

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

Thursday, August 13, 7:00 PM

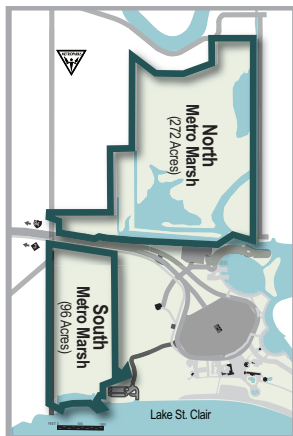
Metro Beach Metropark, Thomas S. Welch Activity Center
31300 Metro Parkway, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046

A meeting will be held at Metro Beach Metropark to discuss the *Marsh Restoration Project*. Experts from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority will discuss the project, what is involved and its impact on the area. The intent of the project is to protect and restore valuable coastal marshes (wetlands) within the St. Clair watershed through the control of common reed, an invasive wetland grass.

This project is a 4-year 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/contributors include St. Clair Flats Waterfowlers, Inc., and the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Treatment Areas

Metro Beach Metropark, Harrison Twp.



St. John's Marsh



The Problem:

Once phragmites invades, it causes 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 and Restoring the Marsh

Phragmites or common reed has quickly spread through much of Metro Beach Metropark, St. John's Marsh and parts of Harrison Township. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) 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. Treatment options require a combination of herbicides followed by burning or mowing. These large infestations of common reed make it virtually impossible to remove by digging or pulling once established. 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.

Contact Information

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