



**Town of Stow Conservation Commission  
Pilot Japanese Knotweed Control Program  
Application Form and Instructions**

The Stow Conservation Department has approved a townwide Order of Conditions for a pilot program permitting small-scale Japanese Knotweed control efforts by landowners, where knotweed patches are located in areas subject to the jurisdiction of the Stow Conservation Commission. The goal of this effort is to encourage landowners to undertake projects with review and oversight so as to ensure protection of the interests of the Wetlands Protection Act and Town of Stow Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is a highly aggressive invasive species that forms dense monocultures and adversely affects native plant communities. There is also strong circumstantial evidence that knotweed in stream environments increases susceptibility to bank destabilization and streambank erosion.

This permit authorizes administrative review and approval of specific Knotweed removal projects by landowners so long as the following special conditions are met. If these conditions are not met, the landowner would be required to file a separate Request for Determination of Applicability or Notice of Intent and undergo a full review by the Commission.

- 1) Work may not be located within Priority/Estimated Habitat for Rare Species (if it is, a separate MESA filing may be required) – this is a relatively small portion of Stow (see map).
- 2) All herbicides used must be applied in accordance with labeled instructions and be safe for use in and near aquatic environments (e.g. Rodeo instead of RoundUp). No foliar spraying may be conducted within 100' of vernal pools (see map). In other areas, best efforts should be made to minimize foliar spraying so as to avoid contact with other species. All herbicide application must be made either by the property owner or a licensed pesticide applicator. Herbicide treatment of Knotweed may only be conducted from July through October.
- 3) All plant material cut or removed must be burned or disposed of properly and in a manner that prevents regrowth and/or dispersal of Knotweed to new areas.
- 4) Excavation of soils is not permitted without an individual permit, with the exception of tilling of soil to break up Knotweed rhizomes. If bare patches of soil are created by removal of plants then erosion controls (straw wattle) must be installed prior to work and maintained until the area is revegetated, then removed.

5) Advance written notice for each knotweed removal project must be provided to the Conservation Department, including a sketch map and photos of the area to be treated, a brief narrative describing the methods of treatment proposed, and the proposed replanting (which must be native shrubs and trees and not lawn if within 35' of the wetland). The method of disposal of vegetative materials must also be addressed. The corners of the area to be treated shall be staked in the field. Each project should include at least five years of monitoring for knotweed regrowth.

6) A variety of treatment methodologies may be used individually or in combination under this permit. These include:

- a. Stem Inject
- b. Foliar Spray
- c. Till +spray
- d. Cut 3-5x over summer on 2-3 week cycle, spray
- e. Graze, no chemicals, following year, one of the chemical methods
- f. Vinegar concentrate, or other "organic" method. A longer-term commitment may be required for treatment
- g. Hand cutting and removal. A longer-term commitment may be required for treatment.

7) No more than 5,000 square feet of resource areas (wetlands, floodplain) or 50 linear feet of bank work may be approved under this permit. Revegetation with native species will be required.

8) Knotweed projects are approved by the Conservation Department in accordance with the Conservation Commission's Minor Project Approval Policy, which requires a site visit and notification to the Commission. Staff has the discretion to condition projects or to reject projects that are large and complicated, located in sensitive areas, or which, in their opinion, require a more detailed review by the Conservation Commission as a separate application. Staff may also limit the geographic extent of treatment or removal in any given calendar year.

9) The Commission will review this program and any lessons learned after three years and decide whether it is advancing the goals or whether it should be modified or eliminated. It is a pilot program and is not be applicable to other invasive species at this time. The results of this evaluation will also be provided to the Department of Environmental Protection.

5/2017

**Town of Stow**  
**Conservation Commission**

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**Japanese Knotweed Removal Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Assessors Map/Lot: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Scope:**

Approx. Timeframe for Proposed Work (Start/end date): \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Total SF of Knotweed Patch: \_\_\_\_\_ SF Proposed for Removal: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Distance to Wetland at Closest Point: \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Method(s) of Knotweed Removal (check all that apply and provide narrative):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide – Cut and Treat  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mowing                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide – Stem Injection | <input type="checkbox"/> Grubbing/Tilling of Rhizomes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide – Foliar Spray   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide – Glove Wiping   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Cutting and Removal     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe): _____    |   |

Proposed Method of Disposal for Knotweed Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Replanting: \_\_\_\_\_

- Sketch map of Knotweed Removal area and photographs attached
- The corners of the area to be treated have been staked in the field.
- I authorize the Conservation Commission to conduct site visits to evaluate and/or monitor this knotweed removal project
- I certify that all herbicides used for knotweed removal will be applied by the owner and/or a licensed herbicide applicator.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Signature (if different): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Stow Conservation Commission Use:  
Knotweed Removal Authorization**

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Map/Lot: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval Conditions:

1. Work is not permitted within Priority/Estimated Habitat for Rare Species.

2. All herbicides shall be applied in accordance with labeled instructions and be safe for use in and near aquatic environments (e.g. Rodeo instead of Round up) and in accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act. No foliar spraying may be conducted within 100' of vernal pools. In other areas, best efforts should be made to minimize foliar spraying so as to avoid contact with other species. Any herbicide application shall be made either by the property owner or a licensed pesticide applicator. Herbicide treatment of Knotweed shall only be conducted from July through October. **The Commission urges caution in the use of any herbicide to minimize health and ecological risks.**

3. All plant material cut or removed must be burned or disposed of properly and in a manner that prevents regrowth and/or dispersal of knotweed to new areas.

*Disposal Requirements:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Excavation of soils is not permitted without an individual permit, with the exception of tilling of soil to break up knotweed rhizomes. If bare patches of soil are created by removal of plants then erosion controls (straw wattle) shall be installed prior to work and maintained until the area is revegetated, then removed.

*Erosion Control Requirements:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Only native shrubs and trees may be planted within 35' of the wetland, no new lawn is permitted to be planted within the 35' no disturb buffer. The corners of the area to be treated shall be staked in the field. Each project should include at least five years of monitoring for knotweed regrowth.

*Planting and Monitoring Requirements:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Treatment methodologies approved:

- Stem Injection
- Foliar Spray
- Till + Spray
- Cut 3-5x over summer on 2-3 week cycle, spray
- Graze, no chemicals, following year, one of the chemical methods
- Vinegar concentrate, or other "organic" method.
- Hand cutting and removal.

7. No more than 5,000 square feet of resource area alteration (wetlands, floodplain) or 50 linear feet of bank work shall be approved on any single property under this permit. Revegetation with native species will be required.

*Limitations on Extent of Work (if any):* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. A Stow Conservation Commissioner, agent of the Commission or the Department of Environmental Protection reserves the **right to enter and inspect the property at all reasonable times**, to evaluate and/or monitor the knotweed removal project, compliance with these conditions and to require submittal of any data deemed necessary by the Commission for that evaluation. Further, work shall be halted on the site if the Commissioner, agent or DEP determines that any of the work is not in compliance with this Order. Work shall not resume until the Commission is satisfied that the work will comply, and has so notified the applicant in writing.

9. All work shall be performed in accordance with the Minor Project Approval or as specified in this Order of Conditions. Any deviation from the Minor Project Approval shall require prior approval from the Stow Conservation Commission. This may require a separate Request for Determination of Applicability or Notice of Intent and undergo a full review by the Commission.

10. No filling of land beyond the limits or above the grades on the submitted plans is authorized.

11. The areas of tilling shall remain in a stable condition at the close of each treatment day. Erosion controls shall be inspected at this time, and repaired or reinforced or replaced as necessary.

12. If disturbed areas are not permanently stabilized by the end of the growing season, the owner must monitor the area and install or repair erosion controls to protect the resource area.

13. There shall be no outside storage of herbicide, or other potentially hazardous materials within the 35 foot buffer.

14. All waste and excavated material shall be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws. Any soil containing knotweed rhizomes shall be considered contaminated and disposed of appropriately.

15. All fill material brought onto the site shall be clean fill and reasonably free of invasive species.

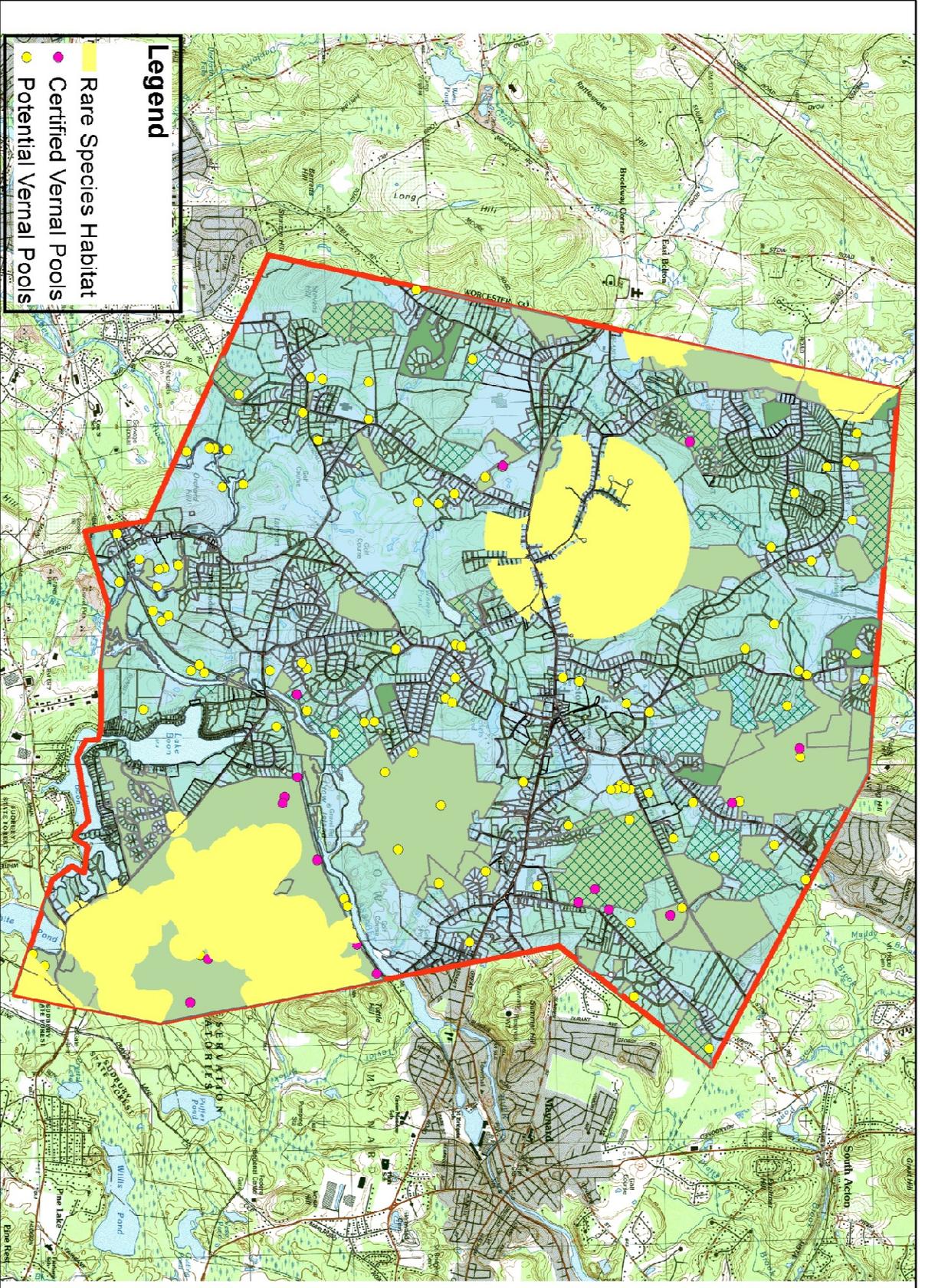
16. Additional Conditions (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Date of Site Visit: \_\_\_\_\_       Confirmed Not in Rare Species Habitat       Vernal Pool  
 Approved as Conditioned Above  
 Denied, filing an individual project application with the Conservation Commission is required.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Treatment Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Stow Knotweed Pilot Project Area

