

Clay Township Phragmites Management Program Description

The purpose of the Clay Township Phragmites Management program is to assist property owners in understanding and implementing effective and fully compliant Phragmites control treatments over the long term. The program is entirely voluntary. This year's program has various components, including surveying the status of Phragmites within the community, establishing priority treatment areas, communicating and working to develop an expanded cadre of volunteers to assist others with Phragmites control. The success of our effort will depend on the continued enthusiastic involvement of the community in supporting and expanding our Phragmites treatment program. Phragmites do not give up easily! Depending on the extent of infestation, participants should plan on two to three years (minimum) of diminishing effort.

First Step:

To become a participant in the Clay Township Phragmites Management Program, you must first apply to the Township by filling out the application form. You must be a resident of Clay Township or Algonac. This form is essential in our permit process as well as providing contact information. A donation of \$25 is requested to help cover the permit administration and workshop materials. Copies of the application can be obtained from our website or at the Clay Township Office. Completed applications should be returned to: Clay Township PAB, P.O. Box 429, Algonac, MI 48001.

Second Step:

As a participant, you or your designated representative must attend or have attended one of the Clay Township Phragmites Management Workshops. The application to participate in this program is available on the website or at Clay Township Office. The schedule for these workshops and other PAB activities is attached to this document. Workshops are held at the township offices.

Your donations are very important in helping defray permit and equipment costs. In addition, donations allow us to demonstrate in our grant applications, local support for the program.

A Note on Donations:

As previously stated, The Clay Township Phragmites Advisory Board activity is strictly voluntary. While donations are much appreciated at any time, the only requests we make involves the \$25 contribution in the application. Thanks to the participation of our citizens, we are proud to say that we have been self-sustaining for our entire five-year history. During that time, we have been able to acquire equipment, maintain fully compliant permits and provide for the necessary materials to support our workshops.

Communications – To keep the property owners up-to-date on activities and services of the Clay Township, we maintain a website. If you have any questions, access the website or contact the Clay Township Phragmites Management Advisory Board. Key numbers and links are shown under “Contacts” below.

Workshops on Phragmites Management – New applicants, or their designated representative, must attend a PAB Workshop. There will be two Phragmites Management Workshops offered, one in April and a second in June. The details, times and locations will be posted on the website and are included in the Program Schedule attached to this notice. All are welcome to attend.

State Qualified Contractors – In order to assist property owners with the procurement of qualified contractors for spraying or mowing Phragmites, the Township maintains a list of such Contractors. It is available on the Clay Township website. All applicants are free to determine the methods of treating their Phragmites, as long as their approach meets regulatory guidelines.

Group Permit – To simplify the process of obtaining the necessary permits for treating Phragmites on your property, Clay Township obtains the permits from the appropriate agencies in the name of Clay Township. However, to be included in the permits, participants must apply to be in the program. You will be notified by means of an approval letter from Clay Township when permits including your property are obtained. Burning does not require a permit. If you wish to burn Phragmites please see our website for the guidelines for burning and contact the Clay Township Fire Department regarding local requirements. All applicants will be required to return a TREATMENT REPORT FORM after having completed their treatment. The form will be provided in your permit packages. REFER TO THE ATTACHED PAB SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS.

Treatment Chemicals at Special Prices – To save the program participants money in the self-treatment of their Phragmites, the Township will be purchasing the MDEQ-approved chemicals at special government rates and passing them on to our applicants. A separate order form is available on our website and from Clay Township for this purpose. Payment may be made via mail or at the Clay Township Treasurer’s Office. Those who order chemicals will be notified directly of pick-up dates, times and locations. Pick-up typically between July 15th and August 31st.

Contacts:

Clay Township Phragmites Advisory Board
P.O. Box 429
Algonac, MI 48001

Message Center: 810-519-2985

Website: http://www.claytownship.org/departments/phragmites_board/index.php

Real People:

Jan Zboril, PAB Program Coordinator
586-405-8593