

CITY OF FRANKLIN

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.

FRANKLIN CITY HALL

Common Council Chambers

9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- II. CITIZEN COMMENT**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. Minutes of the regular meeting of August 25, 2021
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. Environmental Commission involvement in the City of Franklin's National Night Out program Monday, August 2, 2021. Status of funding for garden giveaway.
 - B. Review of articles for the City of Franklin Newsletter, from the Root-Pike WIN (Watershed Initiative Network), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2001, program [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions], including educational materials for Buckthorn (invasive species), that is, website information and QR (Quick Response) code (a two-dimensional barcode used to share website links).
 - C. Update on Buckthorn Subcommittee activity and/or proposals.
 - D. City of Franklin street tree list update-best list reviews.
 - E. Environmental Commission participation in City of Franklin Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Task Force, to provide assistance in revisions to the Natural Resource Protection Standards and other elements of the City of Franklin UDO.
- V. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. City water supply testing overview.
 - B. Landfill life expectancy and future plans.
 - C. Environmental Commission involvement in the Franklin Library's Trunk or Treat 2021 event to be held in the library's parking lot on October 21, 2021 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

VI. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

- A. October 27, 2021

VII. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources programs or other organizations for presentation at the City of Franklin Library-dates/schedule [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions] [tentative date: April, 2022].
- B. Funding for Environmental Commission activities.
- C. Review of tree canopy evaluation for new developments in the City of Franklin.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Notice is given that a majority of the Common Council may attend this meeting to gather information about an Agenda item over which they have decision making responsibility. This may constitute a meeting of the Council per *State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board*, even though the Common Council will not take formal action at this meeting.

Notice is given that upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information, please contact the Franklin City Clerk's office at (414) 425-7500.

CITY OF FRANKLIN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2021

unapproved

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

- I. Chairman Linda Horn called the August 25, 2021 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Inspection Conference Room, Franklin City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

On roll call, the following were in attendance: Chair Linda Horn, Vice Chair Jamie Groark and Commissioners Patricia Pomahac, Sudarshan Sharma and James Cieslak. Excused was Alderman Dan Mayer. Also present was Associate Planner Marion Ecks.

CITIZEN COMMENT

- II. The citizen comment period opened at 7:05 p.m. and closed at 7:07 p.m.. 1 citizen was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the regular meeting of July 28, 2021.

- III.
 - A. Commissioner Cieslak moved and Vice Chair Groark seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 28, 2021 as amended. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Environmental Commission involvement in the City of Franklin's National Night Out program Monday, August 2, 2021.

- IV.
 - A. Vice Chair Groark read a "Thank you for your participation" letter from Richard Oliva, Franklin Chief of Police.

Commissioner Cieslak provided suggestions for National Night Out 2022; examples include handouts on trails, mulch, recycling and water and sewer issues.

Discussion only. No action taken.

Review of articles for the City of Franklin Newsletter, from the Root-Pike WIN (Watershed Initiative Network), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2001, program [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions], including educational materials for Buckthorn (invasive species), that is, website information and QR (Quick Response) code (a two-dimensional barcode used to share website links).

- B. Root-Pike WIN has an article on Buckthorn for the September newsletter. Discussion only. No action taken.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources programs for

- C. Due to health and safety concerns and the library's limitation of 65 for the Fadrow conference room, the

presentation at the City of Franklin Library-dates/schedule [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions] [tentative date: October 13, 2021].

Update on Buckthorn Subcommittee activity and/or proposals.

City of Franklin street tree list update-best list reviews.

Environmental Commission participation in City of Franklin Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Task Force, to provide assistance in revisions to the Natural Resource Protection Standards and other elements of the City of Franklin UDO.

NEW BUSINESS

Franklin Aggregates Quarry Reclamation Plan.

Landfill life expectancy and future plans.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

City water supply testing overview.

ADJOURNMENT

Notice is given that upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information, please contact the Franklin City Clerk's office at (414) 425-7500.

October 13, 2021 talk by Milwaukee Riverkeeper will be scheduled for 2022. Also, Commissioner Pomahac will look into contacting the DNR for a talk on flooding to be scheduled for early April 2022. Discussion only. No action taken.

D. Commissioner Cieslak suggested deferring any action until Milwaukee County has a plan in place. Commissioner Cieslak further suggested to continue educating residents on the need to identify, control and eliminate Buckthorn. Discussion only. No action taken.

E. Discussion only. No action taken.

F. A Common Council Special meeting regarding the Unified Development Ordinance Roundtable Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, August 26, 2021. Discussion only. No action taken.

V.

A. Associate Planner Ecks mentioned upcoming meetings by Plan Commission at 7:00 pm on September 23, 2021 and Common Council October 5, 2021. Discussion only. No action taken.

B. Associate Planner Ecks has just started to review this item. Location is 124th Street and W. County Line Road. Discussion only. No action taken.

VI.

A. September 22, 2021

VII.

A. This item will be listed under New Business for the September 22, 2021 meeting.

VIII

Vice Chair Groark moved and Commissioner Pomahac seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting on August 25, 2021 at 8:29 p.m.. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).

DRAFT

Marion Ecks

From: James Cieslak <cieslakjames3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Marion Ecks
Subject: Fwd: SEWISC Quarterly Newsletter | Fall 2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

FYI for commision

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **South Eastern Invasive Species Consortium** <noreply@sewiscnews.org>
Date: Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 2:52 PM
Subject: SEWISC Quarterly Newsletter | Fall 2021
To: Jim Cieslak <cieslakjames3@gmail.com>

This email contains graphics

[View Online \(Best Option\)](#)



SEWISC E-NEWS

The quarterly electronic newsletter of the
**Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species
Consortium**

Fall 2021

Volume 11, Number 3

Dear Jim,

Save the Date

Don't miss this biennial conference

Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference

October 24 – 27, 2022
KI Convention Center
Green Bay, WI

Learn, Engage & Network

www.umisc.net

The **Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC)** addresses all taxa of invasive species. Next year, UMISC will celebrate 14 years of connecting the invasive species management, research, and policy community. UMISC 2022 will be a multi-track conference focused on sharing information and networking on issues related to all taxa of invasive species.

The goal of UMISC is to strengthen management of invasive species, especially prevention, control, and containment. There have been great strides in invasive species research, prevention, and management, but much work still must be done. UMISC also represents a strong partnership between its three hosts: Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, Midwest Invasive Plant Network, and Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council.



Annual Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon

Congratulations to the 2021 trophy-winners!

Our Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon is an annual fundraiser event, where we encourage folks throughout southeastern Wisconsin to protect the woodlands of their neighborhoods by pulling this invasive plant. Our 2021 goal was to collectively pull 20,000 pounds and raise essential funds for the fight against invasive species. We fell a little short of our goal, but we hope that is due to a reduction of garlic mustard populations in our region as a result of Pull-A-Thon efforts over the past 9 years!



Eagle Nature Trail Pull-A-Thon Team members proudly displaying their 2021 trophy.

This year, 485 dedicated residents formed 13 volunteer teams which helped to raise funds and awareness while controlling 17,010 pounds (over 8 tons) of garlic mustard and dame's rocket in our natural areas! Volunteers recruited friends, family and colleagues to sponsor their pulling efforts. This is a fun way to make a real difference in the protection of the wild areas that we love.

\$3,965 in pledged contributions was also collectively raised by team members and shared between SEWISC and the event partners. These funds will be used for adult and youth invasive species education, prevention and control in southeastern Wisconsin.

This year, the [Eagle Nature Trail Team](#) pulled themselves to the top of the 2021 Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon competition. Led by **Jean Weedman**, the team recorded the highest number of volunteers (181!) and recruited a whopping \$3,250 in donations while pulling the target plants in their 8 acre management area. Eagle Nature Trail has also surpassed all teams in donations for the past 8 competitions;

while pulling 12,277 pounds they have raised a total of \$13,432.00, or an average of \$1,679 annually.

Peter Dargatz, Team Leader of our 2020 Champion [Mr. Dargatz's Nature Kindergarten Team](#), graciously passed the traveling trophy to Eagle Nature Trail Team Leader Jean Weedman during a ceremony officiated by SEWISC Board President, John Lunz. The Pull-A-Thon trophy will be proudly displayed by Eagle Nature Trail throughout the year.



Jean Weedman proudly accepts the traveling Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon trophy from Peter Dargatz on July 29, 2021.

Many thanks to all of you who got outdoors, pulled garlic mustard, told your neighbors about this invasive plant, and reported your progress as part of the 2021 event. And thank you to all you donated to your favorite 2021 Teams! Remember, it's never too early to start planning for next year's Pull-A-Thon competition - Plan to JOIN US!

The Woody Invasives of the Great Lakes Collaborative

Learn to manage invasive woody plants



The [Woody Invasives of the Great Lakes \(WIGL\) Collaborative](#) brings interested partners together to consolidate information on woody invasive plant species.

Their goal is to provide residents from all walks of life with the information they need to manage invasive woody plants and restore habitat for native plants and wildlife around the Great Lakes.

2021 website updates include a [Landscape Alternatives App & Brochure](#) highlighting alternatives to woody invasive plants common in

gardens and yards in the Great Lakes Basin. Landscape alternative galleries have also been added to the website. Check out these links for a virtual tour of beautiful and non-invasive [trees](#), [shrubs](#), and [woody vines & groundcovers](#). If you're looking to replace a specific invasive plant, they have provided mini-galleries to the [invasive species profiles](#) as well.

Please share this fantastic resource with your neighbors, friends, clients and colleagues!

Invasive Plant Management Resources

Courtesy of the Renz Lab

The [Renz Weed Science Lab](#) has created a series of factsheets discussing the identification and control of many common invasive plant species problematic to natural areas. Mechanical, cultural, and chemical control methods are discussed in detail, including effectiveness of the control method and appropriate rates and timings of chemical control applications.

MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE PLANTS IN WISCONSIN

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Garlic mustard is an herbaceous biennial with stems 1-4' tall as a flowering plant. First year plants form a basal rosette that remains green through the winter. Second year plants produce one to several flowering stems.

Legal classification in Wisconsin: Noxious weed

Leaves: First year plants are 2-4" tall rosettes with 3-4 heart shaped leaves, with a toothed margin. Second year plants produce a flowering stalk with alternate, heart-shaped leaves that are 3-8" wide. Foliage emits a distinct onion or garlic smell when crushed.

Flowers: Late spring to early summer of second year, producing numerous small, white, four-petaled flowers.

Fruits and seeds: Fruits are slender capsules elongated 1-2.5" long and contain a single row of oblong black seeds with a distinct ridge.

Roots: Taproot that often has a distinctive S-shaped curve near the top of the root.

Similar species: Creeping charlie (*Galium aparine*) is often confused with garlic mustard but its prostrate growth with clusters allows for differentiation from garlic mustard.

Ecological threat: Inroads upland forests, floodplain forests, savannas, yards, and meadows. It is typically found in shaded areas, but can be found in full sun. Invasions of forests usually begins along the woods edge, and progresses via streams, animal

Non-chemical control Removal

Effectiveness in season: 90-100%
Season after treatment: < 50%

Putting or cutting the root from the stem before flowering are often the individual plant control techniques. Pull if soil conditions allow for the removal of the taproot. Pulling second year plants is easier than pulling first year rosettes. Alternately, cut the entire taproot with a sharp shovel or spade 1-2" below the surface. If flowers are present, bag material and dispose of it in a landfill to avoid potential for seed spillage.

Extension

Website visitors can also access invasive plant management trial reports and summaries along with plant identification video resources. The Renz Lab has helped produce a brochure describing the identification of Wisconsin plants that are hazardous to human health,

whether through contact or consumption. These plants are often found in natural areas and roadsides, although they may also be found in agricultural settings.

Many of the materials are intended for land managers to improve weed management outcomes. Please take a look at what the Renz Lab has to offer, and don't hesitate to contact their staff if you have any questions!

SEWISC Student Program

2021 fieldwork research experience

This summer, SEWISC helped to place eight University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Geography students into fieldwork research experiences with four mentors throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.

Schlitz Audubon Land Manager, **Drew Shuster** mentored two students: **Benjamin Catura** and **Nate Wojcicki** who recorded the location and size of invasive species clusters within the Audubon's reptile and amphibian conservation area. They worked as a team to hand-pull, bag and remove invasive plants and produced a map by entering the data into an ArcGIS database. The students used their geodatabase to guide volunteer groups to larger invasive populations and document control efforts.



Nick Gall of the **Mequon Nature Preserve** had the pleasure of hosting two students, **Dagmar Boll** (*pictured left*) and **Adam Krainik**. During their three-week session, the students used Arc Field Maps to document over fifteen invasive species such as teasel and wild parsnip, and record tree location and species on the new 66-acre, Preserve parcel. The students also helped measure stream bank depth, top width and bottom width of the Trinity Creek channel which will be used to measure stream bank erosion within the channelized stream.

These data and maps will help guide future restoration projects on the stream and surrounding upland and forest communities.

Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Stewardship Director, **Ryan Wallin**, mentored **Chad Christiansen** who helped fill gaps in the Land Trust's photo points inventory across twenty-five preserves in Ozaukee and Washington Counties. Chad used a high accuracy GPS receiver connected to his cell phone and ESRI Field Maps Application to document the conditions on the ground in all four directions. Chad took as many as eighty photos at each site! He also walked and used the tracking feature to delineate more than ten sections of trail that were also missing in the system.

Matt Smith, Land Manager at **Riveredge Nature Center**, is grateful to students **Nathan Freeman**, **Juan Olmos-Garcia**, and **Alex Thiel** for their tireless work inventorying and removing outlier populations of invasive mustard species (such as garlic mustard and dame's rocket) across 137 acres of the Center's property. This year's student team was able to finish surveying the project area in record time due to the annual student field effort and dedicated



work ethic. In fact, they finished this project and still had time to walk each shoreline of the Center's stretch of the Milwaukee River and its islands to inventory another invasive species, yellow iris.

Nathan Freeman, Juan Olmos-Garcia,
Alex Thiel collecting geobotanical data at
Riveredge Nature Center

We would like to thank Drew, Nick, Ryan, and Matt for volunteering to mentor these students and for offering educational opportunities during the summer through which the students mastered new skills while honing talents gained through their University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee coursework.

Thank You to Another 2021 Generous Sponsor!

We would like to thank our newest Early Detection Sponsor, [The Park People of Milwaukee County, Inc.](#) who supports the mission of SEWISC by providing generous financial assistance.



SEWISC offers several Annual [SPONSORSHIP](#) levels and benefits. Select one that is right for you!

Please join **The Park People** in their support of SEWISC, the only regional organization dedicated to invasive species prevention, education, management, and control in Southeastern Wisconsin

Stewardship Sign
Salutes your individual efforts

Fighting Invasive Plants

**This property owner
works to control species
that threaten Wisconsin's
natural environment**

www.sewisc.org

Working to reduce the impact
of invasive species



We are all spending a lot more time at home these days and even the smallest of efforts can make a big difference toward reducing the impact of invasive species.

Urban landowners as well as those who own and manage larger acreages can now encourage good stewardship and backyard conservation practices by posting these signs. Whether you have rural acreage, a suburban yard, or a city lot, you can help protect the environment by controlling invasive species and promoting that stewardship practice to others.

The high-quality 9x12 inch aluminum signs are available for only \$20.00 each, or two for \$35.00 (price includes shipping and handling).

To order just download, complete and send a [SEWISC Sign Order Form](#) with your payment.

Support the only regional organization dedicated to invasive species prevention, education, management, and control in the Southeastern Wisconsin region by:

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NEWS

Invasive plants, some 'essentially immortal,' are spreading across Wisconsin this summer

Brittany Trang Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Published 6:00 a.m. CT Aug. 9, 2021

It's not a word casual readers might expect in a 19-page piece of summer reading called the Roadside Invasive Plant Management Plan.

"Immortal."

But barely two-pages into the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium's manual for controlling plants not native to the area, there it is.

Phragmites — or reed grass — and Japanese knotweed form large clones that "are essentially immortal and will continue to spread until they reach some absolute barrier."

"Phragmites is a threat to all of our valuable wetlands," the manual continues, "And Japanese knotweed will be devastating to the banks of our streams and rivers if allowed to establish."

Across the eight-county region covered by the consortium (Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Walworth, Racine and Kenosha), invasive plants are busy this summer unfurling deceptively pretty flowers and sneaky underground stems that spread their offspring. Much the same is happening, with many of the same plants, across the state.

They range from the ubiquitous wild parsnip to giant hogweed, a 15-foot-tall Little Shop of Horrors version of Queen Anne's Lace with sap that can chemically burn skin.

At the same time, the state Legislature cut more than \$1 million proposed in Gov. Tony Evers' state budget that would have funded the Department of Natural Resources' early detection and rapid response program. The program represented less than 0.19% of the governor's proposed DNR budget.

"If we can find those populations early and address them, it costs less money overall," said Jason Granberg, an invasive plant specialist and project manager at the DNR. "They're contained, so they don't cause the same kind of potential harm to human health, livestock, the environment, water quality or other services, and it has less of an impact to the economy."

Because there's still a growing invasive plant problem, experts are calling on residents to learn about these harmful species and take matters ... er, weeds ... into their own hands — and pull them out.

Species to look out for vary based on regions of the state, but the principle is simple: learn what species to pay attention to, detect them early and treat them in a way that prevents spread.

Granberg said the key is to detect "pioneer populations" early.

"Those give us the greatest opportunities to find species, control them and prevent their spread," he said. Once the population is established, it becomes harder and more costly to control.

Examples of pioneer populations are the Japanese stilt grass found last year in the Coulee Experimental State Forest in La Crosse County and the giant hogweed population in Sheboygan County.

One priority for eastern Wisconsin is to prevent non-native phragmites, or common reed grass, from expanding farther west, said Granberg. This 8- to 12-foot-tall plant grows along roadways from Milwaukee to Green Bay to the Lake Winnebago area.

Invasive species aren't just eyesores or annoying. Because the plants don't have natural predators — that is, animals that eat them — or peer plants that compete for the same resources and keep them in check, they can very quickly grow out of control and disrupt the native Wisconsin ecosystem.

"We as scientists don't understand even all of the different roles that our native species play," said Jill Hapner, executive director of Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium.

Hapner described asking why a pollinator, such as butterflies, might suddenly be missing from an area.

"You can backtrack and find out that maybe it was an invasive species that came in and then that pollinator no longer had its food source, or the plant that it laid its eggs on, or the plant

that the offspring fed on, because that non-native came in and eliminated the native species that maybe the pollinators depended on," she said. "It's all pretty delicate."

In urban areas, Japanese knotweed is a particular problem because its powerful, expansive root system can metastasize and cause property damage.

"This is what really concerned my landlord and when he started kind of listening to me," said Christine Bohn, a Riverwest resident and stewardship coordinator at the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust. She pointed out a Japanese knotweed shoot that had begun growing between two concrete slabs next to her house.

Bohn is worried that in a few years, Milwaukee might be rife with infrastructure problems from new Japanese knotweed populations. "The roots are really aggressive in their quest to capture sunlight; they can penetrate through cracks in the sidewalk," she said.

In the United Kingdom, where Japanese knotweed is more widespread, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors noted that "a number of lenders claim that they are unable to obtain insurance cover for property affected by Japanese Knotweed," making it difficult to obtain a mortgage for an infested property without presenting proof of knotweed treatment and also committing to a three- or four-year course of treatment.

To the botanically inexperienced, invasive species can look like common weeds or prairie plants in one's yard or on the side of the road. Hapner and the consortium are helping both roadway managers and property owners figure out which plants to treat with caution.

Roadside mowing is one way invasive plants spread from public lands to private property — and across the state. When a roadside worker mows down a plant that has viable seeds and goes to another location the next day without cleaning the mower, those seeds spread across the county. The cuttings flung from the mower also spread onto adjacent private properties, infecting that land with the invasive species.

Mitigation strategies vary depending on the plant's mode of growth and time of the season.

Over the past decade, consortium volunteers have mapped the locations of invasive species along southeast Wisconsin's roadways. The organization has then mailed information packets to local government and private property owners, which Hapner said has sometimes helped people "connect the dots."

Hapner related one story of a property owner who had been getting mysterious blisters from doing yard work. He received a packet from the consortium, which he had never heard of

before. Later, he contacted the group.

"I opened it up, and there's this plant that I've been trying to kill!" Hapner recalled him saying. "You've got a handout in there and you explain in your letter that it's poisonous and I could have these rashes and it just all makes sense now."

The consortium has had some funding through the federal Environmental Protection Agency and state DNR to help homeowners address their non-native plant populations, said Hapner, "but I don't know if there will be any money next year." Funding cut from the state budget proposal would have gone to organizations like the consortium through the DNR.

"We actually had to halt the wild chervil (treatment) this year because here were no funds that the DNR could send to us," said Hapner. "They felt really bad and I had to call all those property owners and say, 'You're on your own now.'"

Things you can do to help control invasive species

Play, Clean, Go. Just like "stop, drop and roll," keep this motto in mind to avoid becoming a vector for spread. After recreating in an area, use a boot brush at a hiking kiosk to clean seeds and plant material off your boots. Use a rigid brush to brush off your clothing, which may be carrying seeds. For any pets, comb out their fur to remove anything that's stuck to them. Rinse off any equipment you used, including ATVs, boating equipment or decoys.

Don't plant invasive species in your garden. Giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed both were originally used as garden plants. Experts encourage gardeners to make sure they're not planting invasive species from other continents in their yards by using trusted nurseries. Gardeners can also check with the Wisconsin DNR or Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to make sure the new plants are not discouraged or prohibited in Wisconsin.

Scout out your area. If you live by a roadway, protect your property from invasive plants by ensuring the public right-of-way is taken care of properly. Most state and county roads are maintained by the county.

Report invasive plants. If residents see a strange plant or want guidance on invasive species, email the DNR at invasive.species@wisconsin.gov. You can also report invasives through the DNR's online form, email pictures or send specimens to the DNR using the information on the DNR's website, dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/report.html.

A look at key invasive plants

Here are a few invasive species Wisconsinites should keep an eye out for and how you can identify them. If you have any invasive species on your property, consult fact sheets from the University of Wisconsin Extension for information on how to properly treat these plants or notify the DNR.

Wild parsnip

Danger: Sap can cause a skin rash that often leads to blisters and discoloration (phytodermatitis). Use gloves and long sleeves and pants when working.

Identification: Grows as a rosette with upright leaves for at least a year, flowering after 2-3 years. Flowers in late spring to midsummer with five-leafed yellow flowers arranged in "umbels" (flower cluster, often a flat surface) 2-6" wide. Stems are hollow, grooved, and up to 5 feet tall.

Spreading mechanism: Through spreading its seeds.

Teasel

Identification: Grows as a basal rosette for at least a year; blooms in summer after 2 to 3 years and is 2 to 6 feet tall. Cut-leaved teasel has white flowers and common teasel has purple flowers. The tiny flowers are clustered around dense, oval heads 2 to 5" long.

Spreading mechanism: Through spreading its seeds.

Phragmites

Identification: Gray-green leaves wrapped tightly around the stalk, which can grow up to 15 feet tall. Grows grayish-purple, feathery flower heads 5 to 16" long in July. Native phragmites have mostly been pushed out by invasive phragmites but have smooth, reddish stalks, as opposed to the rough, dull, tan invasive phragmites.

Spreading mechanism: The seeds rarely form new plants; the danger is the underground rhizomes (horizontal underground stems), which can spread up to 6 feet per year and form a dense underground mat from late summer to early winter. They can reach more than 6-feet deep in the soil and more than 60 feet in length. Rhizomes can start new plants if broken up but not removed from the soil.

Japanese knotweed

Identification: Reddish, bamboo-like stems with egg-shaped to almost-triangular leaves 4 to 6 " long and 3 to 4" wide. Blooms in late summer with tiny, branched, white or greenish flowers near where the leaf attaches to stem and near tip of stems. Can form a hedge up to 10 feet tall.

Spreading mechanism: Can spread through seed, but like phragmites, mostly spreads through rhizomes that can stretch up to 6 feet deep and 65 feet away from the parent plant. Can also be transported as a contaminant in fill dirt or on equipment; shoot fragments, rhizomes, or seeds can also escape downstream during floods.

Garlic mustard

Identification: first year plants 2 to 4 feet tall rosettes with 3 to 4 heart-shaped, toothy leaves. Second-year plants have triangular leaves 2 to 3" wide. The leaves smell like onion or garlic when crushed. Flowers in late spring to early summer in second year, has many small, white, four-petaled flowers.

Spreading mechanism: Through spreading its seeds. SEWISC holds an annual Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon to eliminate tons of garlic mustard plants before they grow seeds.