

Restoring Native Landscapes: Managing Invasive Plants at Goodrich Park

A York Conservation Commission and York
Parks & Recreation Department Partnership

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Outline

- Explain what invasive plant species are
- Describe ecological, recreational, and economic impacts
- Summarize project goals for Goodrich Park
- Show mechanical controls (forestry mulching) and follow-up herbicide use
- Provide local (southern Maine & seacoast NH) examples and recommendations
- Long-term outcomes, recommendations and next steps
- Encourage community involvement and monitoring



What are invasive plants?

- Non-native species that spread rapidly and harm native ecosystems
- Outcompete native plants, alter habitats, reduce biodiversity
- Examples found at Goodrich Park: Japanese knotweed, Asiatic bittersweet, common and glossy buckthorn, honeysuckle sp., European privet, Japanese barberry, burning bush, multiflora rose, black locust, Norway maple, Autumn olive



Why removal matters

Ecological: protect native habitat, wildlife food/shelter, and soil health

Safety & access: dense thickets impede trails and visibility

Economic: reduce long-term management costs & protect property values

Regulatory/public expectation: maintain park and municipal assets



Glossy Buckthorn



Kaily Rich



Kaily Rich

Wildlife That Benefit from Native Habitats

- New England Cottontail — needs dense native shrubland (conservation priority)
- Monarch butterflies — rely on native milkweed for reproduction
- Eastern bluebirds and many songbirds — feed on insects supported by native oaks and shrubs
- Aquatic species (beaver, mink, ducks) benefit from native shoreland buffers



Kate O'Brien



Kate O'Brien



Integrated Management Strategy

1. Site survey & mapping (identify target species and sensitive areas)
2. Mechanical and manual clearing (forestry mulching and hand cutting/pulling) in priority zones
3. Immediate cleanup & erosion control (mulch, seed disturbed areas where needed)
4. Targeted follow-up herbicide treatments on resprouts (certified applicators) (years 1–3+)
5. Replanting with natives + ongoing monitoring (5+ years)

Mechanical control: Forestry Mulching

- What it is: on-site machine grinds vegetation into mulch; removes stems/brush
- Benefits: quick clearing, minimal soil scraping, leaves organic material in place
- Follow-up needed: may not remove roots/rhizomes (knotweed, buckthorn), will stimulate resprouting



Nicholas White



Forestry mulching examples

- BEFORE: dense invasive thicket (e.g., bittersweet, honeysuckle, multiflora rose)
- AFTER: invasive plants mulched, larger trees remain, open ground ready for follow-up and native planting

Targeted Herbicide Best Practices

- Time treatments for species lifecycle (e.g., late summer for knotweed foliar, cut-stem + basal bark for woody species)
- Minimize non-target exposure: spot-spray, wick applicators, cut-stem treatments
- Permits, label compliance, and public notification are essential





Monitoring & Native Revegetation

- Multi-year monitoring (annually for 3–5 years, then periodically)
- Replant disturbed areas with site-appropriate native species
- Prioritize high-value habitats and recreation corridors for early follow-up
- Use volunteers for removal days; contractors for technical treatments



Regional examples

Falmouth, ME — partnership with Land Trust Project/ invasive management across preserves cutting/mulching, selective herbicide application, replanting natives

Results: gradual return of native understory species and pollinators

Ogunquit, ME — Marginal Way/ ecological gardening & invasive removal along coastal trail; targeted removal of invasive plants; native shrub planting Outcomes: improved scenic views and enhanced pollinator habitat

Kittery, ME — Fort Foster/ completed invasive plant inventory and multi-year plan (town/consultant partnership).

Portsmouth, NH — North Mill Pond / city conservation plans include selective removal + native replanting.

Kennebunk, ME — Rogers Pond volunteer days & town restoration work targeting knotweed and other invasives.

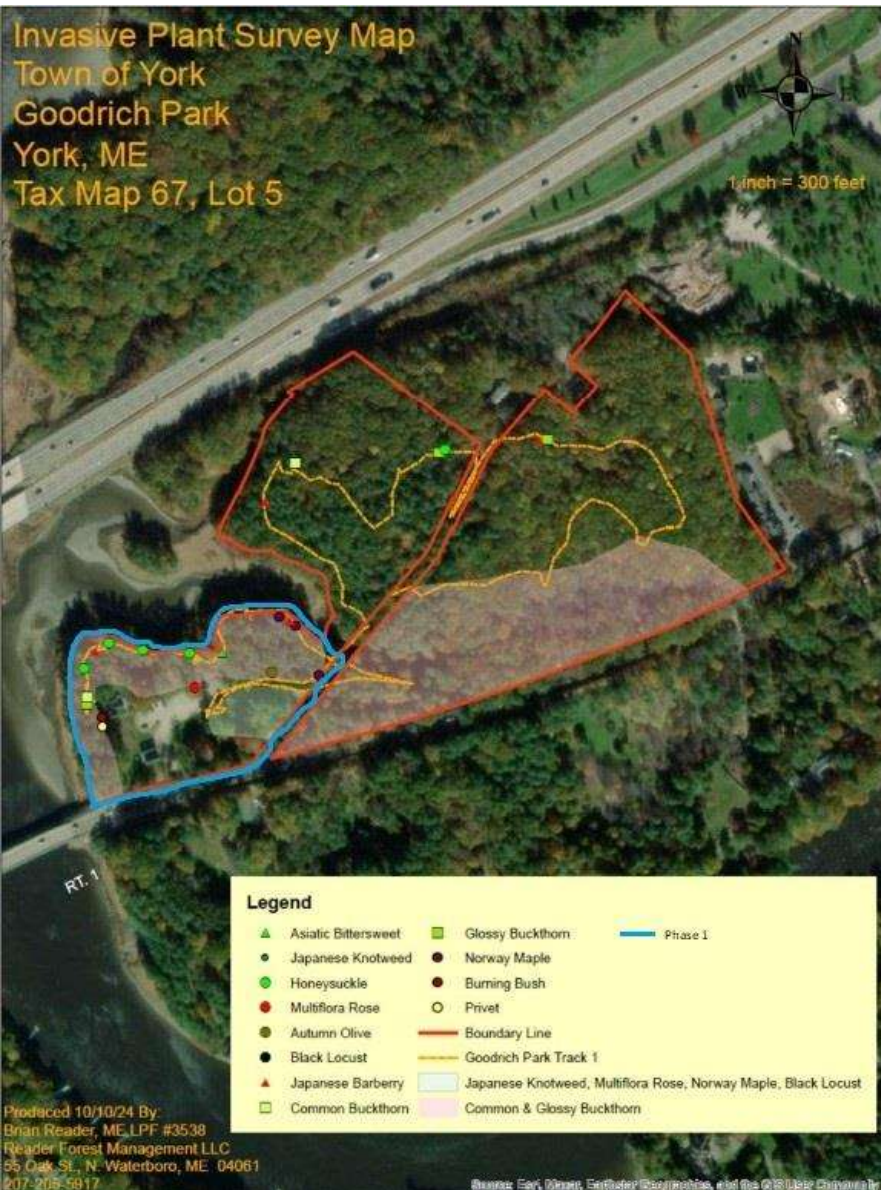




Habitat restoration goals for Goodrich Park

- Restore healthy ecosystem
- Enhance the beauty of the park and positive connection with nature
- Use the park as a demonstration site to promote awareness and tools for managing invasive plants in their own yards

Invasive Plant Survey Map
Town of York
Goodrich Park
York, ME
Tax Map 67, Lot 5



Goodrich Park

GOOD RICH PARK YORK

Untitled layer
Polygon 1
INVASIVE PROJECT.



Steven Brook



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What to expect



Nicholas White

- Before: dense thickets, limited access, monocultures of invasives
- During: areas cleared (stump/resprout follow-up), equipment visible, temporary disturbance
- After (1–3 years): resprouts managed; native seedlings established with follow-up care
- Long-term: increased biodiversity, improved access, reduced invasive cover with monitoring, healthier environment for wildlife and humans



Kaily Rich



Community Call to Action



- Volunteer for removal & monitoring days
- Plant native species and avoid invasives in landscaping
- Report sightings to iMapInvasives
- Support town budgets for multi-year management