



Box 492, Arlington, MA 02476
www.foagm.org

Proposal for Japanese Knotweed Control Along the Minuteman Bikeway Near Arlington's Great Meadows

To the Lexington Conservation Commission:

The Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows propose to initiate a pilot Japanese knotweed plant control program on the MBTA right-of-way property that encloses the Minuteman Bikeway adjacent to Great Meadows and east of the Waldorf School in Lexington near Sickie Brook. The Bikeway is maintained by the Lexington DPW, who would be informed of the nature of the proposed work prior to its start. The exact location to be affected is shown in Figure 5. All labor will be done by volunteers using hand tools.

Two plant control approaches will be tried:

1. Create a schedule to cut and recut an area of Japanese knotweed within the area shown in Figure 5 every 2 weeks throughout late spring and summer. Figures 2 and 4 show the west and east ends respectively of the proposed cut area. The actual cut area would be as large as practical (within these limits) based on the volunteers available to fill the planned schedule. Cut stalks would be left where they lie.
2. Create an experimental area less than 40 by 50 feet in the location shown in Figure 3 and 5, where volunteers will cut the Japanese knotweed stalks, pull up their roots, and arrange for the DPW to haul them away to be incinerated. This small area would then be covered with black landscaping plastic to prevent regrowth. This approach is similar to one used in Arlington last year with some success.

Once Japanese knotweed has been substantially eradicated from the work area, it will be replanted with native grasses and shrubs that grow well in full sun and a wide range of soil moisture levels, is erosion resistant on steep slopes, and grows brush thick enough to discourage inadvertent trail creation into the Meadows but low enough to preserve the panoramic view of the Meadows from the Bikeway. Hay or cloth mesh will be applied to the seeded area where appropriate to prevent erosion while the seeds are germinating.

The timing of this project has some strong seasonal dependencies. For example, seed mixes may be available for purchase only in spring and are optimally planted at certain times of the year, typically fall. Given the lateness of the current season, the project is likely to end in fall 2005. In any case, upon project approval by the Commission, at least one initial cutting of Japanese knotweed will probably be done during late summer or fall 2004 before the Japanese knotweed reverts to rhizomes for winter.

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The Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows requests any comments the Commission might have concerning this project proposal, and written permission from the Commission to proceed.

Please feel free to contact me for more information or to arrange a site visit.
Sincerely

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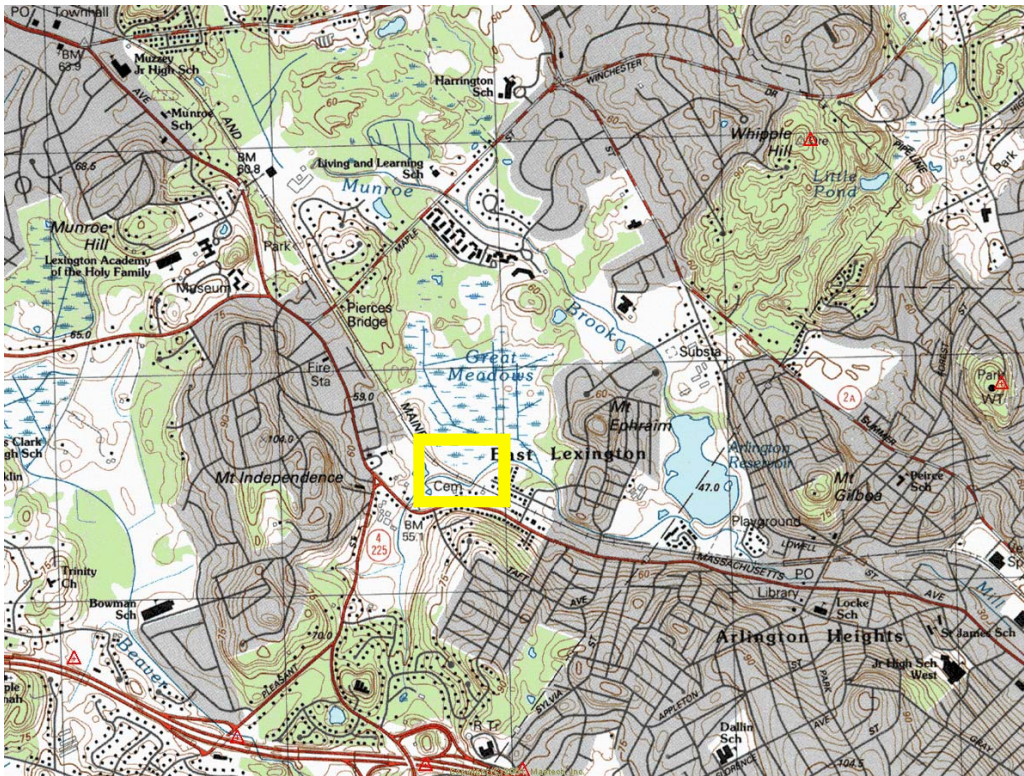


Figure 1 - Locus



Figure 2 - West end of cut area

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Figure 3 - Approximate plastic area



Figure 4 - East end of cut area