

Incorporating Invasive Alien Species into Municipal Planning **Recommendations for the Town of Annapolis Royal's "Green Plan"**

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Background

In May 2008, the Town of Annapolis Royal approached the Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP) to propose ways in which the Town might incorporate invasive alien species (IAS) into their long-term planning. Specifically, the Town requested some input on IAS policy to consider for their "Green Plan" document, which has a deadline of 31 December 2008.

Canadian municipal plans incorporating IAS policy are either rare or difficult to find. Ways in which the Town might approach IAS in a proactive, yet conservative manner in their "Green Plan" include the following four measures: Identification, Better Management Practices (BMP), Public Outreach and Education, Long Term Management. Each measure is described in more detail below.

Elements

1. Identification
 - a. Public – Identification of areas that have been colonized by IAS
 - b. Private – Determination of extent of colonization on privately owned land within the town (perhaps through a plant-watch type initiative)
2. Better Management Practices (BMP)
 - a. Develop a set of BMP that could be followed by Town employees for the known and future sites i.e.
 - i. Proper disposal of invasive plant material by double bagging, drying or burning (e.g. not composting).
 - ii. No planting of alien invasives on town property (this requires a list of known invasives – available from CARP).
 - iii. Encouraging native species by removing known invasives.

NOTE: CARP has developed a set of BMP for locally problematic terrestrial invasive plants; including glossy buckthorn and common reed (see attached). These could be used by the Town of Annapolis Royal as an interim measure until such time as Town documents were created.
 - b. Work with private sector to adopt the appropriate BMP for home and small business owners.
3. Public Outreach and Education
 - a. General mandate for education of public in order to facilitate the removal of, the prevention and timely reporting of spread of any invasive species (recommend making information available on Town website, perhaps making a list of IAS information on the CARP website).

- b. Information session/mail out/publication for people to able to identify the most common/problematic species and general best management practices as identified in the above section (recommend an annual presentation to Town staff, including Public Works Dept., and possibly quarterly updates in the Town newsletter).
 - c. Signage around marsh, wharf, other public areas, detailing how to spot them, the damage they do to the natural ecosystem and what to do if any are found on your property (reach visitors to areas, promoting stewardship) – this is also a great way to begin incorporating aquatic invasive species into planning.
4. Long Term Management
- a. General mandate for control/eradication of plants on town property (i.e. marsh). Given that CARP has initiated management of the invasive plant glossy buckthorn in the Annapolis Royal Marsh, a long-term commitment by the Town to see this project through would be a natural starting point.
 - b. Gradual increase to target multiple species (start with most problematic/evident).
 - c. A database of efforts made to control/eradicate invasive species established (e.g. Volunteer monitoring programs like “Plant Patrol NS” to alert Town to new occurrences, and maintain up date records/databases).
 - d. Mandate for tourism and trail development: only native species planted for ornamentals to avoid loss of plants (wasted dollars and effort). Possibly consider native-only gardens on Town property (interesting from public outreach perspective too), and native-only plantings in the marsh.
 - e. Investigate the pathways/vectors of transportation and spread and effort made to reduce that.
 - f. Form long-term partnerships with community groups (e.g. CARP, naturalists, skate park advocates, etc.) to assist with management activities.

Resources

Aquatic Invaders

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/international/canada.shtml>

<http://www.invadingspecies.com/indexen.cfm>

<http://biology.mcgill.ca/faculty/leung/invasivetracers/>

Brochures/BMP

http://www.annapolisriver.ca/projects/ias_main.htm

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/brochures-reports.aspx>

<http://www.saanich.ca/resident/environment/invasive.html>

Government

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/eee-ias/Default.asp?lang=En&n=C4637128-1>

<http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/compendium/index.php>

Policy/Action Plans

<http://www.obs-sbo.ca/?section=12&subsection=74&gid=4&id=26>

<http://www.saanich.ca/municipal/clerks/bylaws/weeds8080.pdf>

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/invenv/action/phase2e.shtml>

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/alien_species_framework_BC_0205.pdf

Other

<http://www.rbg.ca/cbcn/en/projects/invasives/index.htm>

http://www.elements.nb.ca/Theme/invasive_species/sean/blaney.htm