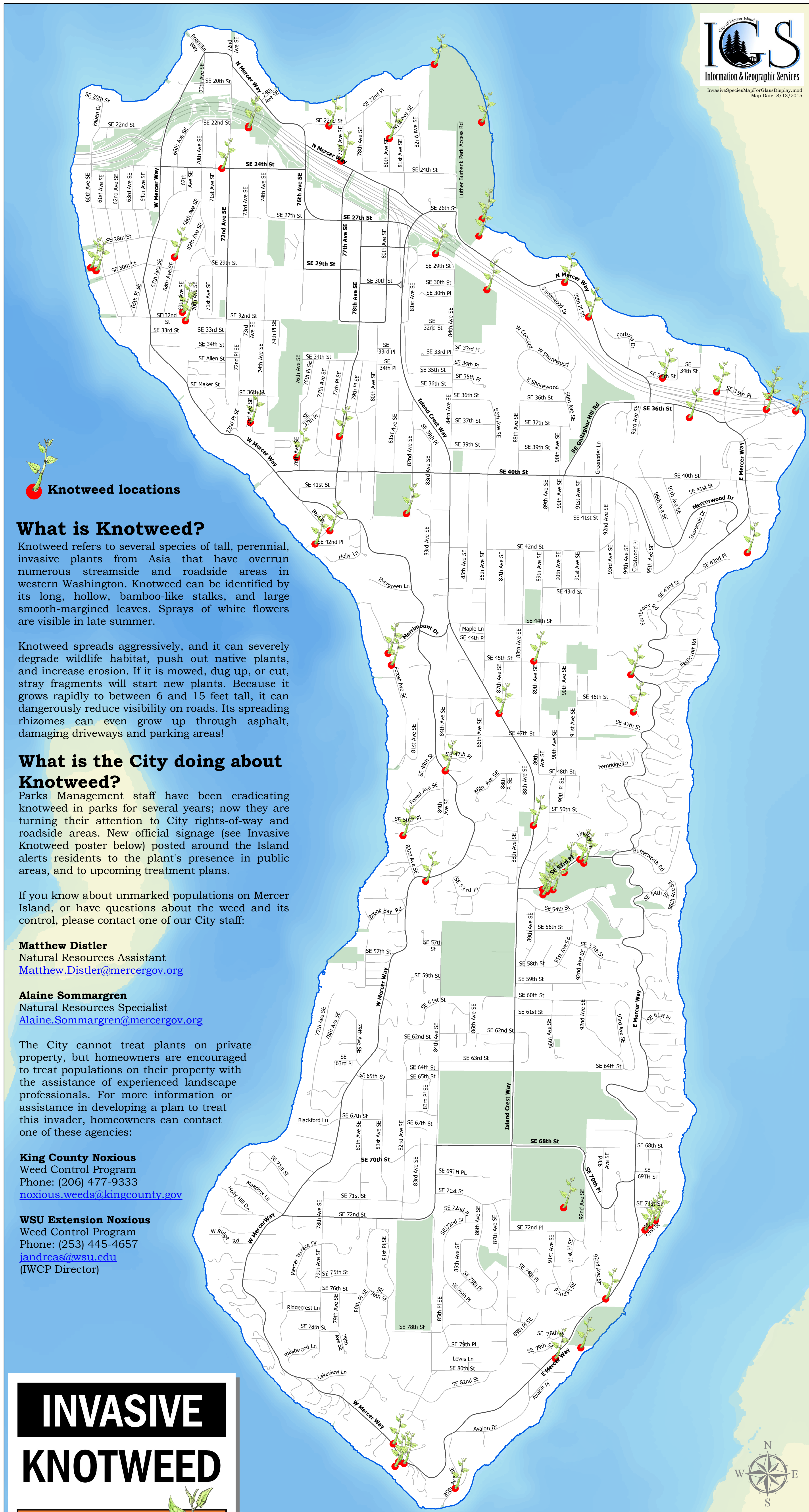


INVASIVE KNOTWEED



InvasiveSpeciesMapForGlassDisplay.mxd
Map Date: 8/13/2015



What is Knotweed?

Knotweed refers to several species of tall, perennial, invasive plants from Asia that have overrun numerous streamside and roadside areas in western Washington. Knotweed can be identified by its long, hollow, bamboo-like stalks, and large smooth-margined leaves. Sprays of white flowers are visible in late summer.

Knotweed spreads aggressively, and it can severely degrade wildlife habitat, push out native plants, and increase erosion. If it is mowed, dug up, or cut, stray fragments will start new plants. Because it grows rapidly to between 6 and 15 feet tall, it can dangerously reduce visibility on roads. Its spreading rhizomes can even grow up through asphalt, damaging driveways and parking areas!

What is the City doing about Knotweed?

Parks Management staff have been eradicating knotweed in parks for several years; now they are turning their attention to City rights-of-way and roadside areas. New official signage (see Invasive Knotweed poster below) posted around the Island alerts residents to the plant's presence in public areas, and to upcoming treatment plans.

If you know about unmarked populations on Mercer Island, or have questions about the weed and its control, please contact one of our City staff:

Matthew Distler
Natural Resources Assistant
Matthew.Distler@mercergov.org

Alaine Sommargren
Natural Resources Specialist
Alaine.Sommargren@mercergov.org

The City cannot treat plants on private property, but homeowners are encouraged to treat populations on their property with the assistance of experienced landscape professionals. For more information or assistance in developing a plan to treat this invader, homeowners can contact one of these agencies:

King County Noxious Weed Control Program
Phone: (206) 477-9333
noxious.weeds@kingcounty.gov

WSU Extension Noxious Weed Control Program
Phone: (253) 445-4657
jandreas@wsu.edu
(IWCP Director)

INVASIVE KNOTWEED

DO NOT MOW, CUT OR DIG!

Plant spreads from fragments



Question: What are the signs for?

They help road maintenance crews to avoid mowing plants until they are mature enough to treat with herbicide. Even small fragments from mowing, cutting, or digging can grow into new plants! The signs also help spread the word about knotweed to residents

Question: How will the City treat knotweed?

On City property and road rights-of-way, City staff will carefully inject the stems with herbicide in late summer. This method and timing are the safest and most effective treatment for such a vigorous invasive. Note that the City cannot treat plants on private property.

Question: How long will this process take?

Late summer herbicide injection kills most of this weed within a few weeks, but management staff will visit populations for several years to treat any regrowth.

City staff may use herbicide in late summer to control this plant. If you have questions about this plant or its control, or wish to report an occurrence on Mercer Island, please contact:
Alaine Sommargren, Natural Resources Specialist
City of Mercer Island
alaine.sommargren@mercergov.org

