

2024 Invasive Species Survey Report – North Country CISMA

Results at a glance:

Surveys took place from public roads and alleys

Total infested parcels: 753 parcels (many contain multiple invasive species)

- Invasive bittersweet: 511 parcels
- Tree of heaven: 470 parcels
- **Japanese knotweed: 24 parcels**

Tentative Plans for 2025

- Complete written Invasive Species Management Plan for City of Ludington
- Provide control of all 24 Japanese knotweed infestations in the city. Infestations impacting City infrastructure or posing safety concerns (blocking site line views for motorists) will be at zero cost to impacted property owners. City of Ludington will cover 50% of treatment costs for Japanese knotweed infestations that do not meet the criteria for free treatment.
- Assist property owners impacted by tree of heaven and invasive bittersweet through North Country CISMA's at-cost for hire program, or through treatment training for those wishing to control species themselves
- Provide ID and treatment training for Ludington DPW staff – ***Funded by currently held CISMA grant***
- Host an educational workshop for invasive species ID and control methods in spring of 2025 – ***Funded by currently held CISMA grant***
- Conduct treatments of tree of heaven & invasive bittersweet to maintain native plant restoration area at Cartier Park
- Conduct invasive bittersweet control along the paved walking path at Cartier Park

Moving Forward (2026 – future)

- Invasive species control is rarely, if ever, a one-and-done type of management. Follow-up control is necessary to ensure that invasive species do not re-establish.
- Continue to seek out grant funding (Community foundation, Consumers Energy Foundation, Michigan DNR, Urban Forestry, US Forest Service, US EPA) to help offset invasive species management costs within the city
- Work with Consumers Energy and other Utility Line management agencies to collaborate on control and ensure best management practices are being implemented in the City, helping to prevent the spread of these species and ensure they are controlled properly