EDR for Japanese Knotweed in the Tomorrow River Watershed - 2021 Interim Report

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP)

12/8/2021

Grant #AIRR26521

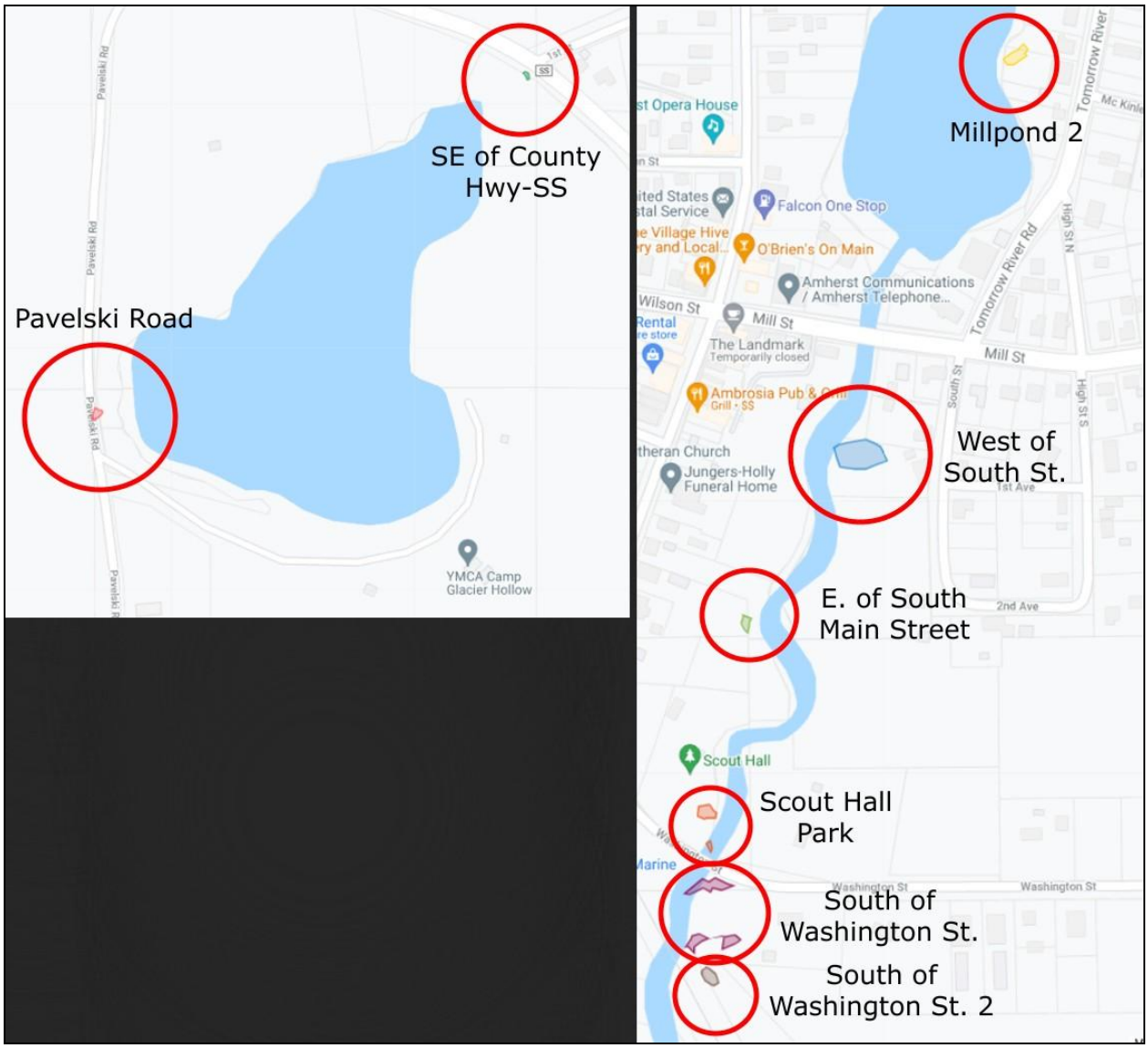
Prepared by: Asa Plonsky, Regional Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator and Jacob Fluur, Cooperative Woodlands and Terrestrial Invasive Species Assistant

This report summarizes activities performed under AIRR26521 in 2021. Activities are separated into sections based on the goals in the grant application. All tasks are occurring on-schedule to complete all deliverables before the end of the grant period.

GOAL 1: Survey

During the summer of 2021, all knotweed patches were surveyed. GPS points were collected around the perimeter of each patch. A quadrat 2.9 square feet in area was used to sample knotweed stem density from multiple locations in each patch. Using this data, average stem density was calculated for each patch. See table and map below.

Patch Name	Entire Patch Area (ac)	Average Density (# stems/sq ft)
Pavelski Road	0.019	1.03
SE of County Hwy-SS	0.009	2.24
Millpond 2	0.049	0.46
West of South St.	0.199	2.24
E. of South Main Street	0.02	1.38
Scout Hall Park	0.046	3.51
South of Washington St.	0.127	1.55
	Total Acreage	Average Density across patches
	0.469	1.77



Patch area and density data were uploaded to SWIMS with file name “2021 Surveyed Patch Sizes Densities (update) PDF.” A KMZ file with patch locations was also uploaded to SWIMS with file name “2021 Surveyed Patch Sizes (updated).” At each patch, we took photos of knotweed leaves with a ruler for scale. Leaf photos were uploaded to SWIMS with file name “2021 Leaf Variation Photos.”

GOAL 2: Control and Monitor

All knotweed patches except one were cut in early June 2021. During this first cutting fresh cut stems and old stems from previous years were collected and piled in a dry flat area. Landowners were advised to burn or mulch this material once all plant material turned brown and dried out.

All knotweed was again cut in the middle of July. During this cutting, we opted to leave most of the cut plant material where it fell. In areas very near standing or running water, knotweed stems were collected and piled in an area farther from the water. We were very careful to prevent any cut plant material from entering the Tomorrow River and potentially travelling downstream and resprouting.

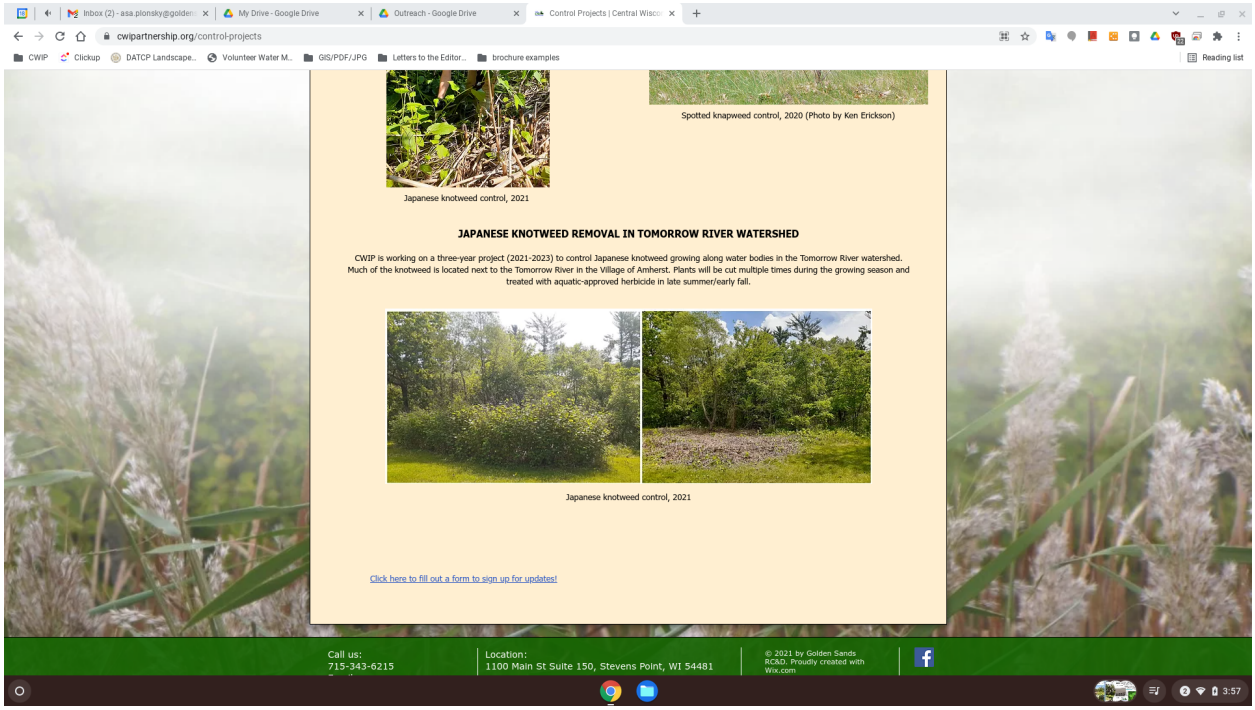
Knotweed patches were sprayed with herbicide during the last week of August. An herbicide mix consisting of 8%/10.5 oz per gallon Aquaneat (aquatic-approved glyphosate), Plex-Mate (aquatic-approved surfactant), and blue dye was applied via backpack sprayer. Aquatic Plant Management Herbicide Treatment Record forms were submitted through the SWIMS APM portal. Treatment areas were posted with Landscape Pesticide Application signs.

GOAL 3: Train Landowners

This activity will occur later in the grant period.

GOAL 4: Outreach

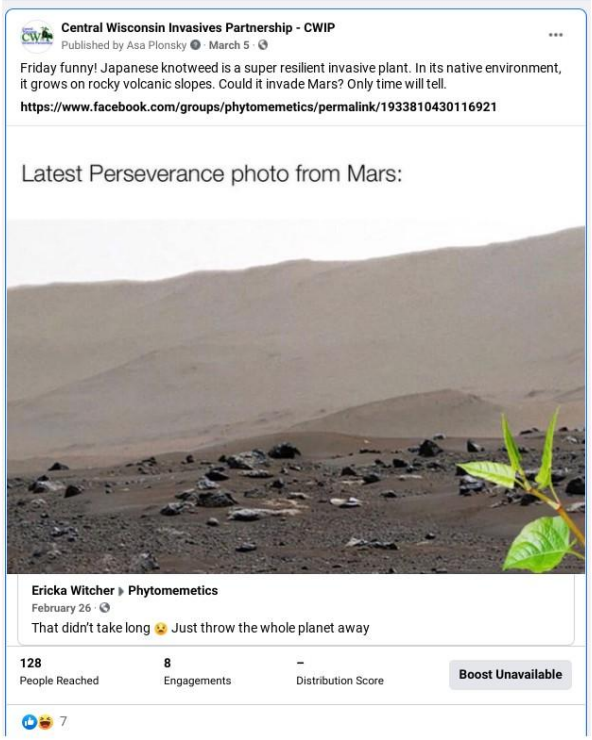
Outreach efforts in this project are ongoing. The CWIP website includes information about the EDR project at cwipartnership.org/control-projects. See screenshot below.



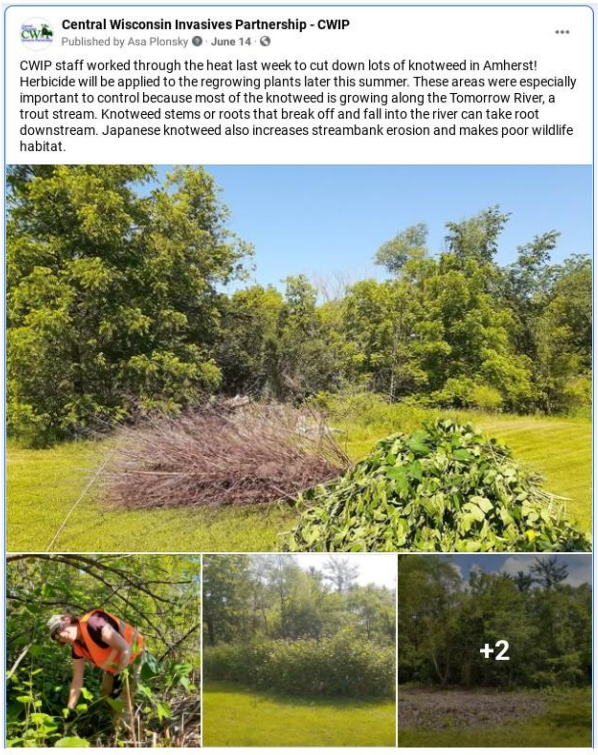
The CWIP Facebook page remains active with 570 likes. We make frequent posts about invasive plant issues, including five posts in 2021 focusing on Japanese knotweed. See screenshots and links below.

Social Media Post #1

Social Media Post #2

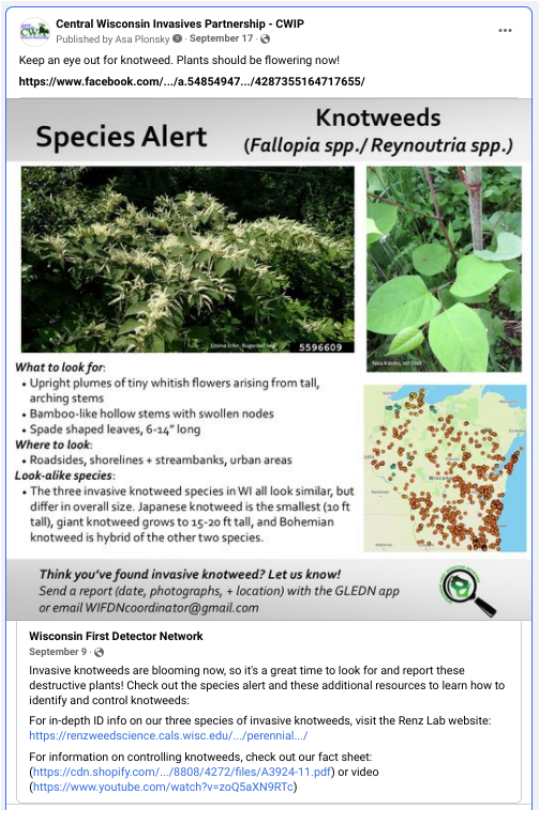


Social Media Post #3

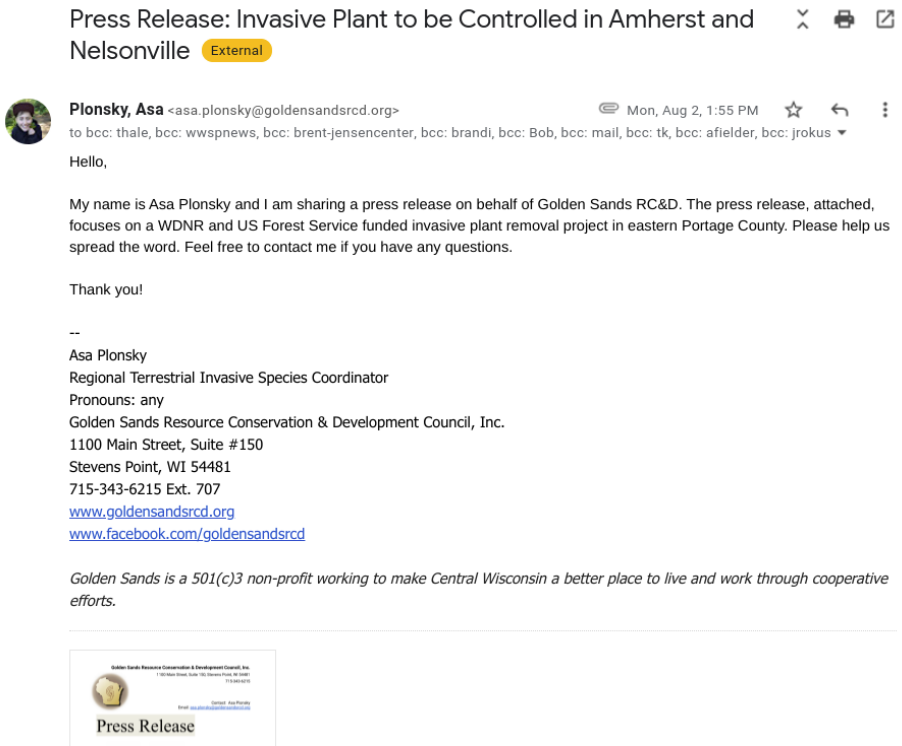


Social Media Post #4

[Social Media Post #5]



In August, a press release was created and emailed out to various local news contacts. See screenshot below and press release attached to this report.



Press Release: Invasive Plant to be Controlled in Amherst and Nelsonville External

Plonsky, Asa <asa.plonsky@goldensandsrcd.org> Mon, Aug 2, 1:55 PM

to bcc: thale, bcc: wwspnews, bcc: brent-jensencenter, bcc: brandi, bcc: Bob, bcc: mail, bcc: tk, bcc: afielder, bcc: jrokus

Hello,

My name is Asa Plonsky and I am sharing a press release on behalf of Golden Sands RC&D. The press release, attached, focuses on a WDNR and US Forest Service funded invasive plant removal project in eastern Portage County. Please help us spread the word. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you!

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Asa Plonsky
Regional Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator
Pronouns: any
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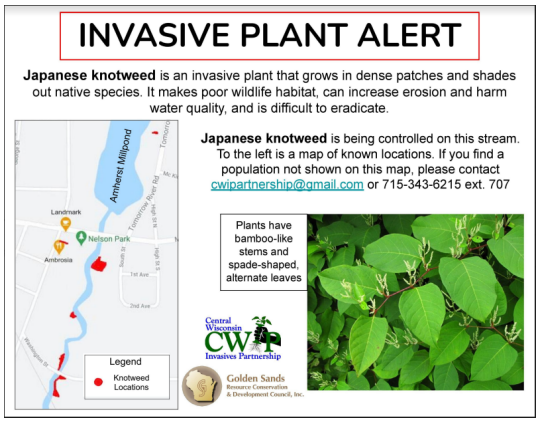
Golden Sands is a 501(c)3 non-profit working to make Central Wisconsin a better place to live and work through cooperative efforts.

Press Release

In May, signs were posted along the Tomorrow River to raise local awareness of the project and Japanese knotweed. Sixteen signs were posted at common access points along the river used for kayaking and trout fishing. See sign design below, on left. A sign was also posted at Amherst's Scout Hall park, next to a patch of knotweed that was controlled. This sign had a slightly different design, see below on right.



Above photos by Paul Skawinski

INVASIVE KNOTWEED TREATMENT AREA

Japanese knotweed is an invasive plant that damages properties, river corridors, and native ecology. It grows rapidly from small above and below-ground stem fragments. Careful herbicide use is the most effective and efficient way to control this plant. For questions, contact Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership: 715-343-6215x707 or cwipartnership@gmail.com

This project is funded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and by a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership, Golden Sands RC&D, WDNR, Forest Service, and EPA are equal opportunity providers.

Conclusion:

The first year of this grant project is over and we have completed all scheduled tasks. We anticipate the treatment in 2021 to lead to reduced stem density in 2022. We look forward to continuing knotweed treatment and outreach to benefit the Tomorrow River Watershed in Portage County.

For any questions about this project, please contact:
Jacob Fluur, jacob.fluur@goldensandsrcd.org
OR
Hannah Butkiewicz, hannah.butkiewicz@goldensandsrcd.org

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

1100 Main Street, Suite 150, Stevens Point, WI 54481

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Contact: Asa Plonsky
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Invasive Plant to be Controlled in Amherst and Nelsonville

Amherst, WI - Japanese knotweed, an invasive species, is growing in several locations along the Tomorrow river in Amherst and Lake Elaine in Nelsonville. This plant has large spade-shaped leaves and stems that resemble bamboo. Japanese knotweed spreads along river corridors and creates dense patches that choke out native species. “Streambanks covered in knotweed aren’t good for wildlife. Knotweed won’t feed insects, and insects are a super important part of the food web for birds, amphibians, and other wildlife,” says Asa Plonsky, Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership coordinator. Japanese knotweed can also lead to erosion and water quality issues.

The Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership, a group within the local conservation non-profit Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., is leading a project to control Japanese knotweed on public and private lands in Amherst and Nelsonville. “Japanese knotweed will be cut multiple times in the summer to weaken the plants. Then, aquatic-approved herbicide will be applied in the fall,” explains Plonsky. “Japanese knotweed is an extremely resilient plant and careful herbicide application is the most efficient way to control it.”

Funding for this project has been provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Grant Program and the U.S. Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Cooperative Weed Management Areas Grant Program. Golden Sands RC&D, Wisconsin DNR, and the U.S. Forest Service are equal opportunity providers.

If you have any questions about the project, you can contact Asa Plonsky at 715-343-6215 ext. 707 or via email at asa.plonsky@goldensandsrcd.org.

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Golden Sands RC&D is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization celebrating 45 years of solutions for a healthy economy and a healthy environment in Central Wisconsin. We serve 12 counties in Central Wisconsin, including Adams, Green Lake, Juneau, Marathon, Marquette, Monroe, Outagamie, Portage, Taylor, Waupaca, Waushara and Wood. Program areas include sustainable agriculture, clean water, abundant wildlife, and healthy forests. For more information about Golden Sands RC&D, visit www.goldensandsrcd.org.