

Times Beach

Aquatic Invasive Species Removal Project

Partners



US Army Corps
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History of Times Beach

The Times Beach Nature Preserve began life as a 45-acre Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District. It contains dredged sediment removed from the federal navigation channel in the Buffalo River and Buffalo Harbor from 1972-1976 deemed unsuitable for open-lake placement.



Google

Times Beach CDF



Google

CDF #4

Use of Times Beach as a CDF ended in 1976 when the Corps completed construction of a new CDF (#4), adjacent to the Steelwinds wind turbines on Lake Erie. It is still being used today.

The City of Buffalo requested that the Corps discontinue using Times Beach and use only CDF #4 for placement of dredged sediment, leaving Times Beach a very popular birding destination with a protected open water habitat.

Times Beach Aquatic Invasive Species Removal Project

Project Description

Times Beach is a jewel within the globally significant and internationally recognized Important Bird Area (IBA) of the Niagara River Greenway corridor.

Over the years, native species on the site have been overrun by a number of invasive alien species including: phragmites, Japanese knotweed, mugwort and common buckthorn. In some areas, these invasive species are not only thriving, but growing so tightly and closely together that they have crowded out native species that provide food, nesting areas, and cover to birdlife.



Erwin & Peggy Bauer/USFWS



Erwin & Peggy Bauer/USFWS

There is still an amazing number of bird species located at Times Beach-237 have been documented since 1976. Control and management of the area will provide an even better habitat and therefore sustain and grow birding for the future.



Frank Miles/USFWS

A component of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Times Beach Aquatic Invasive Species Removal Project is a demonstration which will use proven techniques from around the country to control and manage invasive species on the site over a five year period. Techniques will include a combination of mechanical, chemical, and biologic controls. The project will also evaluate the efficacy of the methods employed and serve as a guide for similar projects around the Great Lakes.



Ken Winters/USACE

1983



Ken Winters/USACE

1989



Google

2012

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Invasive Species

Phragmites is the most widespread invasive species on the Times Beach site. It is characterized by its towering height of up to 14 feet and its stiff wide leaves and hollow stem. Its feathery and drooping clusters of tiny flowers are purplish when flowering and turn whitish, grayish or brownish when in fruit.



Phragmites - Early Season



Phragmites - Late Season

All Photos by Andrew Kornacki/USACE



Mugwort - Early Season



Mugwort - Late Season



Japanese knotweed - Early Season

Mugwort is one of the invasive species targeted for removal on the Times Beach site. Its angular, purple stalks growing 3 feet (90 cm) or more in height and bearing dark green leaves with a cottony down underneath.

Japanese knotweed is one of the major invasive species located on the Times Beach site. It looks like an army of nondescript thick, green, red-flecked stalks poking up from the ground and grows extremely fast.



Japanese knotweed - Late Season



Buckthorn - Early Season

Buckthorn is an invasive species at the Times Beach site which will be removed during the project. It is a tall understory shrub or small tree which grows up to 25' high with a spreading loosely branched crown, often multiple stems at the base.



Buckthorn - Late Season

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Treatment



Mowed 29 acres of phragmites in November 2012

Work at Times Beach began in Fall of 2012, with mechanical treatment, cutting and hauling of 145 tons of phragmites. The project will continue over the next five years with chemical, biological and mechanical treatment of the invasive plant species. The end goal of the project is to restore a healthy population of native plant species.



Allied Biological staff stockpiled cut phragmites

All Photos by Andrew Kornacki/USACE



Phragmites was hauled away for offsite composting



Mowing and chemical treatment of new growth phragmites will take place outside the bird breeding season