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Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative: A Partnership to Link People, Information and Action

Rapid progression of *Phragmites australis* (common reed) across the Great Lakes has affected the biodiversity and ecological functions of habitats, impaired the socio-economic value of wetlands and shorelines and placed an increased financial burden on land managers. The species' continued spread may threaten the extensive habitat restoration efforts funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Resources on *Phragmites* management and research are scattered and sometimes inaccurate, and little coordination exists among stakeholders to guide management efforts. A coordinated approach is necessary to improve collaboration, communication, effectiveness and efficiency of *Phragmites* management, planning and research.

The Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative (GLPC) was established in 2012 to facilitate regional communication and serve as a partnership to link people, information and action.

The GLPC capitalizes on an interactive approach to facilitate access to rigorous science and promote network building among managers, governmental agencies, landowners and scientists. We surveyed stakeholders across the basin to identify needs and priorities and underline gaps in *Phragmites* management and science.

We present the structure of the GLCP; its goals and objectives, and review the main communication tools developed by the GLPC to address needs and knowledge gaps and improve coordination among and between scientists and managers.