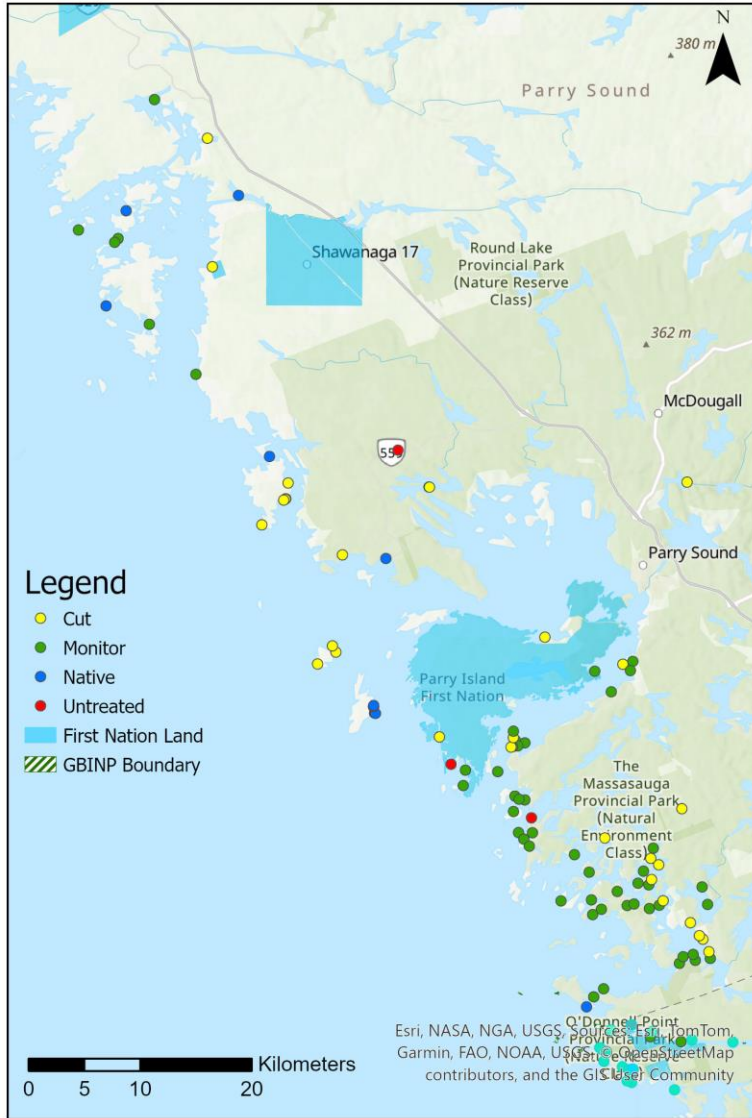


2023 Status of Invasive *Phragmites* Stands



2024 Status of Invasive Phragmites Stands

Township of the Archipelago, Carling, and Massasauga Provincial Park Phragmites 2024



The Township of The Archipelago
 9 James Street
 Parry Sound, ON P2A 1T4
 Attention: Mayor Liverance and Councillors

Re: 2024 Review of Community *Phragmites* Program and budget request of \$5,000 for 2024 to continue *Phragmites* progress

Dear Mayor Liverance and Councillors,

Thank you to the Township for supporting Georgian Bay Forever (GBF) with invasive *Phragmites* management on the coasts in 2024 with \$5,000. What follows is an executive summary review of 2024 invasive *Phragmites* efforts (to date). For 2025, GBF is requesting a \$5,000 contribution toward continuing invasive *Phragmites* removal.

Reminder: Invasive *Phragmites* infested sites take 2-6 years of annual cutting to become nonviable (and in laymen’s terms not visible) following which they are designated as eradicated. The word ‘eradicated’ that GBF uses is with the understanding that these sites do not need any further cutting and transition to a monitoring stage. The word ‘controlled’ refers to sites that have been eradicated or on their way toward eradication from being cut. This involves annually checking the site for a few years to verify the invasive *Phragmites* are gone. Left untreated, invasive *Phragmites* grow into dense monoculture stands, up to 15 ft. high, and spread rapidly threatening biodiversity, habitat, and enjoyment of the shoreline.

2024 Highlights

Overall Control in 2024 – 42 sites under management

- 40 of these sites under control in 2024 = **95% control**
 - 29 eradicated; 11 cut
- GBF’s consistent oversight and Ontario Parks, Marine Patrol and community group’s cutting over the years has contributed to this significant success.

Summary Table

Status (Level of control)	# of Sites 2024
Eradicated/Monitoring, controlled	29
Cut, controlled	11
Mapped, not controlled	2
Total Invasive	42
Percent Controlled (Eradicated + Cut)	95%

PaBla

GBF continues to work with the Point au baril islander's Association to identify and cut any remaining phragmites stands in the area. Following the decommissioning of the Marine Patrol program, PaBla has been working toward reinventing their phragmites program in partnership with GBF. 1 site was found north of Point au baril around the mouth of the Mud Channel and was cut right away. Many others remain eradicated.

Sans Souci and Copperhead Association

[Community members of the Sans Souci and Copperhead area continued to monitor for invasive Phragmites throughout the 2024 season. Thank you to Katherine Denune, the SSCA, and other volunteers for being committed to the fight against invasive Phragmites for so many years. With many sites eradicated, and a few still in need of control, the SSCA plans to continue their monitoring and cutting efforts in 2025.](#)

[Update provided by: Katherine Denune, Director of Environment, Sans Souci and Copperhead Association](#)

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South Channel Association

The South Channel Association's Phragmites monitoring program has been quite successful thanks to Peter and Beth Adams, Stephen Sprague, Ian Fenton, Matt, Luc, and other various community members. As of 2024, there were only a few stalks in need of cutting on Channel Island, Laengner Bay, and Sloan Island. All other 8 sites have been eradicated, many of which continue to be monitored by property owners. The SCA diligently surveys the area using What3Words, recording locations, inspection dates and other relevant management information. The SCA plans to continue these efforts throughout 2025!

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Woods Bay/Moon River

Heather Sargeant (Woods Bay Association Director) has been diligently tackling *Phragmites* in Woods Bay and area over the years with amazing volunteers. The area continues to be monitored by Heather and the local community, as well as some help from the Township of the Archipelago staff this past season.

Collaborators

This plant knows no borders – Work beyond ToA borders is critical, and collaborators are important.

- GBF is consistently and effectively working to reduce and eliminate coastal infestations of invasive *Phragmites* around Georgian Bay to reduce the risk of it spreading from surrounding areas back into the Township's coastal areas.
- GBF works with Georgian Bay coastal municipalities, communities, organizations, and Parks managing over 1000 stands; notably Tay (272 sites), the Township of Georgian Bay (640

sites), Carling Township (11 sites) and Matchedash Bay (118 sites) to manage *Phragmites* removal from their sites.

- **Georgian Bay Islands National Park** is significantly impacted by invasive *Phragmites*, particularly on Beausoleil Island. GBF has provided advice and insight into their plans in previous years to help tackle the issue and will continue to do so as needed. In 2024, GBINP worked with GBF and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to manually cut various patches around the Park. Though there was a significant amount of invasive *Phragmites* removed over the last few years, there will still be much more work needed in the following years. GBINP has 3 small islands off the coast of south ToA of which there are no *Phragmites* present.



Massasauga Provincial Park

In 2024, there was regrowth of *Phragmites* in previous site locations, but many remained eradicated. One site on Spider Lake was cut by staff, while another was sprayed on Conger

Lake using imazapyr (aquatic herbicide). The results and effectiveness of the spraying will be assessed in the 2025 season.

Ministry of Transportation

Part of protecting management investments made is implementing or improved road management by all stakeholders. GBF and its partners have made many efforts on progressively increasing MTO participation over the years. 2021 efforts included “*Invasive Phragmites Road Management: A Webinar for Municipalities and First Nations in the Georgian Bay Area.*”. This webinar was hosted by GBF and TOA. It included Dr. J. Gilbert from Invasive Phragmites Control Centre, speaking about techniques, but also involved an update by MTO (efforts in 2020 for some areas in the general Georgian Bay/Muskoka area, and their plan in 2021), and important location information from the Georgian Bay Land Trust. To watch the webinar, visit: Part 1: https://youtu.be/NtpUK_OBGV8 and Part 2: <https://youtu.be/rQfqddBrpJk>.

In 2023, a member of both the GBA and West Carling Association got involved with *Phragmites* management in Carling Township with help from GBF. Community cuts and training workshops were conducted over the summer in Carling Township, and MTO were approached in regard to the infestation along highway 559 and Dillon Road. Some sites were removed, while others are on the radar for future control. In the 2024, GBF was able to get in contact with an MTO representative of the Northeast region regarding details on herbicide use in previous years, with plans for future years. GBF hopes to continue discussions with MTO and aim to have recurring annual updates provided and shared with the local communities.

2025 Outlook: Continuing the Progress

Drone

GBF recently acquired a multispectral drone to be utilized for invasive *Phragmites* mapping across the eastern Georgian Bay coast. Our staff have been licensed and trained for the deployment of this drone to collect data and imagery that can be processed and analyzed for determining the location and extent of invasive *Phragmites* growth in Georgian Bay wetlands. The use of drone technology for mapping can aid us in accessibility of wetlands that are difficult to navigate by boat, foot or ATV. With feedback from the local community, we can investigate coastal areas of concern that have been missed in the past, and results can be used in future *Phragmites* management planning. For 2025, we hope to bring this advanced technology up to the Township of the Archipelago if permitted.

In Conclusion

We thank you for your support in protecting coastal shoreline biodiversity and habitat through the *Phragmites* community program. There has been significant progress in sites that

have been eradicated and on their way toward eradication, comprising 95% of sites identified up until now. We are left with only 2 sites in the Township of the Archipelago which are on our control radar for 2025.

In 2025, we are requesting \$5,000 to help drive *Phragmites* mitigation through mapping and actively cutting and training amongst local community groups.

Sincerely,



David Sweetnam
Executive Director
Georgian Bay Forever
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executivedirector@gbf.org