

Invasive Plant Species Eradication Plan

DEP File #288-0502

Deer Meadow Way

Project Location:

136 East Street
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075
(Map 35, Parcel 6)

Property Owner:

136 East St, LLC
c/o Mr. Gerald R. Coderre
383 Newton Street
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

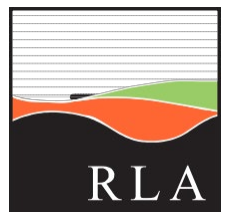
RLA Project File No. 250511

November 2025

R LEVESQUE ASSOCIATES, INC

A LAND PLANNING SERVICES COMPANY

40 School Street · Westfield, MA 01085
p 413.568.0985 · f 413.568.0986 · www.rlaland.com



I. Purpose & Overview

The purpose of this Invasive Species Eradication Program is to remove non-native, invasive, and early-successional woody and herbaceous species that have colonized the site as a result of former agricultural and field-margin activities. These species currently inhibit the establishment of native vegetation within the buffer zone to the on-site Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW). This plan outlines the methods for identification, removal, handling, and off-site disposal necessary to eliminate invasive species and prepare the buffer zone for restoration with native plantings.

2. Management Area Description

The buffer zone at 136 East Street contains vegetation typical of former fallow farmland, including dense patches of fast-growing, aggressively spreading invasive species. Based on site reconnaissance, species may include (but are not limited to):

- Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)
- Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
- Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)
- Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
- Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
- Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) – if identified
- Non-native honeysuckles (*Lonicera spp.*)

These species have created a successional thicket that prevents native regeneration and interferes with buffer zone function, wildlife habitat, and wetland-edge stability.

3. Goals

- Eliminate invasive species within the degraded buffer zone.
- Prevent re-proliferation by ensuring proper off-site disposal and monitoring.
- Restore ecological function by enabling establishment of native trees and shrubs.
- Promote long-term wetland protection via a sustainable, native vegetative community.

4. Removal Methods

4.1 Manual & Mechanical Removal

All invasive shrubs and small trees (<6" caliper) will be cut flush at ground level using hand saws, loppers, or brush saws.

- Larger individuals will be cut and stump-treated as appropriate (see Section 4.2).
- Root crowns of species capable of resprouting (buckthorn, bittersweet, barberry) will be excavated and removed where feasible with minimal soil disturbance within the buffer zone and no disturbance to the BVW.

4.2 Targeted Herbicide Treatment (If Required)

- Stumps of resprouting species may be treated via cut-stump application using an approved wetland-safe herbicide consistent with 310 CMR 10.00 and MA DEP regulations.
- Any herbicide application will be performed only by a Massachusetts-licensed applicator.

5. Disposal

To prevent seed spread and re-establishment on the site, the following steps will be taken:

- All cut material will be immediately staged on tarps or in controlled stockpile areas.
- Material will be removed from the site within 72 hours.
- No on-site composting is permitted due to seed and propagule risk.
- All invasive biomass will be transported to a licensed off-site disposal or composting facility equipped to handle invasive plant waste.
- Root masses will be bagged or tarped to prevent soil-borne seed dispersal during transport.

6. Site Preparation for Native Plantings

After removal and disposal:

- The cleared areas will be lightly graded by hand as needed to remove tripping hazards and prepare planting pits.
- Soils will be allowed reasonable stabilization (typically 1–2 weeks) before planting.
- An ecologically appropriate native seed mix (e.g., New England Wetland Plants' conservation or buffer mix) will be broadcast on exposed soils to provide temporary cover.

- No invasive species will be allowed to re-establish before or after installation of native trees and shrubs.

7. Timeline

Week 1-2: Invasive identification, flagging limits, and staging plan.

Week 2-4: Manual/mechanical removal and stump treatment.

Week 4: Off-site disposal within 72 hours of removal.

Week 4-6: Site stabilization and installation of native seed cover.

Following planting season: Installation of native trees and shrubs per the restoration planting plan.

8. Monitoring & Maintenance

- The restored buffer zone will be monitored twice per year for two growing seasons.
- Any re-sprouting invasive stems will be cut and treated immediately.
- Failed native plantings (>20% mortality) will be replaced in the next planting window.
- Monitoring reports can be submitted to the South Hadley Conservation Commission as required.

9. Conclusion

Implementation of this Invasive Species Eradication Program will remove invasive successional vegetation, halt its proliferation, and establish the conditions necessary for a healthy, native, and wetland-supportive plant community. This effort will restore ecological function within the buffer zone, improve wildlife habitat, and protect the integrity of the bordering vegetated wetland at 136 East Street, South Hadley, Massachusetts.