



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** April 22, 2026
From: Roeland Zwaag
General Manager, Engineering and Public Works **File:** 10-6160-07-01/2025-Vol 01
Re: **Invasive Species Action Plan: Program Summary (2024 - 2025)**

Staff Recommendations

1. That the report titled “Invasive Species Action Plan: Program Summary (2024 - 2025)”, dated April 22, 2026, from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be received for information; and
2. That the Invasive Species Action Plan (2016) be updated as described in the report titled “Invasive Species Action Plan Update and Program Summary (2024 - 2025)”, dated April 22, 2026, from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, and a draft be brought to Council for consideration.

Executive Summary

Invasive species pose risks to local ecological health, public safety and infrastructure. Guided by the Enhanced Pesticide Management Program and the Invasive Species Action Plan, the City continues to implement a risk-based approach to manage invasive species that focuses on prevention through public education and early detection with regional collaboration.

Since the previous update in 2023, the City has advanced several key initiatives, including a City-wide Blackberry Management Program, continued knotweed treatment and monitoring, expanded support for treatment on private property, pollinator habitat enhancement and public outreach on pesticide reduction and ecosystem health. Continued success of these initiatives is attributed, in part, to the dedicated annual operating and capital funding the City prioritizes in the community. The funding provides stable financial resources and limits the risks attributed to some sources of provincial and federal funding.

The Enhanced Pesticide Management Program and *Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 8514*, adopted in 2009, continue to reduce reliance on pesticides for cosmetic purposes in Richmond effectively. The Invasive Species Action Plan was approved in 2016. Over the past ten years, the Program has evolved in response to existing and emerging risks posed by invasive species in the community, and advancements in best practices and management options. Staff are seeking direction to prepare an updated Invasive Species Action Plan to build on this progress and better reflect the continued evolution of the program.

Staff Report

Origin

Council adopted the Enhanced Pesticide Management Program (EPMP) and *Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 8514* in 2009 to reduce reliance on pesticides within the city for cosmetic purposes and to support alternative approaches to pest management. The EPMP established a framework for integrated pest management, emphasizing prevention, public education and the use of non-chemical methods where feasible, while allowing for pesticide use in specific circumstances to protect public health, infrastructure and ecological values.

Following implementation of the EPMP, Council endorsed the Invasive Species Action Plan (ISAP) in 2016 to guide the City's response to invasive plants and animals that pose risks to ecological function, public safety, and infrastructure. The ISAP identifies priority invasive species and supports a risk-based, integrated pest management approach to invasive species management on City-owned lands.

This report summarizes the actions and initiatives undertaken to implement the EPMP and ISAP since the last update in 2023. The report also includes an ISAP Progress Report for the previous ten years of the plan's implementation. Lastly, this report seeks approval for staff to prepare an update to the ISAP (2016) including internal and external engagement and future endorsement through additional reporting.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #5 A Leader in Environmental Sustainability:

Leadership in environmental sustainability through innovative, sustainable and proactive solutions that mitigate climate change and other environmental impacts.

Analysis

Invasive species occur outside their natural range and can cause environmental, economic and social harm by outcompeting native species and reducing habitat value. The City's approach to pest and invasive species management is guided by the EPMP and the ISAP, which are collectively referred to in this report as "the Program". Together, the Program provides a coordinated framework for prioritizing invasive species management based on the risks they pose to public safety, infrastructure, agricultural land and ecologically sensitive areas, while minimizing reliance on pesticides.

There are over two dozen invasive species known to occur in Richmond, all of which have the potential to cause varying degrees of ecological harm. Eight of these species have the added potential to pose significant risks to infrastructure and human health including giant hogweed and knotweed, which are identified in the ISAP as priority species for management. Several invasive species present in Richmond are also designated as 'noxious weeds' under the provincial *Weed Control Act*.

Richmond has developed a coordinated and increasingly sophisticated invasive species management framework, progressing from initial implementation to a mature, integrated model. This includes monitoring, early detection and rapid response, targeted treatment, restoration, public education and regional collaboration.

Program activities are organized across four core areas: Leadership and Innovation; Partnerships; Public Outreach and Engagement; and Invasive Species Treatment, and are supported through dedicated, annual operating and capital funding. This structure has contributed to measurable improvements in overall effectiveness, including reductions in priority infestations, improved inventory and data tracking, expanded partnerships and increased community participation. Several areas are now well established and continue to advance through ongoing refinement and integration into City operations. This progress reflects significant advancement since 2017 and demonstrates how the Program has evolved beyond the scope originally envisioned in 2016.

A 2026 summary includes the following key highlights from activities that were completed in 2024 and 2025:

- Council endorsement of a City-wide Blackberry Management Program, including approval of two new positions to support implementation, with planning underway for 2026;
- Continued progress in knotweed management, including approximately 2.7 ha treated and a transition toward monitoring and restoration (Attachment 1);
- Launched a private property knotweed and hogweed management program to support and coordinate effective treatment of high-risk noxious weeds;

- Growth in pollinator and biodiversity initiatives including expansion of the Richmond Nectar Trail and pollinator habitat on City lands;
- Continued leadership in regional collaboration including participation in provincial and federal invasive species initiatives; and
- Strong community engagement including volunteer stewardship, public education and increased participation in initiatives such as the City Nature Challenge.

Further details, including the 2026–2027 work plan, are provided in Attachment 2.

Staff have prepared a 10-year (2016-2025), invasive species Progress Report (Attachment 3) that provides an overview of the City’s long-term investment in managing invasive species. The report highlights the establishment of core initiatives and continued advancement toward a coordinated and integrated approach, including reductions in priority infestations, improved data tracking, expanded partnerships, and increased community participation.

Proposed Update to the Invasive Species Action Plan

The ISAP was developed to guide the implementation of invasive species management activities and provides a strong foundation for the City’s approach. As the Program has matured, staff recommend updating the ISAP to reflect current practices and set a forward-looking framework to address ongoing and emerging risks to ecological systems, infrastructure and flood protection.

If approved, staff will prepare an updated ISAP that will:

- Include a community-wide engagement process;
- Reflect the maturity and demonstrated success of the existing program;
- Establish a forward-looking framework to address emerging invasive species and climate-related pressures;
- Evaluate and incorporate additional management tools, including regulatory and policy options; and
- Strengthen alignment with infrastructure protection, flood management, and ecological resilience objectives.

Budgetary Implications

There are no budgetary implications associated with the initiatives outlined in this report. Staff continue to utilize stable, annual capital and operating funds to implement the Program. This reduces the City’s reliance on unpredictable funding models and remains a key contributing factor to the success of the Program in Richmond.

Conclusion

The City’s Invasive Species Management Program continues to provide a coordinated and effective approach to managing risks to ecological systems, infrastructure, and public safety. Through targeted management, community outreach and regional collaboration, the City is addressing priority invasive species while supporting ecological resilience and reducing reliance on pesticides.

The Invasive Species Action Plan & Enhanced Pesticide Management Program 2026 Update and Invasive Species Action Plan Progress Report (2016 - 2025) demonstrate the continued advancement and maturity of the program. As invasive species pressures evolve, staff recommend updating the Invasive Species Action Plan (2016) to ensure that the City is well-positioned to address emerging risks, incorporate new tools and approaches and align program delivery with long-term environmental and infrastructure objectives.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Paulin, Director, Climate & Environment

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Nadia Chan, Manager, Environment, and reviewed by Park Services and Public Works.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

Att. 1: Knotweed Management Program Trends (2017 - 2025)

Att. 2: Invasive Species Action Plan & Enhanced Pesticide Management Program 2026 Update

Att. 3: Invasive Species Action Plan Progress Report (2016 - 2025)

Knotweed Management Program Trends (2017 – 2025)

Overview

The City has implemented a coordinated knotweed management program since 2017, focused on reducing infestation, limiting spread and transitioning toward long-term site restoration. Program delivery has evolved from broad-scale treatment to targeted management supported by monitoring and improved inventory data.

Table 1 summarizes knotweed management performance from 2017 to 2025. Overall, the data shows a reduction in infestation intensity over time, with decreases in stem counts and treatment area reflecting the effectiveness of sustained management efforts.

Table 1: Performance Data

Year	# of Sites	# of Stems	Area Treated (m2)	Herbicide Use (L)
2017	319	108,233	30,850	161
2018	288	34,430	26,830	133
2019	184	8,020		
2020	104	4,663	13,775	50
2021	134	6,310	16,235	35.1
2022	106	3,542		18.6
2023	103	2,122		14
2024	131	19,225		20
2025	186	15,900		11.55

Key Trends

- Significant reduction in infestation extent from 2017 to 2021, with continued targeted management in subsequent years.
- Substantial decrease in herbicide use, reflecting improved treatment efficiency and program maturity.
- Increased site counts in 2024–2025 reflect expanded inventory to include unopened road allowances.
- Program focus is shifting toward long-term monitoring, containment and ecological restoration.

Notes

- Data gaps reflect changes in tracking methods over time.
- Site counts may include both active infestations and locations under monitoring or follow-up treatment.



Invasive Species Action Plan & Enhanced Pesticide Management Program 2026 Update





Richmond City Council adopted the Enhanced Pesticide Management Program (EPMP) and the *Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 8514* in 2009 with the objective of reducing reliance on traditional pesticides through a risk-based, integrated management approach. The program emphasizes prevention, education and the use of alternative methods to manage pests while protecting human health and the environment. In 2016, the Invasive Species Action Plan (ISAP) was adopted under the EPMP to provide a coordinated, strategic framework for prioritizing and managing invasive species that pose risks to civil infrastructure, ecological integrity and public safety.

Richmond continues to experience increasing pressures from invasive species due to climate change, urban development and regional connectivity. The EPMP and ISAP enable the City to respond to these pressures through adaptive, science-based management approaches that integrate monitoring, treatment, public education and collaboration with partner agencies. Program delivery continues to reflect a preventative, integrated pest management approach, with an emphasis on early detection and rapid response, risk-based prioritization and continuous improvement.

The EPMP and ISAP are organized around four core program areas: Leadership and Innovation; Partnerships; Public Outreach and Engagement; and Invasive Species Treatment. These program areas support the City's broader environmental sustainability objectives and contribute to protecting natural areas, infrastructure and community well-being.

This document builds on previous updates and provides a summary of key achievements and program activities for 2024 and 2025, as well as an overview of future program directions. Highlights include expanded invasive species management across public and private lands, continued leadership in regional collaboration and best management practice development, growth in community engagement and stewardship initiatives and ongoing integration of pollinator habitat and biodiversity considerations into program delivery.

LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION

Leadership and innovation initiatives support the continued advancement of Richmond’s invasive species management program through the application of science-based approaches, technical expertise and adaptive management practices. These efforts focus on improving program delivery, enhancing transparency and integrating biodiversity and pollinator considerations into invasive species management and habitat restoration activities.

Key achievements

Technical Contributions and Partnerships: Staff continued to support Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) monitoring of Brazilian elodea in collaboration with the Province of British Columbia, helping to ensure early identification and rapid intervention to prevent establishment in Richmond’s waterways. Staff also contributed technical expertise to the development of three regional Best Management Practice (BMP) documents for priority invasive species including bamboo, periwinkle and cherry laurel. These contributions support the advancement of consistent, science-based management approaches across the region and strengthen coordinated invasive species management efforts.

Program Delivery and Continuous Improvement: Invasive species management activities were implemented across a range of ecosystems including bog restoration areas, meadows and intertidal environments. Staff applied adaptive management approaches to refine treatment methods and improve long-term effectiveness. In 2025, program delivery was expanded to include knotweed species treatment on private properties, supporting a more coordinated, landscape-level approach to invasive species management and helping to reduce re-infestation risks across property boundaries.

Public Notification and Transparency: The City continued to implement its public notification process to support invasive species management activities including knotweed treatment. Residents located near treatment sites were notified in advance through direct mail, with over 350 letters issued annually. This process supports transparency by providing residents with advance notice of treatment activities and information on the program’s purpose and approach. It remains an important component of program delivery and contributes to public awareness and understanding of invasive species management.

Pollinator Leadership: Ongoing pollinator habitat enhancement, education, and stewardship initiatives supported the City’s Bee City Canada certification, including continued expansion of the Richmond Nectar Trail program. Pollinator considerations were further integrated into invasive species management and habitat restoration activities, supporting biodiversity, improving ecosystem resilience and enhancing habitat connectivity across the city. These efforts build on the City’s established pollinator program and reflect a continued commitment to protecting and enhancing pollinator habitat through coordinated City-wide approaches.

3
additional technical
Best Management Practice
documents published

over **3,150**
public notifications
sent to support knotweed
management since 2017



PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with provincial and federal agencies, regional organizations and academic institutions support a coordinated and effective approach to invasive species management. These collaborations enable knowledge sharing, alignment of best practices and development of consistent management strategies across jurisdictions.

Key achievements

Province of British Columbia: The City continued to work closely with the Province of British Columbia on Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) initiatives including ongoing monitoring of Brazilian elodea to prevent re-establishment and spread in Richmond’s waterways. This collaboration supports a proactive, coordinated approach to managing emerging invasive species through monitoring, assessment and response, consistent with provincial priorities.

Federal collaboration: Staff worked with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to support regional awareness and coordinated response to priority invasive species. This included hosting a regional presentation on Emerald Ash Borer for approximately 60 participants from Richmond and Delta, as well as participating in Japanese beetle technical and communications committees. These efforts support information sharing, coordinated response planning, and consistent messaging for invasive species of federal concern.

Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver / British Columbia: The City works closely with the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver (ISCMV) and the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia (ISCBC) to support invasive species management through research, education and public engagement. Staff contribute to regional initiatives and serve on the Boards of Directors for both organizations, supporting coordinated action and knowledge sharing.

Ducks Unlimited Canada: Collaboration with Ducks Unlimited Canada continued to support the 2025 Pesticide Use Permit renewal for management of cordgrass (spartina) in intertidal areas such as Sturgeon Bank and Grauer Lands. This work supports the protection of sensitive estuarine habitats and aligns invasive species management with broader habitat conservation objectives.

Regional management groups: The City continued to participate in regional invasive species management groups, including the Regional Invasive Species Working Group, the BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group and the BC Soils and Invasive Species Working Group. These groups support the sharing of best practices, identification of knowledge gaps and advancement of research and management approaches across jurisdictions.

Academic and Education Partnerships: Ongoing collaboration with academic institutions and educational partners supported invasive species identification, applied research and knowledge development. Collaboration with School District No. 38 supported delivery of environmental education programming including an invasive species dike walk and talk with approximately 80 students. Staff also participated in Richmond Environmental Educators meetings and continued coordination with academic institutions, including Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) to support student learning opportunities and advance understanding of invasive species management.

4

years of no observed regrowth of a historic Brazilian elodea infestation site



Spartina management area

PUBLIC OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Public outreach and engagement initiatives focus on increasing awareness of invasive species, promoting environmentally responsible land management practices and supporting community participation in stewardship activities. Through education, communication and hands-on opportunities, these efforts help residents understand their role in preventing the spread of invasive species and protecting local ecosystems.

Key achievements

Community education and awareness: Community workshops and educational programming were delivered on invasive species, pollinators and sustainable land management practices. These initiatives support increased public awareness of invasive species impacts and provide residents with information on prevention, identification and environmentally responsible management approaches. Public-facing engagement materials were also developed to improve access to information and resources, including Let's Talk Richmond pages focused on invasive species and the Richmond Nectar Trail.

over **300**
volunteers and
students engaged

Richmond Nectar Trail: The Richmond Nectar Trail continued to expand across community and private lands, supporting the establishment of pollinator habitat and enhancing habitat connectivity for native pollinators. The program encourages residents, schools, and community organizations to participate in pollinator-friendly planting and stewardship practices, strengthening community involvement in biodiversity initiatives.

84
new pollinator
habitats recorded on
private property

Community Participation: Community participation remained strong with over 300 volunteers and students engaged in invasive species removal and habitat restoration activities. These efforts resulted in the removal of more than 50 cubic metres of invasive plants and contributed to over 500 volunteer hours. Restoration activities supported over 400 m² of habitat improvements in priority natural areas, enhancing ecological function and site resilience.

over **500**
volunteer hours
contributed



Education and outreach initiatives: Education and outreach efforts reached more than 4,500 participants through Nature Park school and public programs. Additional initiatives included an invasive species dike walk and talk with approximately 80 students from Steves Elementary, participation in three community events through outreach booths and continued involvement in provincially recognized Invasive Species Action Month to promote awareness and stewardship.

Over **4,500**
participants in school
and public programs

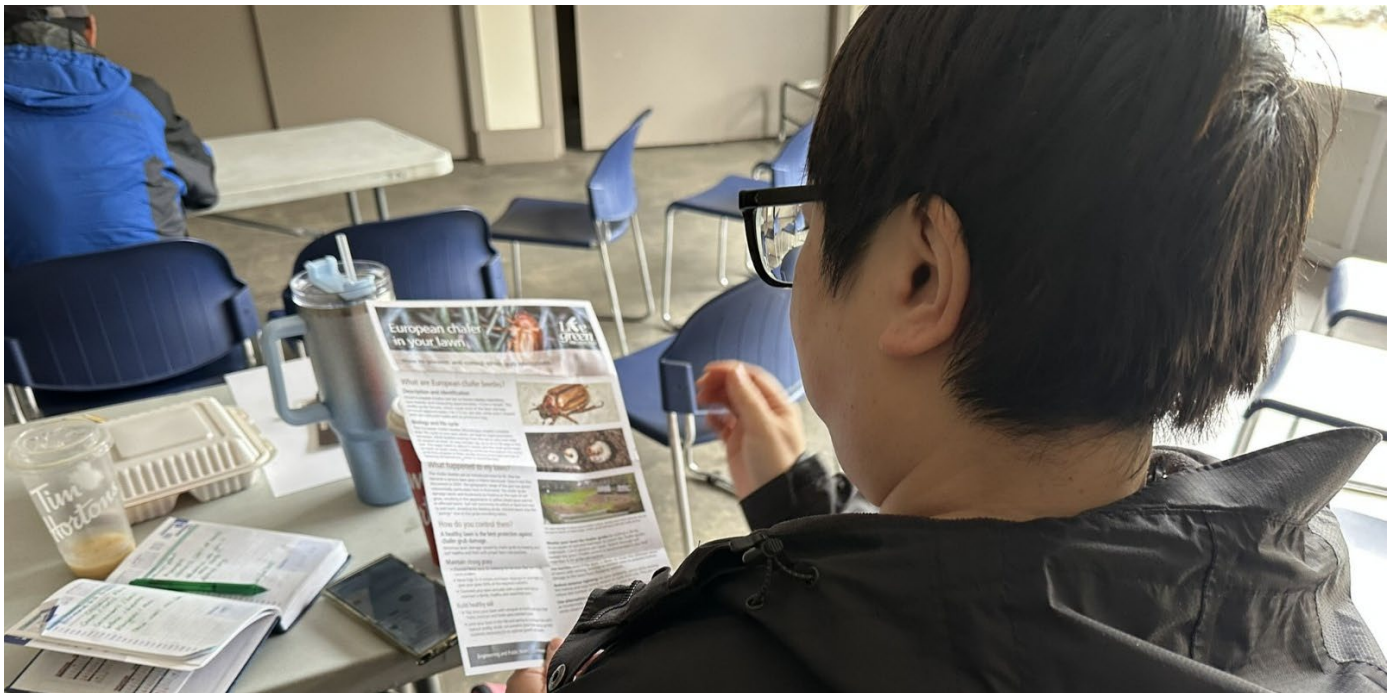
Public programs and campaigns: Public programs focused on promoting sustainable land management practices and increasing awareness of invasive species impacts. Demonstration lawns continued to showcase alternatives to traditional turf, helping residents adopt more resilient and environmentally sustainable landscaping approaches. The City Nature Challenge saw significant growth in 2025, with observations more than tripling, species identified nearly doubling, and participation increasing from 44 to 122 community members, reflecting growing public interest in biodiversity and citizen science.

122
participants in the
City Nature Challenge

Social media and digital engagement: Social media platforms continue to be used to communicate information related to invasive species, pollinators and City-led initiatives. Posts highlight seasonal activities, emerging invasive species and stewardship opportunities, helping to increase public awareness and engagement. In 2024–2025, 11 social media posts were published, supporting timely communication and broader reach of program messaging.



Public accessibility to information: Staff maintained public access to information through email and phone hotlines and responded to over 100 invasive species and pesticide-related inquiries in 2024–2025. Ongoing communication and notification efforts support public awareness, provide site-specific guidance and assist residents in managing invasive species concerns.



INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT & MANAGEMENT

Invasive species management activities were implemented across terrestrial, aquatic, and high-risk species using an integrated pest management approach including mechanical, biological and targeted pesticide application methods. Treatment approaches are applied based on species, location and risk to balance effectiveness with environmental protection, infrastructure protection and long-term ecosystem health. Targeted treatment efforts included priority species such as knotweed, giant hogweed, scotch broom, reed canary grass and aquatic invasive plants.

Key achievements

Knotweed Management: Ongoing monitoring and targeted treatment of knotweed across City-owned lands continued to reduce spread and protect infrastructure. Long-term program data indicates a significant reduction in infestation extent and treatment intensity since 2017, with many previously treated sites now transitioning to monitoring phases and demonstrating limited regrowth. Current efforts are focused on targeted management, monitoring, and restoration of previously treated sites to support long-term control.

159

knotweed sites
actively managed
on City lands

Private Property Treatment Program: Introduced in 2025, the private property treatment program supports coordinated management beyond City-owned lands. In its first year, 13 private property sites, including school properties, were treated, helping to reduce the spread of invasive species to public infrastructure and natural areas while supporting a more comprehensive, landscape-level approach.

13

private properties
treated in 1st year

Himalayan Blackberry: Himalayan blackberry removal was carried out across priority sites through capital, operational, and stewardship programs. Management efforts focused on restoring natural areas, improving accessibility, and supporting ongoing maintenance to reduce re-establishment and improve long-term site conditions. This included targeted mowing of approximately 8.1 hectares of old field habitat at Terra Nova Rural Park to reduce Himalayan blackberry and reed canary grass, supporting habitat restoration.

over

25,900 m²
of parrot's feather
managed

Aquatic Invasive Species: Following the successful treatment of Brazilian elodea in 2021, the City has continued to monitor the historic infestation site near Garry Point Park in partnership with the Province of British Columbia. To date, no regrowth has been detected, demonstrating the effectiveness of early intervention and ongoing monitoring efforts. In addition, staff continued assessment and management of parrot's feather, an invasive aquatic species, with a focus on limiting its spread and reducing impacts to drainage infrastructure and aquatic systems.



Zero

detections of
Japanese beetle

Japanese beetle response: Japanese beetle response efforts were completed in 2024 with no treatment required in 2025 and no further detections identified through ongoing monitoring. This work was undertaken in coordination with federal and provincial partners to support a consistent, regionally aligned response to this high-risk invasive species.

European chafer beetle: Management of European chafer beetle continued through a biological control program, supporting reduced reliance on chemical treatments. Chafer beetle infestations can cause damage to turf and landscaped areas. In addition to treatment, alternative lawn approaches were promoted to support more resilient landscapes and reduce susceptibility to chafer impacts. Together, these measures support more sustainable, long-term management of this species in urban environments.

Rodent management: Rodent management activities included civic building assessments, response to community inquiries and integration with demolition permitting through a rodent abatement program introduced in mid-2024. In 2025, 137 demolition sites were reviewed, with most (~70%) requiring no control, while community inquiries decreased from 93 to 72.

137

demolition sites
reviewed in 2025



FUTURE OUTLOOK

Building on recent program achievements, the City will continue to advance implementation of the Enhanced Pesticide Management Program and Invasive Species Action Plan through targeted program delivery, policy development and strengthened partnerships. Future efforts will focus on enhancing early detection and response, expanding management across public and private lands, and advancing tools and approaches to address emerging risks to ecological systems and infrastructure.

Leadership & Innovation

- Update the City's invasive species inventory to support improved prioritization and program planning
- Explore additional management tools including the provincial Pesticide Use Permit process to address limitations in high-risk areas such as pesticide-free zones, watercourses, and areas where invasive species pose risks to infrastructure and flood protection
- Undertake a review and update of the Invasive Species Action Plan (ISAP) to reflect current program delivery, incorporate lessons learned and align with evolving priorities, emerging risks, and best management practices

Partnerships

- Expand partnerships with regional agencies, non-government organizations and academic institutions to support research, knowledge sharing, and development of best management practices

Public Outreach & Engagement

- Continue offering outreach and education initiatives including workshops, community events and programming related to invasive species, pollinator habitats, sustainable gardening practices and local food production
- Expand pollinator habitat on City-managed lands, including development of additional pollinator pastures at Bridgeport Industrial Park and McLean Park to support biodiversity and ecological resilience

Invasive Species Treatment and Management

- Continue early detection and rapid response efforts, including monitoring for emerging invasive species and coordination with regional partners to prevent establishment and spread
- Develop and implement a City-wide Blackberry Management Program to support inventory, prioritized treatment, and restoration of affected areas across City lands
- Expand the private property knotweed and hogweed program to reduce spread from private lands to public infrastructure and natural areas
- Restore previously treated knotweed sites with native vegetation to improve ecological function and reduce reinfestation
- Review a potential bog conservation program within Richmond Nature Park
- Explore options to reintroduce a chafer beetle treatment subsidy program including consideration of a cost-sharing voucher model to support private property treatment, with potential implementation beginning in the 2027 season





Invasive Species Action Plan Progress Report 2016 – 2025



Invasive Species Action Plan Progress Report

(2016 – 2025)

This report provides a high-level summary of progress made under the Invasive Species Action Plan (ISAP) from 2016 to 2025. It highlights the maturity of each strategy area, key accomplishments and opportunities to strengthen program delivery.

The ISAP is grounded in a risk-based and integrated pest management approach, with a focus on preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species, managing priority infestations and supporting long-term ecological restoration and resilience.

The status ratings reflect the evolution of the program over time, from early implementation through to established and advanced areas of work and are supported by examples of on-the-ground actions, partnerships and outcomes.



SPECIES MANAGED (2016 – 2025)

Since adoption of the ISAP, the City has implemented management actions across a range of terrestrial, aquatic, and high-risk invasive species, with efforts focused on protecting ecological function, public safety and critical infrastructure.

Table 1: Priority Species Managed

High Risk / Regulated Species	Aquatic Species	Terrestrial Species
Giant hogweed Knotweed species Japanese beetle	Parrot’s feather Brazilian elodea	Wild chervil Scotch broom Chafer beetle



STATUS DEFINITIONS

Status ratings may be combined (e.g., “Established – Advancing”) to reflect progression between stages.

- **Emerging** – Initial program elements are being developed, with early activities focused on baseline understanding, partnerships or pilot initiatives.
- **Established** – Program components are in place and operational, with consistent delivery of activities and integration into City practices.
- **Advancing** – Program is progressing beyond core delivery, with increased coordination, innovation or expansion across multiple service areas.
- **Advanced** – Mature, high-performing program demonstrating measurable outcomes, strong integration and leadership at the local or regional level

INVASIVE SPECIES ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

The table below summarizes progress across the Invasive Species Action Plan strategies, including status, key accomplishments and areas for continued advancement. Status ratings reflect the evolution of each strategy over time, from early implementation to more established and advanced program areas.

Table 2: ISAP Strategy Summary (2016 – 2025)

Strategy	Status	Highlights
Monitor and Map Invasive Species	Established Advancing –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established baseline inventory and expanded priority species mapping. Integrated GIS into workflows to support tracking and prioritization. Piloted innovative technologies (e.g., drone mapping). <i>Next step:</i> Expand baseline inventory and advance toward decision-support tools and strengthen integration with asset management.
Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR)	Established Advancing -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented EDRR program, including successful eradication of Brazilian elodea. Applied innovative response techniques (e.g., suction dredge). Established monitoring partnerships (e.g., CFIA). <i>Next step:</i> Formalize a City-wide EDRR framework with defined triggers and response protocols.
Manage and Control Knotweed Species	Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered long-term program reducing infestations and treatment intensity. Expanded management to private properties. Established annual treatment, monitoring, and notification processes. <i>Next step:</i> Transition toward site restoration and long-term resilience.
Manage and Control Aquatic Weeds	Established Advancing –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed priority species, including parrot’s feather and Brazilian elodea. Applied innovative treatment and monitoring approaches. Contributed to regional knowledge sharing and best practices. <i>Next step:</i> Strengthen integration with drainage, flood protection and water quality objectives.
Manage and Control Giant Hogweed	Established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing control across City lands. Integrated into education, awareness, and regional BMPs. <i>Next step:</i> Formalize program structure and strengthen risk-based prioritization.
Monitor and Control Fire Ants	Emerging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established baseline monitoring and identification capacity. Improved understanding of distribution within the City. <i>Next step:</i> Assess current presence and distribution to confirm whether fire ants remain a priority management issue.

Integrate Invasive Species Management into City Processes	Established Advancing	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered staff training and integrated practices into Operational Environmental Management Plans. Initiated integration into operations, maintenance and development review. <i>Next step:</i> Strengthen integration into capital planning, asset management and regulatory tools.
Research Control Methods	Established Advancing	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributed to regional Best Management Practices. Maintained strong academic partnerships and piloted innovative approaches. Applied IPM principles to guide treatment selection. <i>Next step:</i> Strengthen processes to evaluate and apply emerging control methods, ensuring research and innovation are consistently integrated into operational practice.
Promote Invasive Species Education and Awareness	Advanced		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 121 workshops and 41 recent events with strong engagement. Demonstrated leadership through campaigns and national recognition. Increased outreach on prevention and responsible practices. <i>Next step:</i> Enhance outcome-based evaluation and expand targeted outreach.
Support Community Stewardship	Established Advancing	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered initiatives such as the Richmond Nectar Trail and stewardship programs. Supported youth engagement and community partnerships. <i>Next step:</i> Develop a more formal stewardship framework and expand hands-on participation.
Collaboration and Partnerships	Advanced		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established strong partnerships with provincial, federal and regional organizations. Demonstrated leadership in regional collaboration and knowledge sharing. Supported development of 25 Best Management Practices. <i>Next step:</i> Build on partnerships to advance coordinated implementation of regional priorities and emerging invasive species risks.

The ISAP continues to evolve as a coordinated, City-wide program that integrates technical expertise, community stewardship, and regional collaboration to address invasive species risks and support long-term ecological resilience.

