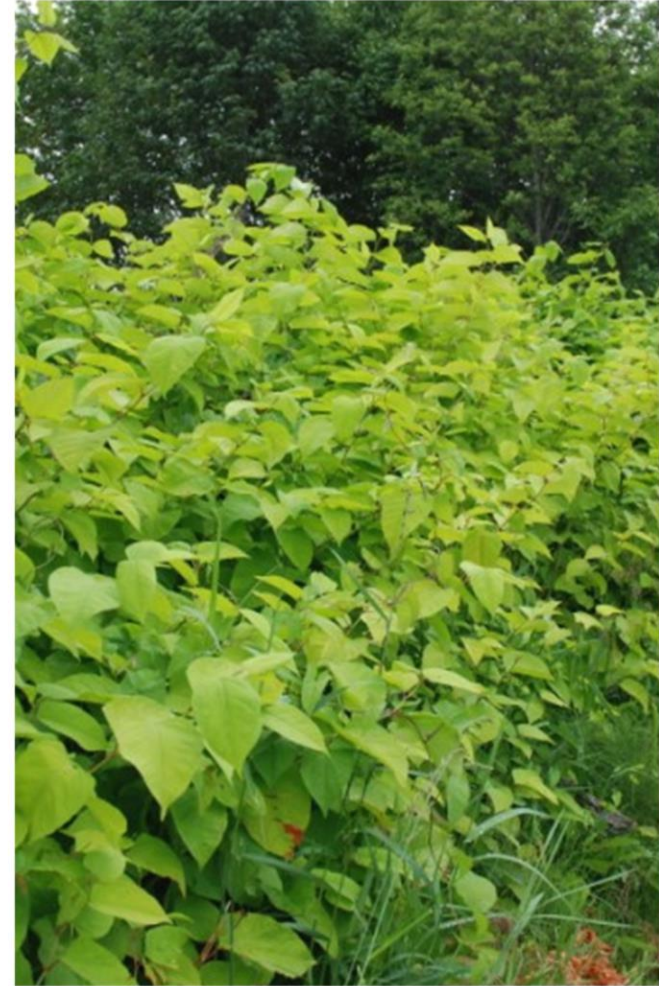


KNOTWEED

Knot our Friend
Impacts and Solutions in
Bright Angel Park



INVASIVES 101

- **Invasive species** are **plants** and **animals** not native to **B.C.** or are outside their natural distribution area.
- They can spread rapidly, outcompete and predate on native **species**, dominate natural and managed areas, and alter biological communities.
- Scotch Broom and Giant Hogweed are examples in our neighborhoods. Now we also have Knotweed.
- Knotweed highly invasive – in some countries like the UK this plant is causing havoc and economic stress



PILOT KNOTWEED TREATMENT PROJECT

- Cowichan Tribes was contacted and has been included in our pilot project.
- Chemical removal not possible in riparian area
- Manual removal of Knotweed on 5 sites in Bright Angel Park for 5 years.
- Success in reducing the volume of knotweed each year. Some sites are not showing any regrowth in their last year.
- Other none treatment sites are growing at a rapid rate and invading more and more of the rivers riparian area.
- High priority to focus on removal before it gets any worse
- Our treatment methods are effective



OPPORTUNITY

- Increase the Bright Angel Invasive Plant Management budget to:
 - Map where and how much knotweed is now in Bright Angel Park
 - Continue the repeat cutting of knotweed on 5 pilot sites
 - Estimated costs \$5,000
 - Capacity/relationship build by using a First Nations contractor
- Use the project to bring more awareness of the Koksilah Watershed and ignite the Koksilah Community
- Generate information to better understand the issue faced in the Park
- Increase the park health and protect important habitat



BOTTOM LINE

- The Koksilah is teetering on a dangerous precipice. Knotweed is getting a good foothold. Every year the untreated patches are bigger.
- Native vegetation is being choked out and the natural riparian areas are being lost
- Doing something now before it is too late is important
- We have proven it can be managed.
- Year 1 - \$5,000 to map the extent of infestation and continue management of pilot sites
- Good decisions now will lead to a better ecological and economic future
- We need to cross that bridge together



HUY TSEEP Q'U

WHAT DO YOU THINK? – QUESTIONS\COMMENTS

