WCC

2020 Knotweed Program Summary

WCC continued with our Japanese Knotweed control program in 2020 with one intern, Avery Montgomery, and a group of volunteers. We had two core programs, 1) was the knotweed lab where we researched plant viability and documented some different control/eradiation ideas and 2) we continued our eradication efforts on about 40 sites (much less than we had planned but with the volunteers we were forced to cut back in scope. Eradication requires regular visits (3 to 4 weeks apart) through out the growing season. First control efforts can begin in early June and is over at the first frost.

The summary of the Knotweed Lab program is provided as an attachment to this document. We were pleased by the progress we were able to make and the enhanced understanding of the plant.

The control/eradication efforts focused on Roxbury Gap road, Plunkton Road, Prickly Mt road, the East Warren road and Quayles Bend Conservation Area. A total of about 40 individuals sites all of which were treated in 2019. We were fairly diligent at getting back to these sites regularly and tried to make sure they call got a late Aug or early Sept clearing, so that less energy could be returned to the roots. Late summer is the critical time when the plants store energy for the winter.

The Town gravel pit also could use more attention, although we did continue our work there this year. We have controlled most of the knotweed in the working part of the pit, but the edges still have significant infestations.

Roxbury Mt Road: Initially there were 26 sites found on the upper portion of the road above the upper Old Roxbury Road entrance. By the end of 2020 we felt that at least half of the sites had been eradicated and the other severely knocked back. Continued work next year will be required. These were typically the bigger more vigorous sites, where most likely large root sections had been planted deep.

Pricky Mt road has only infection sights. The one that is being treated is at the culvert just north of the Buzzell road corner, which has 5 or 6 individual smaller sites. We are winning but it’s not over yet.

Plunkton road had 6 sites from the Brook Rd corner to the entrance to Blueberry Lake. One large site still exists and it is feed by the large infestation on a leach field just west of the road. The owner needs to take action on this site. There is only one other viable site but it is almost gone.

Plunkton from entrance to Blueberry lake south has probably 10 or 12 individual sites. We are only working on the first 4 sites in the last two years. Significant progress is being made especially the site on the corner at the Blueberry Lake entrance.

East Warren Rd has two infestation, the first house south of the Waitsfield line is doing a great job controlling the site on their property. We helped them last year but they were on their own this year and continue to stay on it. The other site is on the west side of the road by telephone pole just north of Billy Brauer old house/barn.

Brook Road has a few sites on the lower section nearest to town and in town. These are tough sites due to the rock (????) that have been used to line the brook. Above these sites we have no other knotweed. East of town about ¼ mile is a site in the second year of treatment and we have knocked it back but not knocked it out yet. But it now takes us 20 minutes to clean it up versus when we started it would take multiple hours. All the material from these sites are removed since they are so close to the river. Three new sites located behind the last two houses on the road have been treated and the homeowners are continuing regular eradication measures.

Quayles Bend has been a major focus in an attempt to improve public knowledge and participation in the control efforts. An On-Site drying system was set up there so that visitors could help out by extracting knotweed and putting it onto the pile. Specific signage was developed to communicate our message. The southern part of the site has seen significant progress and was the site for a Mad River Television video documenting our work and the community involvement.

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Next Year:

In addition to continued efforts on the current sites, we feel there is a need to address the following critical sites: Lincoln Gap, Rt 100 at the Granville line and the southern portion of Plunkton road. While there are many many more sites that could be treated and are on Town land or road right of ways, we would need a significant increase in support to effectively manage them.