

NPCA INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT Frequently Asked Questions

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) is expanding invasive species management across the Niagara Peninsula watershed during the 2026–27 field season.

This work will focus on managing Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), strengthening regional invasive Phragmites management, protecting important forest and wetland ecosystems, and coordinating action with municipalities, conservation organizations, academic institutions, and other partners.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

What is Hemlock Woolly Adelgid?

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, (HWA), is an invasive, aphid-like insect that attacks eastern hemlock trees.

The insect feeds at the base of hemlock needles, affecting the tree's ability to access stored nutrients and water. Heavy infestations can lead to needle loss, branch dieback, declining tree health, and eventually tree mortality.

HWA is not considered harmful to people or pets, but it can cause significant damage to eastern hemlock trees and the ecosystems they support.

Why are eastern hemlock trees important?

Eastern hemlocks are an important part of healthy forest ecosystems.

They:

- Provide critical habitat for wildlife;
- Help regulate stream temperatures by providing shade;
- Play an important role in erosion control;
- Support cool, moist forest conditions; and
- Contribute to healthy and resilient forest ecosystems.

Protecting hemlocks helps protect the broader health of Niagara Peninsula watershed's forests.

What is NPCA doing to manage HWA?

NPCA uses a combination of monitoring, tree-health assessments, treatment, and ongoing evaluation to manage HWA.

During the 2026–27 field season, NPCA staff, qualified contractors, and project partners will assess eastern hemlock trees, treat selected trees where appropriate, and monitor results.

Treating priority trees can help reduce the impacts of HWA while longer-term monitoring provides information about the condition of hemlock populations and the spread of the invasive insect.

How are selected hemlock trees being treated?

Selected eastern hemlock trees will be treated using IMA-Jet, an insecticide applied directly to individual trees through trunk injection.

This method delivers the treatment directly into the selected tree rather than applying insecticide broadly throughout the surrounding forest. IMA-Jet is known for providing multi-year (4-7 years) of protection against HWA.

Only trees identified for treatment will receive injections.

Where and when will HWA treatment take place?

HWA treatment is currently planned at the following NPCA conservation areas:

Week of September 14, 2026

- Ball's Falls Conservation Area
- Louth Conservation Area
- Lathrop Conservation Area

Week of October 19, 2026

- Beamer Memorial Conservation Area

Treatment schedules may be adjusted if required due to weather, site conditions, or operational considerations.

What should visitors expect during HWA treatment?

Visitors may notice NPCA staff or qualified contractors working around selected eastern hemlock trees in treatment areas.

Treatment involves injecting IMA-Jet directly into selected trees. Visitors should follow all posted signage and directions while work is underway and avoid interfering with treatment activities.

Conservation areas may remain active during treatment work, but visitors should respect any temporary restrictions or directions posted at treatment locations.

Invasive Phragmites

What is invasive Phragmites?

Invasive Phragmites is an invasive plant that can form dense stands in wetlands and other suitable habitats.

These dense stands can crowd out native vegetation, reduce wildlife habitat, and negatively affect wetland biodiversity.

Managing invasive Phragmites helps protect wetlands and the plants and wildlife that depend on them.

What is NPCA doing to manage invasive Phragmites?

NPCA is the Phragmites Management Area (PMA) lead for the Niagara Peninsula watershed, one part of the broader [Ontario Phragmites Action Program](#) (OPA). As the PMA lead, NPCA works with municipalities, conservation organizations, academic institutions, and other land managers to coordinate a regional approach to invasive Phragmites management.

This work includes:

- Mapping invasive Phragmites infestations across the watershed using geospatial technology and tools;
- Identifying and prioritizing treatment areas;
- Coordinating action across properties and jurisdictions; and
- Maintaining natural features like the biodiversity of our wetlands
- Protecting public infrastructure like stormwater ponds, roads, and municipal drains

Where and when will invasive Phragmites treatment take place?

Invasive Phragmites treatment is scheduled to take place during the week of September 21, 2026, at the following NPCA conservation areas:

- Long Beach Conservation Area
- Binbrook Conservation Area
- Chippawa Conservation Area
- E.C. Brown Conservation Area
- Woodend Conservation Area

Treatment schedules may be adjusted if required due to weather, site conditions, or operational considerations.

How will invasive Phragmites be treated?

Qualified contractors will apply herbicides containing imazapyr and/or glyphosate to target invasive Phragmites in identified treatment areas. In areas where Phragmites is growing in or around water, Habitat Aqua will also be used as part of the treatment.

Treatment will focus on identified invasive Phragmites infestations as part of NPCA's broader regional management program.

Why does invasive Phragmites need to be managed?

Invasive Phragmites can form dense stands that crowd out native vegetation and change wetland habitats. It can also impact local agriculture, and public infrastructure including stormwater management ponds, municipal drains, roadways, and drainage ditches.

These infestations can:

- Reduce space available for native plants
- Reduce wildlife habitat
- Affect wetland biodiversity
- Make it more difficult for native wetland ecosystems to thrive
- Reduce crop yields and clog farm drains
- Damage roadways and other infrastructure
- Negatively impact the functionality of stormwater management ponds and municipal drains

Managing established infestations and coordinating treatment across the watershed can help protect Niagara Peninsula watershed's wetlands and biodiversity.

Why is a regional approach important for managing invasive Phragmites?

Invasive species do not follow municipal, organizational, or property boundaries. Effective management therefore requires coordination among landowners and organizations across the watershed.

As the Phragmites Management Area lead for the Niagara Peninsula watershed, NPCA helps bring municipalities, conservation organizations, academic institutions, and other land managers together to map infestations, identify priorities, coordinate treatment, and support regional action.

This approach helps ensure that invasive Phragmites management is coordinated across properties and jurisdictions rather than undertaken in isolation.

What should visitors expect during Phragmites treatment?

Visitors may notice qualified contractors working in and around identified treatment areas at Long Beach, Binbrook, Chippawa, and E.C. Brown conservation areas during the week of September 21.

Visitors should follow all posted signage and directions while treatment is underway and avoid entering or interfering with active treatment areas.