

Environment Report

1. Riverwood Park – Japanese Knotweed

- A large patch of Japanese Knotweed has been identified in the City of Ottawa's Riverwood Park, near the north end of Kimberwick Crescent. This invasive plant is one of the most harmful threats to forest health and among the hardest to eradicate.
- It is not a toxic plant for humans, however, and is not on the list of invasive plants which City staff are seeking to eliminate – even when it appears in an Environmental Zone near the Rideau River.
- The HCCA is already dealing with other invasive species in Paul Landry Park and the Hunt Club Creek, and it would be extremely difficult to maintain a long-term project of this kind on our own. We will request a visit to the site by City of Ottawa and RVCA staff to provide an initial assessment of our options for dealing with this invasive plant.

2. City of Ottawa – Invasive Plants Program

- At Councillor Brockington's suggestion, we have reached out to Sharon Boddy at the "Friends of Carlington Woods/Hampton Park" for their experience with Japanese Knotweed.
- Sharon has confirmed our view that the City of Ottawa is not devoting sufficient resources to dealing with invasive plants – the stewardship grants program is overwhelmed and there appears to be only one staff member devoted to this issue.
- As a result, we are tabling the following **draft motion** for discussion. We will consult with partners (e.g. OSEAN, OFNC) and return to the HCCA's October meeting with a revised motion for approval.
 - *Whereas: There is an ever-increasing presence of invasive plant species throughout the Hunt Club community; these species have a negative effect on the entire ecosystem; considerable labour is required to remove them; and the City's grant programs for volunteer action on this issue are overwhelmed;*
 - *It is resolved that: The Hunt Club Community Association requests the City of Ottawa to find the funds to hire additional staff to help manage this situation (beyond the one person hired in 2026) and to develop a long-term action plan for dealing with the threats posed by invasive plant species.*