Riverbank where phragmites has been treated, cut and burned and will be replanted with native plants.
Photo Credit: Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Native Plant Shoreline Restoration

As part of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's multiyear Shoreline Invasive Plant project in New York, the Tribe is restoring native plants to sites that have been treated for invasive species removal. By the end of 2022, the Tribe had treated over 4,431 square meters for invasive phragmites, Japanese knotweed and common/ glossy buckthorn. Native plants have been planted on sites that showed no regrowth of invasives one year after treatment, which has occurred on over 1,110 m2 to date. Plants used for restoration efforts came from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Native Plant Nursery. A total of 70 willows, 81 dogwoods and 130 sweetgrass plants were planted in restored shoreline sites along the St. Lawrence, Raquette and St. Regis rivers in 2022.

Share your thoughts on the Great Lakes and consider the following thought-starter questions.

1. Are you aware of any Great Lakes recreational opportunities or experiences that have been negatively affected by invasive species?
2. What local groups in your region play an important role in battling invasive species?
3. What improvements have you seen in your region due to invasive species control?
4. Are there some invasive species that you have "learned to live with"? If so, which ones?

Controlling Invasive Species

Overview

Approximately 190 non-native species have been found in the Great Lakes region. About one-third of those non-native species are invasive and cause socio-economic, ecological or human health impacts. Examples include:

- Invasive plants choking recreational waterways and changing wetlands.
- Destruction of mature riparian forests by forest pests.
- Loss of cold-water fisheries.
- Direct parasitism by lamprey on native fish important to recreational and commercial fishing.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding supports federal, Tribal and State agencies, as well as their local partners, to enhance sites degraded by aquatic, wetland and terrestrial invasive species. Funding made available by GLRI also allows for collaborative and innovative approaches to invasive species management, advancing our knowledge on the most effective and efficient ways to reverse impacts to important Great Lakes places.

Federal agencies will continue to support community efforts to control and reduce the spread of invasive species. These projects will engage and provide capacity to local partners who continue maintenance and stewardship beyond the duration of the federally funded project's life span. These locally led projects will provide greater access to recreational opportunities for underserved communities. In addition, GLRI federal agencies will directly implement control projects in national forests, parks and wildlife refuges to provide high-quality habitat for fish and wildlife. Promising technologies will be developed and implemented to control invasive species more efficiently in high priority habitats based on input from regional experts and local needs.

For more information visit,
GLRI.us/Action-Plan
Share your thoughts by email:
GLRIActionPlanIV@epa.org

Great Lakes RESTORATION