

2016 Wild Parsnip Strategy

Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee

Public Works Department

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Background

- On January 1, 2015, Wild Parsnip was classified by the Province as a noxious weed
- Slowly invades unmaintained areas, but reproduces rapidly once established
- Seeds can lie dormant making it difficult to contain
- Rapid regeneration reduces biodiversity
- Poses potential negative impacts to residents and field operations staff as it continues to spread

2015 Strategy

- Initial mapping exercise was conducted in 2014
- Accelerated Grass Cutting
- Application of ClearView herbicide in highly infested areas
- Consulted an Agronomist
- Remapped infestation areas
- Met with stakeholders

2015 Education & Awareness Campaign

- Conducted an education and public health awareness campaign



THIS IS WHAT WILD PARSNIP LOOKS LIKE:



EARLY GROWTH



IN BLOOM



MATURE PLANT

For information on reporting it on City property and ways to remove it on your own property, go to www.ottawa.ca/wildparsnip or call 3-1-1.

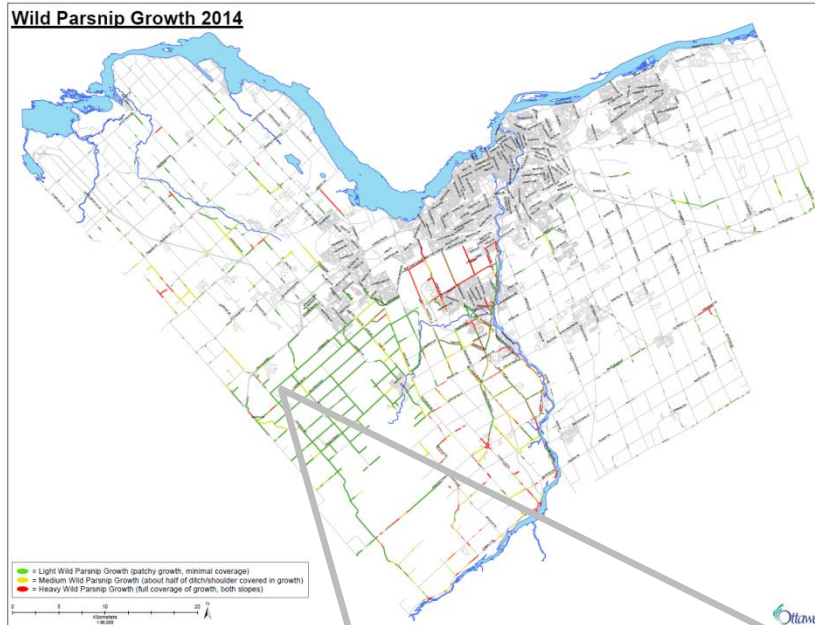


ottawa.ca
3-1-1    
TTY 613-580-2401

Wild Parsnip Growth

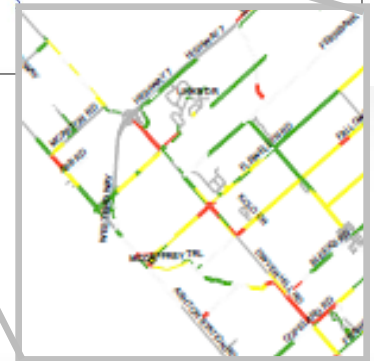
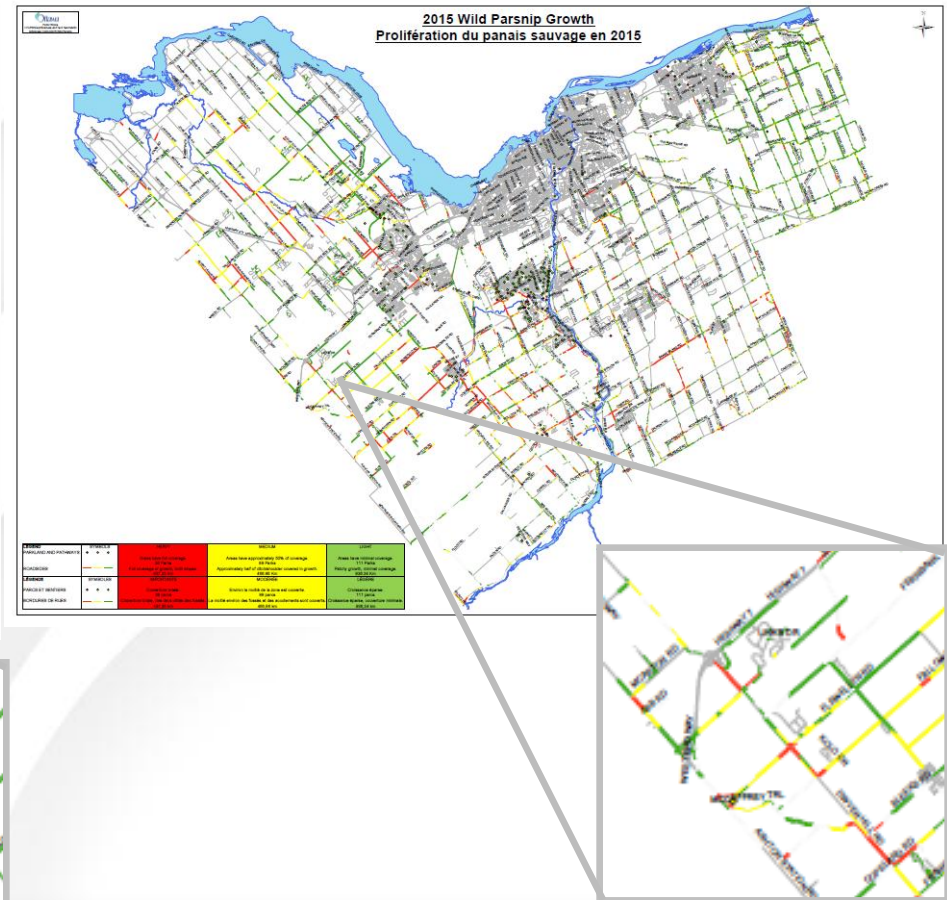
2014

Wild Parsnip Growth 2014



2015

2015 Wild Parsnip Growth
Prolifération du panais sauvage en 2015



2015 Results & Findings

- Mowing is not a successful strategy on its own to decrease Wild Parsnip infestation levels
 - Only controls the spread of the weed when cut at the appropriate times
- Herbicides are a useful tool to supplement existing strategies (e.g. mowing)
- Herbicides are most effective in mid/late May, or if targeting new growth in the fall
- Remapping concluded that infestation spread

2016 Strategy

- Budget of \$198,000 available in 2016
- Continue with accelerated mowing
- Continue ClearView application in the spring and test Truvist
- Evaluate methods using an Agronomist
- Remap infestation levels
- Continue to engage stakeholders

2016 Communication & Awareness Campaign

- Communicate with Councillors and update Ottawa.ca on a weekly basis with a list of spray locations
- Work with partners on consistent signage for high infestation areas
- Work with MOECC to ensure the content and wording of the notification meets MOECC requirements
- In addition to health risk, increase focus on risk to biodiversity