

Contract 18-007 Montgomery County SWCD Phragmites Control, Restoration, Education 2018 PRISM Grant Final Report

District Name: Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District

Project Name: Thomas Burbine Memorial Forest Phragmites Removal

Current Report Date: 1/15/2019

Remarks:

The Thomas H. Burbine Memorial Forest and Nature Trail is a forever wild territory, maintained by Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Outdoor activities include hunting, hiking, camping, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and fishing. The Forest and Nature Trail are located in close proximity to Charleston State Forest in the Town of Charleston.

The Montgomery County SWCD secured funding from the Capital Mohawk PRISM to provide effective response and control measures to treat the Phragmites that is present at the Montgomery County owned Thomas Memorial Burbine Forest.

Through the grant project we renovated the pond outlet and rebuilt the outlet ditch. The outlet area was infested with Phragmites. We removed the Phragmites from the site and reestablished the failing outlet. Phragmites treatment is best accomplished through chemical treatment of the growing plant. Upstream of the pond area a total of 2.3 acres was treated by hiring a certified aquatic pesticide applicator to spray the phragmites during vegetative growth. During the next growing season we will monitor the success of the program by scouting the site and determining the prevalence of the growing Phragmites that is remaining.

Invasive species management handouts were developed and mailed to all Town Highway departments. We partnered with the Town of Charleston DPW and the Montgomery County WQCC to make the overall project happen. There is already an active partnership with the local Boy Scout Troop to assist with maintenance. We also began working with the Schoharie River Center and their Environmental Studies Team. This is an organization of students with a mission to improve the local environment, enjoy the outdoors and instill a sense of environmental awareness in the community. We completed a bridge over the spillway that will allow visitors, to the park the opportunity to hike the entire park trail. Without this bridge around 1,800 feet of trail is inaccessible. Through this grant we increased partnerships and demonstrated the benefits of managing invasive species especially near municipally owned areas.



Herbicide treatment by a certified aquatic pesticide applicator.



The pond level was pumped down to access the drainage system and dry out the area for treatment.



The spillway and overflow have been repaired by a contractor. Phragmites were removed.



The bridge over the spillway has been completed.