Marsh Restoration Project
Metro Beach Metropark, St. John’s Marsh and Harrison Township

**Project Goal:** To protect and restore valuable coastal marshes (wetlands) within the St. Clair watershed through the control of *Phragmites australis* or common reed, an invasive wetland grass. Common reed has quickly spread through much of Metro Beach Metropark, St. John’s Marsh and parts of Harrison Township. This invasive aquatic plant crowds out native plants, forming thick stands that can grow up to 20 feet (approximately 6 meters) high and is spread by rhizomes that reach up to 6.5 feet (approximately 2 meters) below ground. Common reed has caused adverse ecological, economic and social impacts, including:

- Threats to coastal and interior wetlands—Michigan’s most biologically diverse and productive ecosystems.
- Domination of native vegetation, displacing desirable native plant species, such as sedges, rushes and cattails, and reduction of plant diversity.
- Reduction of wildlife habitat diversity resulting in loss of food and shelter.
- Reduction of property values due to impaired shoreline views, swimming and fishing.

**Controlling Invasive Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Restoring the Marsh**

Treatment options require a combination of herbicides followed by burning or mowing. These large, established infestations of common reed make it virtually impossible to remove by digging or pulling. *Phragmites* is aggressively taking over entire marsh areas, negatively impacting the wetland ecosystems of Metro Beach Metropark, other parts of Harrison Township and St. John’s Marsh in Algonac, as well as other areas in Michigan and the region.

**Treatment Areas**

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<th>Metro Beach Metropark, Harrison Twp.</th>
<th>St. John’s Marsh</th>
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This project is a cooperative effort of Ducks Unlimited, Harrison Township, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Sea Grant and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Other partners include St. Clair Flats Waterfowlers, Inc., and the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission.

**For more information, see the project website:**