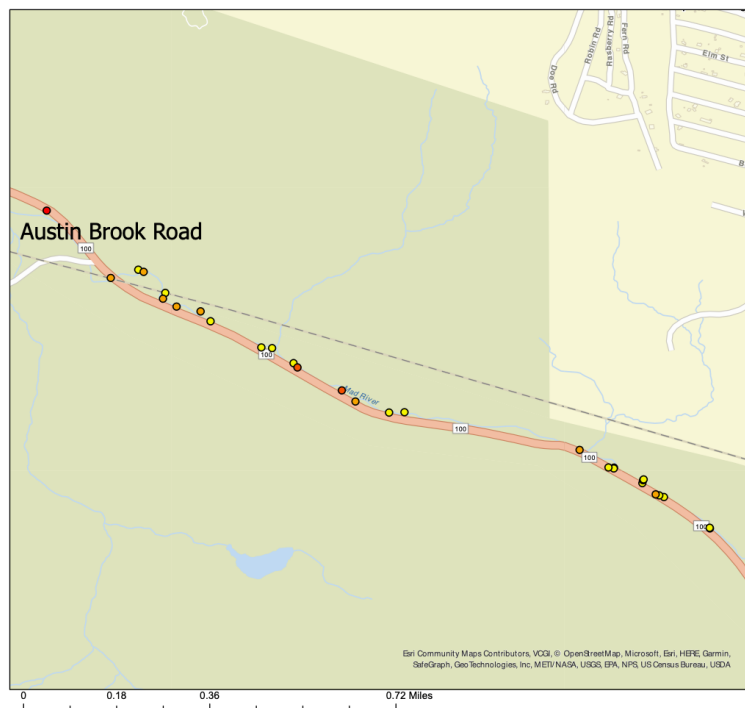


Warren Conservation Commission  
2023 Annual Report  
Knotweed Control Project.

In 2023 the Warren Conservation Commission continued with our work to control Japanese Knotweed in our Town. This was our 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row and we are clearly seeing the results of our efforts. The continued diligence is by far the most important aspect of our work. And we thanks our friends in neighbors in the Town for their continuing support.

Our team this year was supported 8 interns from UVM Rubenstein School. The interns worked two days a week for Warren and the rest of the week for the Knotweed Control work in Waitsfield and Fayston. The tri-town cooperation and inherent watershed approach to knotweed acknowledges that regional cooperation is vital to long term success as Knotweed and other invasives know no political boundaries.

### Granville Gulf Knotweed Sites by Size (Approx. Sq. Ft)



F

#### Granville Gulf Knotweed Sites

##### Plot Size (Sq. Ft)

- 3 - 200
- 201 - 2000
- 2001 - 3000
- 3000 - 4000



Map by: Samuel Fisk & Peter Larkin  
Map Created: 08/05/22  
Data Retrieved: Vermont Geodata Portal

The interns had three major focuses of their work: invasive removal, community outreach/ social messaging and improved GIS mapping of the sites.. This year's team was fantastic and made remarkable headway on every endeavor. Check out MadRiverknotweed on Instagram, TicToc or Facebook.

This year we were lucky enough to be supported by the US Forest Service for work we did within the FS lands mostly located in the southern part of Warren. These lands included upper Lincoln Gap road, the Austin Brook to Warren stretch of the Mad River and along RT 100 and the 7 sites around Blueberry Lake on Plunkton Road. At the end of the year, based upon the progress the FS has seen, we have engaged in contract discussions for '24 and '25 at roughly the same level of funding, but interestingly the FS activity can work on Knotweed in the Granville Gulf since that contamination could infect FS lands downstream.

Tackling knotweed sites in the Granville Gulf was a major new effort, which began in 2022 but was dramatically increase in 2023. The Granville Gulf is in Granville and owned by the State of Vermont under the Forest Parks and Recreation Division. While we have tried to get support for this work from the State they have yet to step up. These sites are critical since they are at the head of the watershed, and could be a continuous source of new knotweed infestations in the Valley. With detailed mapping we have been able to define the original contamination sites to road repair done after Topical Storm Irene on RT 100. From these original sites, the knotweed has spread down the river slowly but surely with more than 30 small investigations. This year we were able to work on every site along this stretch of the Mad River. Continued diligence will be required but our efforts are already reduced the risk of spreading these sites represent.

In addition, we continue to revisit the other sites (total of about 80) in Warren to manually extract the plants that continue to return. Probably 20% can be considered eradicated, while the others will continue to need attention. After the first couple of years, cleanup amounts to just a few minutes per site, since the plant has been so weakened that hearty growth is impossible, but it still comes back and so do we.

Volunteer continue to play a big role in our program. Many folks have attended our weekly afternoon knotweed removal session, where they learn our techniques and train themselves to take on their own plots. We have a number of volunteers who have adopted sites on or around where they live and walk. The effort these folks make facilitate the long-term goal of making Warren a Knotweed Free Zone.

In late Dec. '23, the Tri-Town Knotweed team was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Project for a two year protect stream banks and floodplains. This grant requires matching funds, which we should be able to cover with our standard budgets. The grant will be administered by the Town of Waitsfield. This grant money will allow us to tackle gravel decontamination, based upon a plan to conduct experiments in the Town of Warren gravel pit. A detailed program plan will be developed to guide this work and define subcontract requirements.

**Task 13.** Effective decontamination of knotweed-infested gravel is critical to long-term knotweed management, since distribution of contaminated gravel is one of the primary modes of spread. Knotweed-contaminated gravel moves uphill in trucks and then spreads downhill in

the water. This task focuses on testing mechanical methods for decontaminating knotweed-infested gravel that has been collected by the Warren road crew and stored in the town gravel pit. Three methods for decontamination of gravel will be tested: regular machine rolling of windrows of contaminated gravel; covering rolled contaminated gravel with heavy plastic; and covering a pile of contaminated gravel with heavy plastic. Once a year the impact of these methods will be evaluated. This task will be carried out in 2024.

**Task 14.** The second year of gravel decontamination will be carried out in 2025 and follow what is described in Task 14.

### **A. Cover page**

**Project title:** Invasive Species Management and Ecosystem Restoration in the Mad River Valley

**Contact information:**

Organization: Town of Waitsfield

Name of primary point of contact: Curt Lindberg, Chair, Waitsfield Conservation Commission

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**Authorized representative:** Annie Decker-Dell'Isola, Town Administrator, [townadmin@gmavt.net](mailto:townadmin@gmavt.net), (802) 496-2218 x 5, 4144 Main Street, Waitsfield, VT 05673

**Tracking information:**

Federal Tax Identification Number:

UEI Number:

Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE): (Yes or No)

*In April 2022, the federal government stopped using the DUNS number to uniquely identify entities registered in the SAM System ([sam.gov](https://sam.gov)). All NEIWPCC/LCBP Contractors will be required, as part of the contract process, to submit their UEI as part of the agreement process. The DUNS number will no longer be used as a unique entity identifier and only the Sam.gov created number will be accepted. **Remember to submit a copy of your SAM registration when you submit your workplan.***

**LCBP award amount:** \$100,000

**Non-federal match:** \$69,259

**Total project cost:** \$169,259

In addition, the Tri-Town Knotweed team is trying to find funding to set up a goat grazing program in the Valley to attack knotweed and other invasives. Goats are currently in use for this purpose in many locations in the US, so why not here. Our current big hurdles are funding support and finding a goat herder who would like to locate here in the Valley.

Thanks to the Town of Warren, the knotweed control program in the Valley is strong and getting stronger. The commitment to protecting and improving our environment is an example of the shared values the people in the Town of Warren. Without their support we could not carry on this work.