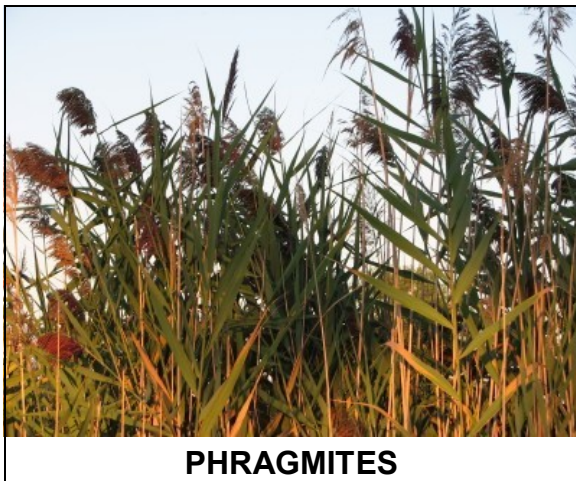


WE'RE OFF AND RUNNING: MAPPING THE LOCATION OF INVASIVE PLANTS ON A MAP OF THE TOWN OF ROCKPORT.

As we identify the locations of invasive plants here in Rockport, each separate species will be color-coded individually on our own map.

The mapping site and system that I can access is from a citizen-based nation-wide website that collects data from citizen observations which is then used for natural resource management, scientific studies and environmental education. I was introduced to this site by Rockport's Laura Hallowell who has been working on mapping and eradicating pepperberry as part of an Audubon project in the Great Marsh from Salisbury to Essex.

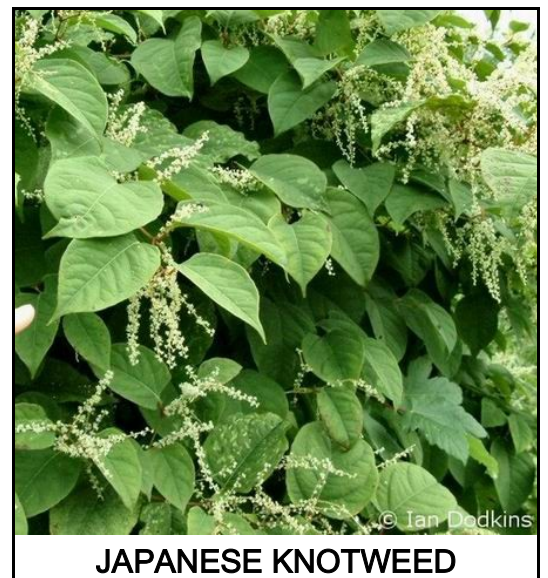


PHRAGMITES

Species to be mapped first on our map are phragmites and Japanese knotweed. If you know of these invasives in your yard or anywhere in town, I need to know about it. 82 Marmion Way and 34 Eden Road residences have been pinpointed on the map so far as locations for Japanese knotweed and phragmites. Henry's Pond and the Loblolly area will be added next. If a street address can be given, it makes

mapping easier, but pointing out an area by giving adjacent roads would also suffice. The map points are actual GPS Lat-Lon locations. Your input is important and will help us move the mapping work forward.

For now, we won't be mapping purple loosestrife. Cornell's many years studying the use of the garucella beetle to eliminate this plant is showing success and the beetles are migrating to new areas targeting the plants. So although we know where this and other invasives are in town, for now we will map just the phragmites and Japanese knotweed.



JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Late August and September is the time to tackle an actual project. Although it's still vacation and back to work/school time, I hope that a handful of our members will be willing to spend not more than 2 hours cutting and treating a manageable plot.

This is so in keeping with our Bylaw's objective to 'aid in the protection of native plants and wildlife.' Please email me your name if you are interested in being part of this first effort and I will get back to you with details as we get closer to an appropriate time. Thanks.

Nan Blue