



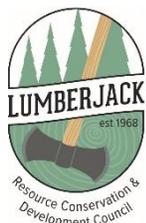
Invasive Species Action Plan

- Terrestrial Plants -

Town of Newbold, WI 2019

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Project funders and partners:



Town of Newbold



Goal

Management of invasive species and prevention of further spread and establishment

Introduction

In our modern world, ecosystems are challenged tremendously by the introduction of foreign species into an existing balance. They are spread primarily through human's global migration and transportation routes. These newly introduced species include animals, plants, fungi, and even bacteria. These non-native species may integrate harmlessly into an ecosystem that they were introduced into, or they may outcompete native species. Non-native species are considered invasive when they cause harm to the ecology, the economy, or human health.

Invasive species cause problems primarily because they don't have the same checks and balances, such as predators, parasites, or competition, as they do in their native environments. These species that throw ecosystems out of balance are not "bad" species, they are just out of place. In order to help put our ecosystem back into balance, we need to control invasive species.

This action plan was developed as a result of the terrestrial invasive plant species survey conducted along the Town of Newbold's roadsides in Summer 2018. It is meant to provide concise data on which terrestrial invasive plants are present in our town, and in what numbers, along with an overview and a list of recommended measures to take. As well, the authors hope the action plan inspires town residents to take initiative.

While this survey was done under the jurisdiction of the Town of Newbold and covered the town roads only, the plants don't stop at human-made borders. Therefore, control efforts need to be coordinated with Oneida and Vilas Counties' road crews, along with neighboring townships, in order to maximize the outcome.

After a patch of invasive plants has been successfully controlled, ecosystem balance can be further restored by establishing native plant plugs or spreading native plant seeds. The higher the level of biodiversity reached in an ecosystem, the more resistant it's going to be to invasive species.

The Terrestrial Invasive Species Committee is committed to find funding to fulfill the following objectives.

Objectives

Objective 1: Education and Outreach

In order to raise awareness on invasive species to the general public, it is important to reach out and explain the effects these species have on our ecosystem, humans, and wildlife.

Activity 1 Hold public presentation about terrestrial invasive species findings, updates, and other news every 1 to 2 years

Activity 2 Invasive species training for residents, landowners, vacationers and road crews every 1 to 2 years. The training covers species identification, eradication methods, and safety measures.

Activity 3 The committee will send out mailers to inform about dates for future trainings.

Activity 4 Provide contact for reports concerning invasive species.

Activity 5 Promote volunteer opportunities.

Examples:

- Road Monitoring
- Neighborhood watch for invasive species
- Control and management activities
- School class involvement
- Community service
- Creating diverse roadside habitats

Activity 6 The committee will hold two invasive plant species control events per year.

Activity 7 Share Best Management Practices with decision makers and general public.

Objective 2: Management and Control

Once an invasive species has established itself, it needs to be managed in order to decrease its impact on our ecosystem.

Activity 1 Form a permanent natural resource committee.

Activity 2 Work closely with WHIP to identify a priority species list for the Town of Newbold, and update the list every two years.

Activity 3 Network with other towns and agencies that are active in invasive species management.

Activity 4 Prioritize control by evaluating species, location, patch size, funding, impact and time commitment.

Activity 5 Work side-by-side with volunteers and landowners in using species-specific best management practices to control invasive species. If needed, find professionals for control. Assure that safety measures are in place.

Activity 6 Every two years, the committee will reevaluate if another roadside survey may be needed. This evaluation will be based on current developments.

Objective 3: Restoration

Once an invasive species is controlled, further management may be needed to create a diverse mix of native plants.

Activity 1 Work on restoration methods with Oneida County Land and Water Conservation.

Activity 2 Work with town road crews on using native seed mixes to restore road construction sites and explore possible adjustments of mowing schedule to control invasive species while protecting native vegetation.

Activity 3 Work with landowners to promote use of native plants and seeds.

Activity 4 Work with Town of Newbold governance to require any entities working within Town right of way to use native seed mixes for