

**To:** Mayor McKenzie & Members of Council  
**From:** Jeff Brick, Chief Administrative Officer  
**Subject:** Japanese Knotweed Management - Update  
**Date:** July 2, 2019

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**Recommendation:**

That the Council of the Municipality of West Perth receive the Japanese Knotweed Management - Update report for information purposes.

**Purpose:**

N/A

**Background:**

The Environment, Forestry and Trails Committee identified a concern with Japanese Knotweed in late 2018 and brought the concern forward to Council through the 2019 budget process. The Committee noted that Japanese Knotweed is an invasive species that is found in various locations in the flood plain and along the trails in Mitchell. A budget allocation of \$5,000 was requested to address this matter and Council included this additional allocation in the approved 2019 budget. More information on Japanese Knotweed can be found at the following link:

<http://www.invadingspecies.com/japanese-knotweed/>

Jay Ebel, a Forestry and Habitat Restoration Technician with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), met with Patty Kehl and Jeff Brick on June 7, 2019 to review the extent of the Japanese Knotweed and to discuss options for control. The UTRCA has experience with controlling Japanese Knotweed in other area municipalities. Through the site visit, a number of significant patches of Japanese Knotweed were identified along the North Thames River at the confluence of Whirl Creek and also on the trails south of the rail line on the east side of the Thames River. The site visit confirmed that there is a significant amount of Japanese Knotweed established in several locations. Based on observations on June 7, the total area could be as much as two to three acres all together. In the location where the invasive plant is established, all other natural groundcover is being outcompeted.

Based on the site visit, the following preliminary plan for controlling Japanese Knotweed was prepared by UTRCA:

2019:

- Early July - map areas to determine acreage of Japanese Knotweed to be controlled. Map out hazards
- Set up test plots for different control types
- First round of spraying test plots where no cutting will take place
- Early summer - cut down/roll Knotweed stems
- Late summer/early fall - spot spray test plots for any new growth.

2020:

- Late May to early June - spray previously untreated areas.
- June/July - areas of Knotweed that are growing too close to the water to be sprayed (10 metres) will be treated with an injection of herbicide to ensure there is no water contamination
- Mid-summer - cut down any Knotweed that is too high to safely spray
- Late summer/early fall - spray any areas that have significant regrowth

2021:

- Ongoing follow up treatments with spot spraying and injections
- Cut down any plants mid growing season
- Spot treat any new growth

2022-onward:

- Spot treatment of any growth

UTRCA notes that Japanese Knotweed is extremely invasive and very persistent and will still show up in following years. It will propagate by roots primarily and by seed less frequently as the seed produced isn't always viable. If it is not controlled, it will continue to expand and will outcompete and kill other plants and trees in the area. It is noted that the stems of Japanese Knotweed have a hollow, cane-like structure and it may therefore be as effective to roll the areas as cutting them prior to spraying. UTRCA plans to test this method.

All areas that will receive herbicide treatment will be properly signed in advance. The herbicides being considered for use are Glyphos PCP#24359 and Garlon XRT PCP#21053. The UTRCA is responsible for the spraying and ensuring that all licensing and regulatory requirements are met. There will be areas that are being treated that will need to be considered for closure to the public for several days after application. The Municipality will need to work with the UTRCA to coordinate public notification, trail closings (as deemed necessary) and prepare information to respond to questions and inquiries.

The UTRCA plans to be on-site on July 3 to begin work on control. As a first priority, the areas of Japanese Knotweed will be mapped to get a better indication of just how much area is involved and also to locate hazards. Based on the mapping, the preliminary plans for control may need to be revised. The UTRCA also plans to start with some rolling and/or cutting and possibly some spraying in suitable areas.

**Analysis:**

N/A

**Financial:**

As noted, a more detailed plan for control will be developed once the mapping is prepared and some initial investigation of the rolling option is explored. The upset budget for control of Japanese Knotweed for 2019 is \$5,000.

**Attachments:**

N/A