

Invasive Species in Essex, VT

Class B Noxious Weeds

- They are here but are quarantined under state law
 - “...poses a serious threat to the State...”
 - “...movement, sale, and / or distribution...prohibited.”
 - “...penalties not to exceed \$1000 per violation...”
- More than 20 non-native plants have been designated Class B noxious weeds by the State of Vermont
- Refer to
 - <http://www.vtinvasiveplants.org/invaders.php> - Quarantine Rule
- Focus of today’s talk
 - Common reed (*Phragmites australis*)
 - Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*)

- Park Ave off James Brown Drive
May 7, 2010



Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

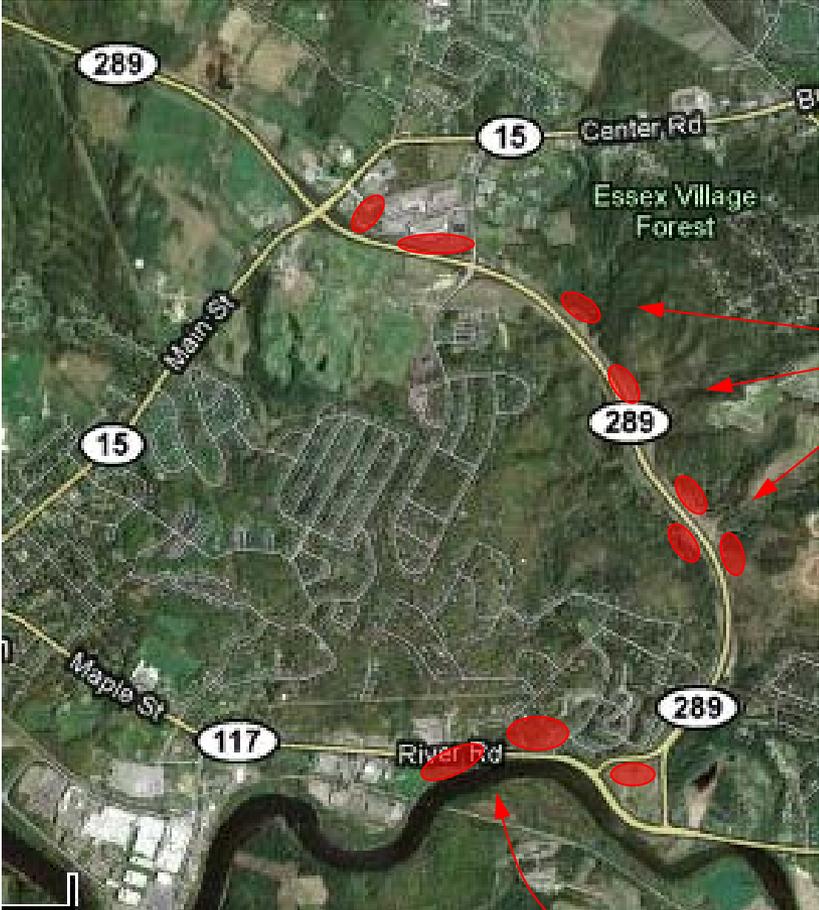
- Osgood Hill Rd, south end, at Rt 128
May 7, 2010



Invasives in the Essex Rt 289 Corridor

- Primarily
 - Phragmites
 - Wild parsnip

↑
Common all along Circ



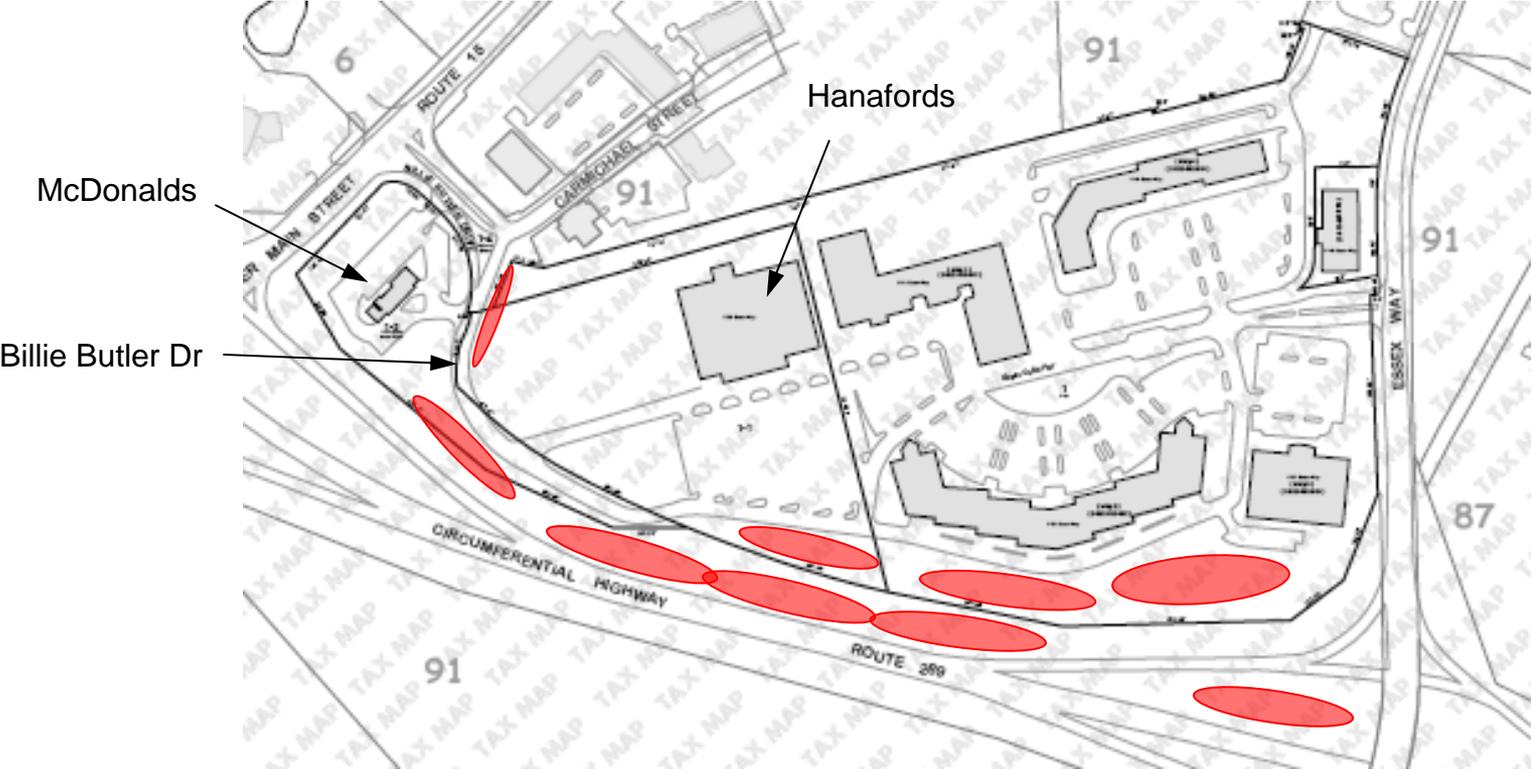
Many infestations along Circ (locations approximate)

Most serious infestations

 = Phragmites (common reed) infestation

Lang Farm Area

- Parcel ownership
- Some phragmites infestations (not an exhaustive survey)



 = Phragmites (common reed) infestation

Lang Farm Area

- Parcel ownership
- Japanese Knotweed infestations (not an exhaustive survey)



 = Japanese knotweed infestation

Phragmites at Lang Farm (1 of 2)

- Billie Butler Drive
May 7, 2010



Phragmites at Lang Farm (2 of 2)

- Billie Butler Drive
May 7, 2010



Possible Control / Eradication Approaches

▪ Education

- Know what they look like. Tell others what they look like!
- Don't transport them
 - Road crews
 - Private citizens
 - Construction companies drawing permits in Essex

▪ Regular cutting

- Requires dedicated periodic work throughout growing season
- Multi-year effort

▪ Herbicides

- Less work, but brings on other issues (see next page)
- Multi-year monitoring / reapplication

First steps / Issues

▪ Permission

- Who owns the land?
- Will they grant permission for invasive species eradication efforts?
- By what documented mechanism will permission be granted?
- Are there liability issues?

▪ Herbicides

- Are the invasives near or in water?
 - Affects choice of herbicide
- Application methods / quantity needed varies with time of year, size of plants, and weather conditions
- State certification reportedly required to apply herbicides on property owned by another

Are You In?

- If the Conservation Commission wants to pursue control of invasives in Essex, I recommend starting with these two patches of Phragmites



In front of McDonalds in
Lang Farms

- They are small, fairly well contained owing to mowing, visible to the public (great educational opportunity) and lend themselves to experimentation.



I'm here to help

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769-7335 (days)
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- **But it's your town / your decision**
- And no one person can do this alone