Capital Region PRISM
Partnership for Regional
Invasive Species Management
capitalregionprism.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension Saratoga County
50 West High St.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management Terrestrial Response Report- Legacy Park

Section 1: Response Project Summary

General Information	
Date Response Action Conducted: 6/10/2025-6/12/2025	**County:** Schenectady
Site Name: Legacy Park	**Permit(s)/Permission(s) Acquired?** Yes, Crew Assistance Program Application
Address (if different): 338 Ballston Road, Schenectady, NY 12302	**Time Spent on Site (Hours)/ # of Staff on Site:** 12 hours on site over three days 5 PRISM staff on site
Parking Lot Latitude/Longitude: 42.838443 N, -73.951343W	**Property Owner Name, Title, and Contact:** Vicki Hillis, Director of Human Services Town of Glenville vhillis@townofglenville.org, (518)526-8222
Total Parcel Size (acres): 6 acres	**Project Leader Name, Title, and Contact:** Sam Schultz, Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator ss986@cornell.edu 315-200-4952
Worksite Size (acres): 2.03 acres	**Team Member Name(s) and Title(s):** Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator- Sam Schultz Invasive Species Technicians- Mckensey Biggie, Kyle Pasanen, Riley Willard, Cass Klingaman
Report Author: Mckensey Biggie	**Data Recorder & iMapInvasives ID:** Cass Klingaman-29191

Conservation Goal:

☐ Delineate & assess a conservation value ☐ To prevent and protect a conservation value
☐ Local Eradication ☐ Post-Treatment Monitoring ☐ Containment
☒ Suppression ☐ Exclusion ☐ Restoration

Response Type:

☒ Initial Response ☐ Post-treatment Monitoring ☒ Crew Assistance Program Project
☐ Research Action ☐ Restoration ☐ Volunteer Engagement

Disposal method(s): Phragmites and mugwort biomass were bagged up and disposed of by the Town of Glenville staff.

Project Significance: This project was a Crew Assistance Program request from the Town of Glenville. The Town is hoping to develop the park to include a walking path, monuments honoring all major conflicts, an amphitheater and a café. This park has been created in collaboration with the Capital Region Veterans Memorial group. Focus for this project was along the boardwalk to make the park more wheelchair accessible.

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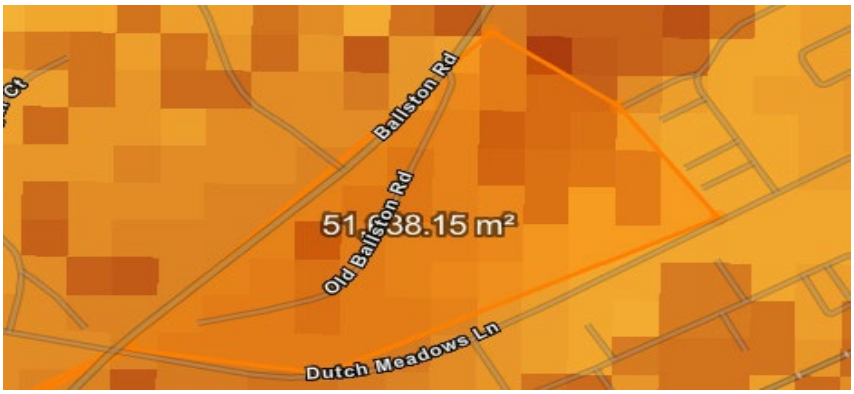

Figure 1: *This prioritization map of Legacy Park shows the comprehensive score of the area to help natural resource managers prioritize invasive species surveys and management efforts in terrestrial ecosystems, factoring in risk of spread, protected lands and ecological significance. This park has some significant priority areas (burnt orange to dark orange) primarily due to a high level of risk of spreading invasive species in this area.*

Figure 2: *This figure shows areas of ecological significance compared to other locations in the state. Legacy park scores moderately in this category, the area that the park surrounds/is on, has wetland features. However, the wetlands present on site are heavily polluted and unlikely to support and sustain healthy aquatic ecosystems.*

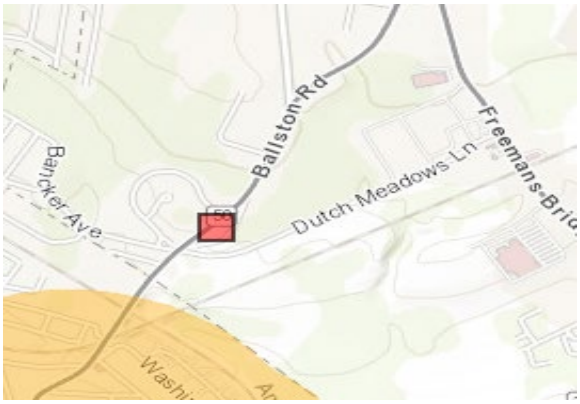

Figure 3: *This screenshot is from the NYS DEC Environmental Resource mapper; it shows that the park is just outside the vicinity of an animal listed as threatened or endangered.*

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Section 2: Response Results Summary

Is this the first year of treatment? If not, consider creating an invasive species management plan for your project.

Yes, this is the first year of treatment on the common reed. Common reed has previously been mowed along the culvert/roadside by volunteers of the park and the Town of Glenville. Japanese knotweed on site has been treated previously using herbicides to eradicate the population.

Is follow-up needed? What time of year and how often during the season?

Follow-up is recommended for both the common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and the mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*). It is also recommended to continue annual monitoring for Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and immediately treat any regrowth. Both common reed and mugwort are commonly spread via the roots through contaminated fill or equipment. Management of the common reed will be more difficult due to the constant source of propagules from the culvert across the road next to the housing development across the road (The Residences at Fox Meadow). An additional population of common reed was detected in the ditch between the amphitheater and the museum on the property. Best management practices for both Japanese knotweed and mugwort will be attached as appendices to this report to share with the Town of Glenville for future management actions and prevention steps to prevent further spread. The best time to treat these species is during flowering (most of the plants energy will be above ground and will be at their weakest) or alternatively, multiple treatments can occur throughout the growing season to remove as much of the roots as possible from below ground and over multiple years of management above ground biomass will be reduced dramatically.

Number of stems/bags removed: ~10 bags of phragmites and ~2 bags of mugwort were removed

Species Common & Scientific Name	Tier Ranking	Threat Ranking	Response Method	Percent Cover (%)	Distribution/ Abundance	Size of Infestation (Acres/ Miles if linear)	Area Treated (Acres/ Miles if linear)
Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)	4	Very High	NA	0	Not Detected	0 acres	0 acres
Common Reed *(Phragmites australis)*	4	Very High	Root grubbing, Pull & Mow	51%-75%	Dense plants/clumps	0.55 acres	0.55 acres
Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*)	4	High	Root grubbing	26%-50%	Dense plants/clumps	0.23 acres	0.23 acres

Map(s):

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Figure 4: *This map shows the surveyed areas of the park (purple polygons) and the physical treatment/presence polygons in red. The phragmites is the polygon further south along the boardwalk and the mugwort is located in the east polygon. The non-detection searched area on the western side is where Japanese knotweed has previously been treated*

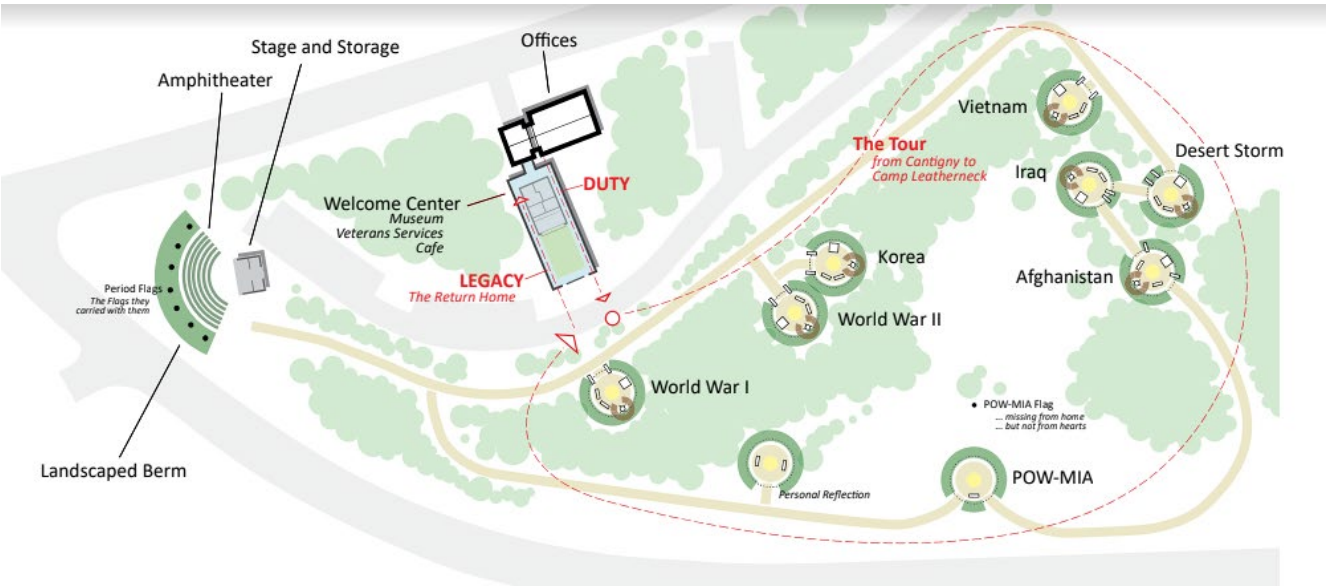

Figure 5: *This is an overview map of Legacy Park showing the various walking trails and locations of memorials. In comparison to figure 4, the common reed was treated along the boardwalk which extends from the southwest to southeast to POW-MIA. The mugwort patch is located between the Afghanistan and the Iraq memorials.*

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Photos:

Figure 6: *This photo shows the heavy infestation of the phragmites along the boardwalk*

Figure 7: *This photo shows the tarps laid across the cleared areas after significant amount of common reed was removed.*

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Figures 9-11: *Capital Region PRISM staff pulling and digging out common reed roots to reduce above ground biomass with the hopes of reducing regrowth and weakening the plants.*

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Section 3: Summary of Recommendations

Additional Notes:

Legacy Park is heavily infested with a variety of invasive species, including common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), and mugwort *(Artemisia vulgaris*). There are likely more than was observed while on site. The Town of Glenville recognizes although this area is heavily infested with invasive species it still provides a green space for the community and is a place for memoriam. The goal of this project was not to eradicate all invasives from the site but merely suppress the common reed along the boardwalk to improve accessibility along the boardwalk.

The response efforts carried out by the CR-PRISM differed from the original plans for management of the common reed. PRISM focused efforts on root grubbing and digging around the boardwalk to create a buffer using root slayer shovels, hand grubbers and a weedwhacker. Common reed further away from the boardwalk was mowed back to minimize above ground biomass and weaken the roots. Grubbing and digging was difficult in this area due to not only because of clay soils and oil slicks contaminating the water but additionally the heavy rain the first day of treatment made the work area very muddy and made it difficult to maneuver.

Landscaping cloth was provided by the Town of Glenville to suppress regrowth of common reed surrounding the boardwalk, PRISM staff collected rocks from on-site to hold down the landscaping cloth as a temporary solution. Long-term it is recommended that the Town of Glenville staff place uncontaminated rocks over the established landscaping cloth to provide a more aesthetic view and ensure plants do not regrow and push the cloth out of the way or pierce through the landscaping cloth. Mulch can also be used in areas that are not wet, either material that is used may need to be replenished after large storm events that could contribute to disturbance of material keeping the landscaping cloth, consider using stakes to keep landscaping cloth in place regardless of level of disturbance.

Town of Glenville staff originally requested the removal of some of the boards on the boardwalk to establish landscaping cloth underneath the boardwalk and PRISM staff were prepared to do so, however, upon discussion with Town of Glenville maintenance staff it seemed that it would be extremely difficult to lay landscaping cloth underneath the boardwalk and may not be worth the effort. This is a feasible option for suppression of regrowth of common reed but does require follow-up maintenance of this cloth as plants will push around the cloth.

In addition, the weather the week the CR-PRISM team was present on site was not favorable. The first day of treatment was pouring rain throughout the day and chilly making management difficult. The second day was very hot and sunny, requiring the team to take multiple breaks for the health and safety of the team.

Treatment:

The first step in managing common reed is preventing it from taking hold in an area where it has not been established. Cleaning equipment and using clean fill on a work site is imperative in preventing common reed infestations. The plant typically prefers wetland and riparian corridors. During flood events the plant can be broken up by storm water and the pieces then float downstream to become established in new locations. Proper disposal of plant material is also imperative in preventing the spreading of plants. The plant can be spread by mowing along roads and other corridors.

Management Considerations:

- Is the infestation on your property? If not, permissions need to be obtained prior to treatment.
- Is the size of the infestation manageable with your time and resources?
- Is the phragmites contained to your property, if it is on property nearby it may continue to spread from that location in which you would only be able to suppress the leading edge on your property.

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- If the phragmites are in a state of federally regulated wetland, then permitting will be required for treatments. (note the permitting section below that should be reviewed with contacts before treatment)
- If the infestation **is not in** a regulated freshwater wetland or a water course, consider the outline below after reviewing the Best Management Practices provided.
    1. Come up with a plan with procedures and write it down. Anticipate a few years of treatment.
    2. Apply an herbicide product to the common reed with label recommended dosages in late summer/early fall after flowering as a foliar spray or to the inside of the hollow stem. It requires work and re-treatment in subsequent years. Results may vary depending on the site's characteristics. Herbicide comes with a product label, following the directions on the product label is the law.
    3. Alternatively, cut the common reed early in the season and treat the regrowth when it reaches about 3ft using a foliar spray.
    4. The common reed is subject to resprouting with new roots from even the smallest piece. Proper disposal is critical, bag and solarize any cut plant material.
    5. If there is common reed on a nearby property or along the roadside, the roots could be connected and may not be able to be eradicated but can be suppressed.

Contact your local NYS DEC permitting office to acquire needed permits if applicable.

- https://dec.ny.gov/about/contact-us/statewide-office-information
-https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/biodiversity-species-conservation/biodiversity-mapping/environmental-resource-mapper

If you have questions and need assistance with a permit please follow the link:

- https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/freshwater-wetlands

The PRISM recommends reviewing the best management practice guidelines attached to determine what is most feasible for your site given funding and capacity. The culvert is going to continue to be a consistent source of propagules unless the population of common reed across the road is also managed. The Town of Glenville can still suppress the common reed at Legacy Park using manual and mechanical methods (PRISM has had success with this on small sites, but it requires capacity), or chemical methods (OPRHP is working on conducting some work on wetlands on one of their properties this fall). In Canada, they approved release of two stem-boring moth species *(Archanara neurica and Lenisa geminipuncta*) for biological control of common reed, they are not currently approved for release in the United States but could potentially be in the future.

Post-Treatment Monitoring:

The Capital Region PRISM will provide the Town of Glenville with resources including the best management practice guides for common reed and mugwort as well as tools to begin to develop an invasive species management plan for the park. If desired, the Capital Region PRISM may be able to review the Invasive Species Management Plan and provide suggestions and feedback. The Town of Glenville can re-apply for the CR-PRISM Crew Assistance Program next year as well to re-visit the approach of establishing landscaping cloth under the boardwalk.

The area surrounding the boardwalk appears to have a variety of wetland species and the Town of Glenville may need to submit a Jurisdictional Determination for the parcel to determine if it is a wetland.

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