

Japanese Knotweed Control 2024

Craftsbury VT Conservation Commission



This new sign replaces the old, faded one. The photo with the dog and 8' road sign shows the area before any knotweed control work was started.

2024 Craftsbury Conservation Commission work on the Watershed Grant from VT Fish and Wildlife



Before 2024 work.

JK (Japanese Knotweed) on **8/30/23** after an earlier cut. The gully from TH19 is knee deep where this Sterling College student is standing. All summer of 2024 volunteers cut and dug JK to stay ahead of cur construction of willow dams, installation of the drying rack, removal of rocks, and placement of fascines.

WILLOW CHECK DAMS 4/15/24



TH19 roadside bank showing gullies



Sterling College students, on *All College Service Day*, built willow check dams to keep erosion from the road from flowing into the stream.

DRYING RACK 5/3/24



On Sterling College's *All College Work Day*, seven students and Farley Brown, their instructor, cut and dug JK in the area where a drying rack would be placed. It was made of chicken wire nailed on old lumber placed on wood blocks. Roots were cut off the JK stalks and placed here to dry until no longer viable. Little Hosmer Pond is at left.

In addition, we cut this whole approximately 90-foot-long area, and found one bunch of purple trillium, a few plants of invasive garlic mustard and small areas of invasive goutweed growing under the JK. Nothing else grew in this JK forest except three very large invasive honeysuckles.

In the afternoon, Elinor Osborn and Farley Brown met with Ben Matthews of DEC who gave advice on laying erosion fabric: "Lay only on level areas, and not over stream bank. Can also lay on steep slope if upper edge is put in a trench and buried with soil dug from trench and big stones so no water can run under the fabric. The Town could put ditch rock under the fall from each culvert. The Town might be able to cover the steep slope with ditch rock if it is a minimum of 1' vertical for 1 1/2' horizontal. Town also could put ditch rock in the gullies from TH19."



8/1 We discovered that covering the roots on the drying rack with white plastic cooked and dried them faster

U23 work day 6/25/24



U23 (under the age of 23) athletes from the Craftsbury Outdoor Center spent the afternoon digging JK. This photo shows the sprouting willow check dams with road erosion built up to about a foot behind them. The town road crew had filled the gullies with ditch rock which was not stopping erosion and had JK growing up between rocks. We could not dig or pull JK, the roots were so constricted by the rock. So we decided to remove the rock.

STEEP SLOPE EROSION FABRIC 8/26/24



Two intrepid mountain goat volunteers laid the fabric on this slope (same slope, three views) and stapled it down. They secured the fabric at the top using Ben Matthews' (of DEC) directions.

Site tour for the community 8/26/24



That evening we led a tour of the site to show the community what we were doing. Farley Brown explains. Approximately 25 people attended.

Sterling College's All College Service Day 8/28/24



More digging

REMOVING THE DITCH ROCK FILL



6/27/24 JK has been cut from the ditch rock fill in order to remove the rock from the gullies off TH19.

More work on TH19 road bank 9/5/24



Rocks removed from TH19 gullies for town to take back.



9/17 The area outlined in red shows where rocks were removed and the gully filled. The whole road bank with its many gullies had the same treatment.



Volunteers dug down 4' to remove JK from the embankment.

Sterling College's All College Work Day 10/2/24



A student has cut JK on part of the 4' high stream bank with more to cut. Digging JK roots will be done there next spring in 2025 when we can have green fascines ready to immediately stake into the stream bank to hold it.



Other students machete-cut JK on the steep slopes alongside Cole Rd where erosion fabric was not installed.

Farley Brown's Sterling College Watershed Class 10/8/24



Farley Brown's Watershed Class staked non-growing fascines on the 4' high stream bank to give more stabilization to the bank over the winter.



Carrying stalks to the stalk pile from more cutting this day. After the roots were cut off to place on the drying rack, stalks were removed to a drying pile on the ground since we found they do not re-root as long as there is no evidence of root growth on them.

FINAL PLACING AND STAPLING OF FABRIC 10/13/24



Pulling fabric into place



placing fabric



stapling fabric



Rocks to help hold fabric at top of TH19 slope

FABRIC WORK COMPLETED



From sycamore tree on west end looking east. Outlet stream is on right



Looking from east to west. Stream is on left.



Looking west from the Cole Rd side.

On 9/10/24 the Hardwick Gazette published a short article on our work.

<https://hardwickgazette.org/2024/09/10/ccc-knotweed-project-awarded-demonstration-project-grant/>

So far the fabric has been preventing road erosion from going down to the stream.

We are keeping the “like a lawn” area weed whacked to show what lawn mowing can do; and also weed whacking the Cole Rd side because we do not have the resources to do anything further there.

Besides cutting slits in the fabric for native plantings next spring, we hope to finish clearing JK from the small east end area we did not have time to clear this season.

We had the following volunteers who put in 606+ hours of work at the site:

20 community members

8 Conservation Commission members

10 U23 (under age 23) athletes from the Craftsbury Outdoor Center

3 GRP (Green Racing Project) top athletes also from the Craftsbury Outdoor Center

41 Sterling College Students and Faculty

Conservation Commission members also put in 59+ computer hours

Respectfully submitted 1/6/25 Elinor Osborn