

ELLA Summer Workshop

Invasive Species: Considerations for Conservation Planning

Saturday, July 19, 2008

Notes from: What Can We Do? Brainstorming & Discussion Session

Facilitated by *Emilie Hauser, The Estuary Training Program, Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve*

1) Town ordinances

- Westchester County has executive order to plant only native species on County land
 - Towns could create similar executive order for natives, to not plant invasive species in new development & public spaces
- -Consider: how to enforce?
- Developing best management practices
- POTENTIAL ORDINANCES:
 - Requiring developers to mitigate IP's on new building sites
 - Against bringing in fill from other areas, which may contain weeds & IP seeds
 - Against planting IP's on public property: parks, libraries, etc.
 - Banning selling invasive plants at annual plant sales in towns
 - Executive Order to plant native demonstration gardens in towns & counties
 - For nurseries: not to sell any invasives
 - Declaration of an IP as "noxious": to allocate money towards control
- Education is important: accomplish through the town? (town website, events, etc.)
- Take health & safety into account: incentive to control invasives (ie- removal of dead ash trees--- killed by invasive insect--- to protect against falling)
- Invasive plants do provide habitat (ie- better than nothing): carefully assess sites & develop ideal plan

2) Site reviews

- Best management practices:
 - fill (imported soil) not containing IP's or seeds
 - use "manufactured soil" as substitute
 - requires communication
- Native plantings: incentives to plant in new development sites
- Propose ordinances based on repeat findings in site reviews, & educate
- Invasive inventory of site: biodiversity analysis (resource: Watershed Ag. Council)

3) Education

-How to reach various entities?

-CAC's ask Town Boards for support, BUT--- town boards are busy, need to find other ways...

-Resources: PRISM, DEC, Watershed Agricultural Council (Grants, from forestry standpoint)

-Watershed Agricultural Council is good resource— will do a report on a property with recommendations for IP management

- DEC: has urban forester, rural forester, who can visit sites
- Compile resources & present benefits to community, through ELLA Listserve or other mechanism
- How to fund? Find sponsors: approach companies, both large corporate & small local
- Educate highway departments about IP's: identification & control/prevention of spread
- Web-based information—link to
- Educate public about how invasives spread from town fall leaf (& yard debris) pick-up

4) Other town opportunities (road crews, volunteer weed pulls, public buildings/native plantings)

- Town-wide management plan: Priorities- linkage/communication
 - 3 categories:
 1. Research
 2. Organization
 3. Management
- Volunteers: linkage/communication
 - 3 R's for volunteers: Recruit, Recognize, Retain
 - Recruiting volunteers: publicize need
 - Recognize volunteers: provide with tools, thank you's
 - Retain: volunteer considerations
 - liability
 - Union-paid employees vs. volunteers
 - safety concerns
- Best management practices
 - At all levels: town, county, region
- Showing by example: "Volunteer Code of Conduct": town, highway department
- Go through Master Plans of towns
- Memorializing resolutions
 - eg: burning fields- NY State trying to ban
- Neighbor Notification law: on county level—Westchester, Putnam, Rockland: must notify neighbors about pesticide use. Does this help or hinder IP control?
 - retail stores, homeowners, commercial companies must comply
- ***NY STATE DEC website is a good resource: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/>