



CONTROLLED BURN ON FORMER BL ENGLAND SITE

Beesley's Point-NJ

Beesley's Point Development Group in coordination with the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Forest Fire Service and Marmora Volunteer Fire Company has performed a successful controlled burn to remove invasive species that had taken up residence on large swaths of the Beesley's Point property.

Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), also known as common reed, is an aggressive, nonnative plant that is threatening the ecological health of New Jersey wetlands and coastal shorelines. Stated David Kreutz of Beesley's Point Development Group, owners of the site.

Phragmites at BL England has displaced many of our most treasured native plants and overtaken the beautiful ponds on the site. The very presence of this aggressive grass has replaced high quality, complex communities of native plants over thousands of acres of New Jersey wetlands and coastal areas. The rapid expansion of this variety of Phragmites has resulted in adverse ecological, economic, and social impacts on the natural resources and people of New Jersey.

The controlled or prescribed burn was performed effectively removing several acres of Phragmites while losing very few trees and no harm to wildlife, stated Kreutz.

Our long-term vision for the property is to eradicate all invasive non-native plants, rehabilitate the marsh and coastal areas, and extend the current upland forest area. We plan on planting thousands of native plants and trees on various areas of the site. Eventually, we will build raised walking paths that meander in and out of the forest and into the majestic wetlands for the community to enjoy and our youth to be inspired. States Kreutz.

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