

Amur Honeysuckle Control by Parks & Recreation

Michael Almon

Sustainability
Action
Network



Why is it so invasive?

It chokes out other plants by:

- leafing out earliest in Spring
- growing very rapidly
- producing 1 million berries per shrub
- birds spreading berries all Winter
- root toxins inhibiting adjacent plants



Amur Honeysuckle grows 15-20 feet



Amur Honeysuckle forms dense groves



How big a problem is Amur Honeysuckle in Lawrence?

- It is in virtually every neighborhood.
- The largest stands are in older affluent neighborhoods – Sunset Hills, Deerfield, Hillcrest, Pinckney, Old West Lawrence.
- Many residential streets have it in the right-of-way.
- It is in every City park, except the most formal ones.
- It seems to have been planted as an ornamental in the older “flagship” parks – Holcom, Clinton, Centennial.
- It is extensive in the “nature” parks – Prairie Park, Naismith Valley Park, Billings Nature Area, Brook Creek Woods, Burcham Park, Martin Park.
- Rock Chalk Park and the new Lawrence Nature Park are just beginning to be infested.
- At least one local nursery is still promoting and selling it.

Rockledge at 9th Terr.



Westdale at Centennial



Louisiana at 5th Street



Holcom Park



Clinton (Pinckney) Park



Centennial Park, Skate Park



Prairie Park Nature Center



Naismith Valley Park



Brook Creek Woods



Burroughs Creek Park



De Victor Park



Martin Park



SLT Trail at Kasold



Parks Mntnce., 19th at Moodie



Recommended Response Plan

- Declare an ecological emergency. Designate Amur Honeysuckle as a noxious weed for eradication.
- Charge Parks & Recreation Dept. with eradication by uprooting, or by cutting/stump herbicide, on yearly schedule - before the berries mature in November:
 - Year 1: all nature parks, with trained volunteers
 - Year 2: all formal parks, and street rights-of-way
 - Year 3 and beyond: mop up, monitor, maintain
- Hire two Program Managers for three years, and five Forestry Laborers (March-November) for three years.
- Inform and instruct the public through City media.
- Pass ordinance requiring it be removed from private property, with fines kicking in after three years.
- Coordinate with Douglas County and K.U. to achieve complimentary efforts.

Annual budget, for three years

Year 1

2 Program Mgrs. @ \$50,000	\$100,000
5 Forestry Lbrs. @ \$20,000	\$100,000
5000 replacement shrubs @ \$20	\$100,000
1 crew truck	\$60,000
1 computer	\$15,000
1 miscellaneous	<u>\$15,000</u>
Total	\$390,000

Year 2

2 Program Mgrs. @ \$50,000	\$100,000
5 Forestry Lbrs. @ \$20,000	\$100,000
5000 replacement shrubs @ \$20	\$100,000
1 miscellaneous	<u>\$15,000</u>
Total	\$315,000

Year 3

2 Program Mgrs. @ \$50,000	\$100,000
5 Forestry Lbrs. @ \$20,000	\$100,000
3000 replacement shrubs @ \$20	\$60,000
1 miscellaneous	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total	\$270,000

3 Year TOTAL **\$975,000**

Thank you
very much!



Michael Almon
Sustainability Action Network, Inc.