



# **Wild Parsnip Management Strategy**

**Ontario Invasive  
Plant Council –  
Conference & AGM  
October 11, 2017**

# City of Ottawa Wild Parsnip Strategy

- Background/Concerns
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- 2016 Strategy
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- Test Plots Monitoring
- Findings
- Awareness Campaign
- Next Steps



# Background/Concerns

- January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, identified as a noxious weed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
- 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.

# Wild Parsnip in Ottawa

- Staff identified areas of highly infested rural roadsides and parklands and mapped the infestation levels.
- Initially, higher levels were found in the south and west areas of the City, especially on streets bordering Barrhaven and Kanata.

	2015	2016	2017
<b>Roads</b>	209 kms	829 kms	800 kms
<b>Parks</b>	7 parks	41 parks	61 parks
<b>Total Budget</b>	\$100,000	\$198,000	\$198,000

Heavy wild parsnip growth





# 2015 Wild Parsnip Strategy

**Focus:** Pilot herbicide treatment in several locations, increase mowing, a monitoring project, and an education strategy and public health awareness campaign

## 2015 Strategy:

- Initial infestation level mapping exercise was conducted in 2014
  - The infestation level mapping was used to select pilot sites for Clearview
- Increased mowing frequency
- Monitored the progress (Agronomist)
- Conducted/Updated Wild Parsnip infestation mapping
- Education and public health awareness campaign



**EARLY GROWTH**



**IN BLOOM**



**MATURE PLANT**

# 2016 Wild Parsnip Strategy

**Focus:** Ensure effective strategy is in place with minimal impact to residents. Piloted two herbicides (Clearview and Truvist) while monitoring for environmental impacts.

## 2016 Strategy:

- 1) Identified several locations for herbicide application (Clearview)
- 2) Identified pilot locations for Truvist testing
- 3) Monitored the progress (Agronomist)
- 4) Conducted/Updated Wild Parsnip infestation mapping
- 5) Education and public health awareness campaign



# 2017 Wild Parsnip Strategy

**Focus:** Herbicide treatment in same area as previous year and continue to pilot Truvist, while monitoring for environmental impacts.

## 2017 Strategy:

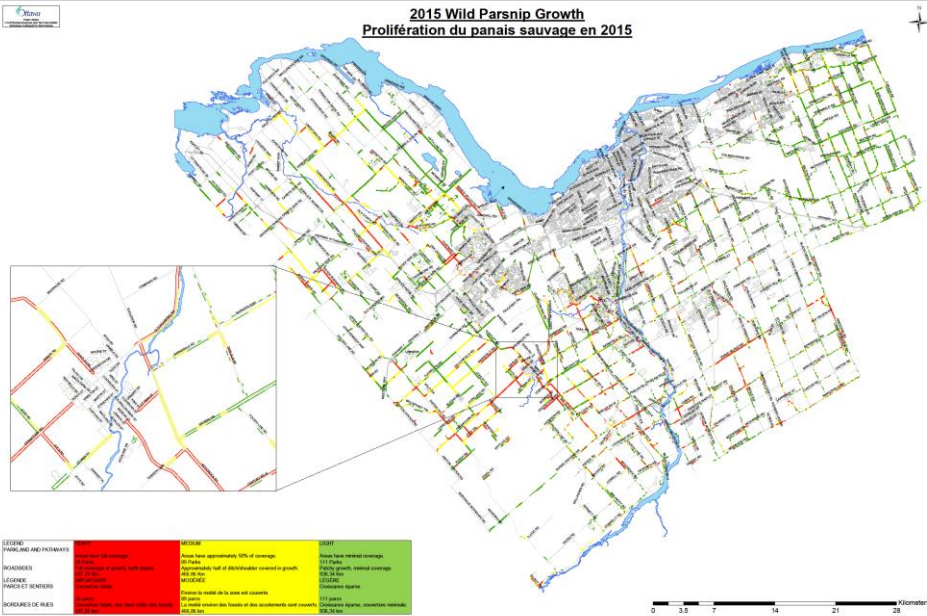
- 1) Continued herbicide application (Clearview) in same areas
- 2) Identified pilot locations for Truvist testing (Roadside and Parkland)
- 3) Monitored the progress
- 4) Conducted/Updated Wild Parsnip infestation mapping
- 5) Education and public health awareness campaign
- 6) Piloted fall spraying program



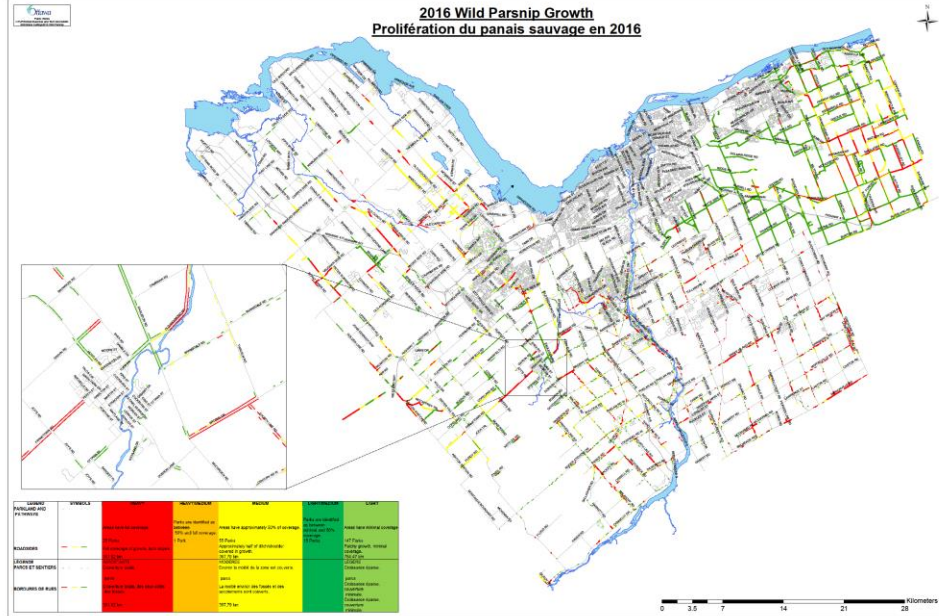


# Wild Parsnip Growth

**2015 Wild Parsnip Growth**  
Prolifération du panais sauvage en 2015



**2016 Wild Parsnip Growth**  
Prolifération du panais sauvage en 2016





# Wild Parsnip – 2015 Infestation levels



# Wild Parsnip – 2017 Infestation levels



# Test plots

- 4 test plots were monitored
  - Different product used:
    - Clearview
    - Truvist
  - Impact of treatment on vegetation
- 4 test plots locations:
  - 3 on the roadside
  - 1 in parkland
- Each location had:
  - control area
  - Truvist treated area
  - Clearview treated area
- Monitoring/Data Collection
  - Before spraying
  - 3 weeks after spraying
  - End of season



# Test plots

## 2017 Wild Parnsip Strategy South

NOTES: Spraying Done on  
South Side of Barnsdale Road



Clearview

Truvist

Control

0 10 20 40 60 80 Meters





# Test plots



# Test plots - Observations

- Truvist test plots
  1. Effective on Wild parsnip, Thistle, Ragweed, Queen's Anne lace and broadleaf weeds
  2. Did not affect Milkweed and most long grasses
  3. 2017 – Wild Parsnip plants were dead but were bearing weeds
  
- Clearview test plots
  1. Broadleaf weeds were killed and other bushes/trees like sumac browned but came back
  2. Did not affect Milkweed or long grasses
  3. Wild Parsnip mature plants were dead
  4. Wild Parsnip immature plants were growing



# Findings

- Mowing alone does not decrease infestation levels in rural areas, especially in the short term.
- Mowing can contribute to the control of the spread when cut at specific times, but other factors can contribute to spread.
- The best time to apply the herbicide is from mid to late May and target the new growth in the fall (juvenile plants)
  - Piloting spraying program in the fall in a few parkland areas
  - Monitoring the effectiveness of the fall program for further consideration/inclusion into the City's WP Strategy
- Targeting new growth in the spring showed to be very effective in decreasing the infestation level
- A 5-6 year strategy is likely required to control the spread

# Awareness Campaign

HERBICIDE APPLICATION TO CONTROL

## WILD PARSNIP



FIRST YEAR WILD PARSNIP LEAVES



WILD PARSNIP'S YELLOW FLOWER



WILD PARSNIP IN LATE SUMMER

### WHAT

The City of Ottawa and our contractors will be applying herbicides adjacent to your property to control and reduce the infestation of Wild Parsnip. The herbicide Clearview has been selected considering its effectiveness to control Wild Parsnip, the protection of public health and environmental impacts.

### WHY

As of January 1, 2015, Wild Parsnip was identified as a noxious weed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Toxic sap found in Wild Parsnip leaves, stems and flowers can cause severe skin rashes and makes skin hypersensitive to sunlight.

### WHEN

Locations will be signed prior to herbicide application.

### WHERE

Highly infested areas along rural roadsides and pathways will be treated with herbicide. If you do not want the herbicide applied to areas adjacent to your property, you can opt out by contacting Amanda Brown within one week of receiving this notice at Amanda.Brown@ottawa.ca or 613-580-2424 ext. 21115.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WILD PARSNIP:  
CONTACT 3-1-1 OR OTTAWA.CA

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



Access the city's social media streams



EARLY GROWTH  
AU DÉBUT DE SA CROISSANCE



IN BLOOM  
EN PLEIN FLORAISON



MATURE PLANT  
LA PLANTE MATURE

The sap from Wild Parsnip can cause severe skin irritation and make the skin prone to severe burning and blistering when exposed to the sun.

La sève peut causer une irritation de la peau et la rendre sujette aux brûlures graves et aux cloques en cas d'exposition au soleil.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
POUR EN SAVOIR PLUS

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

## 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](http://www.ottawa.ca/wildparsnip) or call 3-1-1.

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



# Next Steps

- Continue the annual Wild Parsnip infestation level mapping
- Meet with various stakeholders to discuss wild parsnip management strategies
- Continue communication with Councillors and updates on Ottawa.ca
- Investigate community and farming partnerships going forward.
- In addition to health risk, increase focus on risk to biodiversity
- Promote the Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System (EDDMaps Ontario)



# Thank you!

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