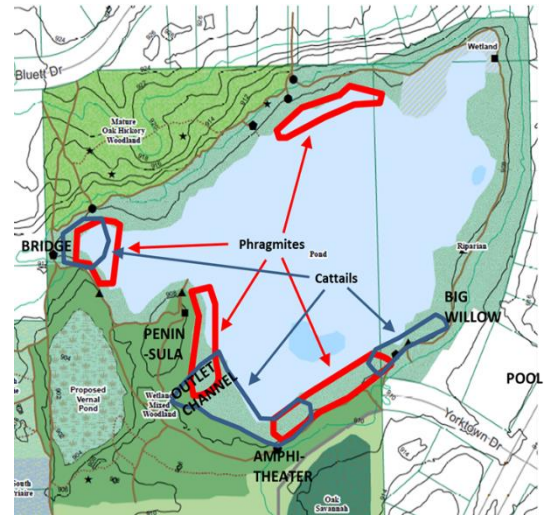


Land Steward Report – September, 2015

Phragmites and non-native (narrow-leaved) cattails were treated by Plantwise on August 17 and 31, at a cost of \$550 (this included one free treatment of the phragmites, to make up for poor control the first time two years ago). Treated areas are shown on the map. Treatment was through backpack spraying, with hand-wicking near desirable plants. They used a combination of glyphosate, Cygnet Plus surfactant, and tracking dye, all formulated for use around water. We have the option of a third treatment if needed, at a cost of \$100. The rationale for multiple treatments is from

<http://greatlakesphragmites.net/blog/multiple-treatments-single-season/>, and is to minimize the need for treatments in subsequent years, when you would also be spraying native plants that are beginning to grow there. We are intending to burn the killed plants in October. Once the pond water level is restored, we hope any remaining cattail material will be underwater, the third stressor

(after glyphosate and burning) to help eradicate it.



Boy Scout Troop 1 (led by Eagle-candidate Denis Sorel) returned on Aug 16 to lay down plastic along the edges that were previously missed. The plan is for them to remove all the plastic around the 3rd week in October, put down native short-grass (side-oats grama and little bluestem, possibly prairie dropseed and prairie brome) and cover crop seed, and prepare areas (adding sand) for some of the shrubs. We hope to get Thurston students to plant the shrubs (American hazelnut, New Jersey tea and leadplant, all fire tolerant and common in oak savannas) and sow flower seeds.

Six ounces of soft-stem bulrush seed (worth \$60) was harvested from around the pond. This can be used in the mudflat and/or along additional shoreline areas. It will grow in water up to about a foot. Additional seed is being harvested from the Vallem native garden, including Helonium (incorrectly named sneezeweed) which can be used along the shoreline; spikenard and blue-stem goldenrod for the newly-cleared vernal pond area; and Ohio spiderwort and golden alexanders which will go in the oak savanna. An 8' tall elderberry will also be transplanted to the north end of the berm.

Recommended actions from the Herp report from David Mifsud, needing people to complete:

- Add more logs and downed trees (with branches) along pond edge for turtle basking and shelter/egg laying sites for amphibians and invertebrates.
- Mesh with maximum 1" square openings over the two outlet grates.
- South-facing sandy area(s) for turtle nesting (potential for kingfisher burrows also).
- Large rock pile(s) for snake hibernation.

A meeting is planned for Sept 12 with Erick Elgin, Stewardship and Outreach Specialist of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, to go over plant recommendations. It is expected that we will put down seed in November on top of the berm, the new island and the area along the outlet channel. We need to decide if we will transplant seedlings (arrowhead, etc.) at the disturbed pond edges this fall or next spring. We will probably wait until late next year to seed where the cattails and phragmites are being treated, after any additional control that might be needed for those invasives.

Jim Vallem