

Invasive Plants in White Lake

What is an invasive plant species?

Invasive plants are not native to the local ecosystem. They may be from other countries, or from other parts of the United States.

Why are they harmful?

Plants that are native to other parts of the United States or other countries and are not invasive in their own ecological communities can become invasive and disruptive when they become established in a new setting. Because invasive species lack the controls that are in place in their ecosystem, they tend to grow rapidly and spread easily. They out-compete native plants which provide better food and habitat for local wildlife, reducing and changing their populations.

What invasive plants are found on White Lake's shoreline?



Purple loosestrife

This plant can grow up to seven feet tall. Its dense, stiff stems are inhospitable for many waterfowl. In addition, the plant offers very little food for animals. Some studies show a decline in waterfowl populations where purple loosestrife is the dominant vegetation.

Phragmites

This long-lived invasive plant can reach 15 feet in height and form dense stands. It displaces desirable native plants such as sedges, rushes and cattails and reduces diversity. It also reduces access for swimming, fishing and hunting. During the dormant season, the dry plants are a fire hazard.



Reed canarygrass

This plant is a large, coarse grass which grows up to nine feet tall. It provides little value for wildlife and is very aggressive and productive, crowding out beneficial wetland species.

Honeysuckle

This spreading shrub can grow to twelve feet tall. It forms dense thickets and reduces tree and shrub regeneration, crowding out native plants, and decreasing overall plant diversity.

