

City Manager..... (802) 334-5136
City Clerk/Treasurer 334-2112
Public Works/Parks 334-2124
Zoning Adm./Assessor 334-6992
Recreation 334-6345
Fax..... 334-5632



City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport, Vermont 05855
www.newportvermont.org

November 27, 2023

TO:

Patrick Hurley – Project Manager
Memphremagog Watershed Association
PO Box 513 | 194 Main St Suite 214
Newport, VT 05855

RE: Proposed Lakeshore Access Restoration through VOREC Grant

Dear Mr. Hurley,

I am writing this letter in support of the Memphremagog Watershed Association's (MWA) proposal to improve recreational access and lakeshore habitat quality along the Waterfront Recreation Path between Prouty Beach & Bluffside Farm in Newport, VT. The City of Newport was a leader in the development and promotion of the trail along the waterfront and continues to advocate on its behalf to bolster conservation interest, recreational attractions, and economic activity in the region. Newport Parks & Recreation Department recognizes the significance of the proposed work as it relates to recreational access to public lands and resources, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. We recognize and support the goal of removing non-native *Phragmites spp.* (common reed) populations that are invading the shoreline of Prouty Beach, Scott's Cove, and the boardwalk. The City understands MWA proposes to contract licensed professionals to mechanically and/or chemically treat the infestation over a period of multiple seasons following best management practices and all applicable regulations related to lakeshore improvements and herbicide application.

We find this infestation to have many detrimental effects to the recreational quality and lakeshore integrity along the Bluffside Farm property as well as that owned by the City of Newport. The density of the reeds prohibits recreational access to the water along some of the only publicly accessible shoreland on this section of the lake. It acts to block the viewshed from the boardwalk – which was constructed in 2021 using funds from sources such as the Northern Borders Regional Commission – and is an eyesore to those who live and recreate here. Moreover, the infestation is posing challenges to access and maintenance along the boardwalk as reed begins to grow up through the gaps of the bridge and prevent routine inspection of the structure. The boardwalk is a popular fishing spot for locals and travelers staying at the Prouty Beach Campground, however, it is quickly becoming inaccessible for fishing as the reeds dominate the landscape and entangle fishing lines. Lastly, the infestation is actively spreading, acting to degrade natural lakeshore habitat, and is beginning to block both water flow and boat access to Scott's Cove. We believe the proposed work will benefit the public by reclaiming lost lakeshore access, enhancing fishing, improving boating, and promoting the aesthetics of the widely acclaimed boardwalk and recreational path.

Sustaining excellent recreational access and healthy shorelines on Lake Memphremagog is important to our economy, our neighbors, visitors, and the City of Newport. By supporting this project, we recognize the opportunity to greatly enhance public access to enjoy walking, biking, fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, swimming, and other outdoor recreation activities on the Newport recreational path. Enhancement of this section of shoreline will complement the efforts of numerous partners over many years to sustainably develop the Prouty Beach Campground, recreational path, and Bluffside Farm for the public to enjoy in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Brown
Director of Recreation

Scott's Cove Phragmites Control Plan

Overview

The Phragmites infestation at Prouty Beach can be broken into three categories: terrestrial (plants whose roots are not submerged), intermediary (whose roots are partially submerged or saturated but not deep enough to drown the plant if the stem is cut), and submerged (whose roots are deep enough underwater to effectively control by cutting below the water line).

Submerged Phragmites:

This proposal recommends first removing the submerged Phragmites mechanically. This technique will remove submerged Phragmites stalks from the site, but will need to be repeated several times to achieve control. Sequencing this process first each year will expose the intermediary Phragmites and make that task more efficient.

Intermediary Phragmites:

Because Phragmites in water less than 4" deep cannot be sprayed without additional permitting or effectively controlled mechanically, this proposal recommends cutting the stem several inches above the water (higher than potential wave action) and injecting it with herbicide. Stems too small to be effectively injected will be swiped. This second step will isolate and expose the Phragmites which is eligible for foliar spray.

A 30% Glyphosate concentration will be used for swiping and injection. The concentration will be calibrated at each .1 acres treated, to achieve an application rate of .75 gal/acre.

Terrestrial Phragmites:

The bulk of the terrestrial area will be sprayed using an electrically powered 25 gallon spray unit with a 300' hose pulled by an atv. Dense areas whose application does not threaten adjacent resources will be treated this way. The edges of the terrestrial phragmites (where overspray or drift could cause contamination to non-target species or water) will be treated with more precise

methods. Backpack spraying will allow for lower volume and more specific targeting. Phragmites intermixed with native species can be pushed over by the applicator and sprayed near the ground. Where it is impossible to spray without impacting native species, the phragmites stalks will be either swiped or injected. Foliar spraying will be the most practical method of controlling the phragmites where it is not in standing water, and techniques to avoid impacting sensitive resources will be employed to ensure minimal impact to non-target species.

Glyphosate will be applied at a rate of .75 gal/acre.

The sole chemical applicator has nearly 5 years of professional experience treating Phragmites and other invasive plants.

Timeline:

The most effective time to control Phragmites mechanically or chemically is when it is expending root energy to form seeds (herbicide treatment should inhibit seed growth). Work will therefore be timed late June - September.

Year 1	June/August 2024	August 2024	August / September 2024	January 2025
	Mechanically cut submerged	Cut and inject stems where water isn't deep enough	Foliar Spray terrestrial	Cut standing stalks, remove along .73ac patch and by bridge
Year 2	June 2025	August 2025	Fall 2025	January 2026
	Mechanically cut submerged	- Cut and inject stems where water isn't deep enough - Foliar Spray	Spot spray remaining patches	Cut standing stalks, remove along shore and by bridge
Year 3	Early June 2026			
	- Remaining emergent phrag will be cut or swiped - Spot spray what remains of terrestrial Phragmites			

Map:





AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS
Public Health and Agricultural Resource Management Division
Steve Dwinell, Director

www.agriculture.vermont.gov

116 State Street • Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2901 • (802) 828-5667 • (802) 828-1410 fax

REQUEST FOR PERMIT TO CONDUCT TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE PLANT PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Pursuant to 6 V.S.A. Chapter 87 and the Vermont Rule for Control of Pesticides (the Rule), a request is made for a permit to conduct a pesticide application for terrestrial invasive plant species within the State of Vermont to control terrestrial invasive plant species in a right-of-way for purposes other than clearing or maintaining a right-of-way.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Title of Organization:
Address:
Phone:
Contact Person:

SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Town receiving application:
Terrestrial invasive plant species to control:
Approximate total acreage to be treated:
Anticipated Date(s) of treatment:
Treatment Method:

SPECIAL NEEDS: TREATMENT WITHIN BUFFER STRIPS

Specific areas where applications are to occur:
Application technique to be implemented:
Application equipment to be used:
Explain how this Request will Protect Sensitive Areas, Sensitive Crops, Site Conditions, Wells, etc.:

CONTROL DETAILS

Trade Name	Common Name of Active Ingredient(s)	EPA Reg. Number	Application Rate Product/Acre	Vegetation to Be Controlled	Type of Application and Equipment to be Used
<i>Example: GARLON 4</i>	<i>Triclopyr</i>	<i>62719-40</i>	<i>0.25-1.25 gal/acre</i>	<i>Undesirable Tree Species</i>	<i>Low Volume Basal & Stump Backpack Sprayer</i>

*Pesticide(s) to be used and rate(s) to be applied. If more than one chemical is listed, then a summary of the uses intended for each chemical must be provided. The summary should state whether the chemical will be mixed or applied separately, specifying which chemicals will control what types of vegetation/pest. Please Note: A copy of a label, must be supplied for each chemical to be used.

APPLICATOR INFORMATION

Applicator's name:
Vermont applicator certificate #:
Company name:
Company address:
Company telephone number:

OTHER INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATION

1. Current labelling for each pesticide to be used.
2. Plan demonstrating how the permit applicant will either be able to eradicate or otherwise further control the spread of the invasive species with a reduction in any continued chemical applications in accordance with Rule Section 6.08(d).

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

The Applicant certifies that, to the best of their knowledge, the provided information is true and accurate.

The Applicant further understands that weekly spray and dusting operations must be reported to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets on forms furnished by the Agency, sent to the Agency electronically and not later than the close of business on the Monday following the week's operation.

SIGNATURE: _____ **Date:** _____

(NOTE: Additional sheets may be attached to include further information.)



8 Bailey Ave,
Montpelier, VT 05602

P (802) 223-5234

info@vlt.org
vlt.org

November 19, 2023

Patrick Hurley – Project Manager
Memphremagog Watershed Association
PO Box 513 | 194 Main St Suite 214
Newport, VT 05855

RE: Proposed Lakeshore Access Restoration through VOREC Grant

Dear Mr. Hurley,

I am writing this letter in support of the Memphremagog Watershed Association's proposal to improve recreational access and lakeshore habitat quality on our Bluffside Farm property, located at 171 Scott Farm Road in Newport, VT (SPAN: 435-136-15954). The Vermont Land Trust recognizes the significance of the proposed work as it relates to recreational access to public lands and resources, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. We recognize and support the goal of removing non-native *Phragmites spp.* (common reed) populations that are invading the shoreline of Prouty Beach, Scott's Cove, and the Bluffside Boardwalk. VLT understands the Memphremagog Watershed Association proposes to contract licensed professionals to mechanically and/or chemically treat the infestation over a period of multiple seasons following best management practices and all applicable regulations related to lakeshore improvements and herbicide application.

We find this infestation to have many detrimental effects to the recreational quality and lakeshore integrity along our property as well as that owned by the City of Newport. The density of the reeds prohibits recreational access to the water along some of the only publicly owned shoreland on this section of the lake. It acts to block the viewshed from the boardwalk – which was constructed in 2021 using funds from sources such as the Northern Borders Regional Commission – and is an eyesore to those who recreate here. Moreover, the infestation is posing challenges to access along the boardwalk as reed begins to grow up through the gaps of the bridge. The boardwalk is a popular fishing spot for locals and travelers staying at the Prouty Beach Campground, however, it is quickly becoming inaccessible for fishing as the reeds dominate the landscape and entangle fishing lines. Lastly, the infestation is actively spreading and is beginning to block both water flow and boat access to Scott's Cove. We believe the proposed work will benefit the public by reclaiming lost lakeshore access, enhancing fishing, improving boating, and promoting the aesthetics of the widely acclaimed boardwalk and recreational path.

Sustaining excellent recreational access and healthy shorelines on Lake Memphremagog is important to our organization, our neighbors, visitors, and the City of Newport. By supporting this project, we recognize the opportunity to greatly enhance public access to enjoy walking, biking, fishing, boating, swimming, and other outdoor recreation activities on the Newport recreational path. Enhancement of this section of shoreline will complement the efforts of numerous partners over many years to sustainably develop the Prouty Beach Campground, recreational path, and Bluffside Farm for the public to enjoy in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Daniel Kilborn, Lands Director

Regional Offices:	226 Bridge Street P.O. Box 850 Richmond, VT 05477 P (802) 434-3079	Bluffside Farm 171 Scott Farm Road Newport, VT 05855 P (802) 748-6089	The King Farm 128 King Farm Road Woodstock, VT 05091 P (802) 457-2369
-------------------	---	--	--