



March 2023

Carini Preserve Japanese Knotweed Mitigation Project

Supported by grants from the Town of Chester through the American Rescue Plan Act, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County Mary Janvrin and Natalie Janvrin Wiggins Fund for Birds, other Animals and Nature, and the Rockfall Foundation

The problem: Japanese knotweed, a HIGHLY invasive, potentially destructive, non-native herbaceous perennial, is present in ABUNDANCE at Carini Preserve and threatens to overtake the property.

Knotweed all along bank of Great Brook and near the gazebo



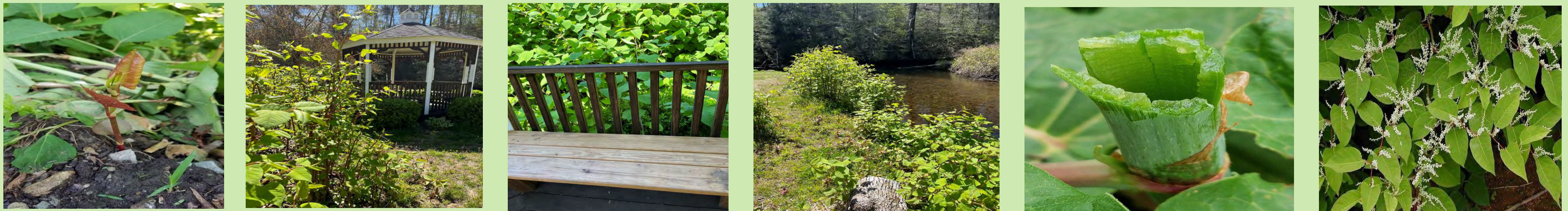
Photos taken in July 2022

Some views of Carini Preserve following knotweed removal



Photos taken in February 2023

Knotweed starts growing in spring. Sprouts have a reddish appearance and grow rapidly. Growing stems have nodes and look a bit like bamboo but knotweed stalks are much softer and easier to cut than bamboo. White flowers appear late in summer.



Japanese knotweed is notoriously difficult (but not impossible) to get rid of !!!

Recommended control methods include 1) repeated stem cutting (1 or 2 times a month during spring and summer), 2) cutting followed by covering with heavy plastic, 3) using a herbicide spray or injection into individual knotweed stems (performed early in the fall). All of these methods require 3-5 years to be effective. Chester Land Trust will assess effects of several control methods but the herbicide product Roundup® will not be used. Native grasses and shrubs will be planted as knotweed recedes – planting will begin early in the spring of 2023.