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Information Item No. 1.
Halifax & West Community Council
February 14, 2017

TO: Chair and Members of Halifax & West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original signed

Brad Anguish, Director, Parks & Recreation

DATE: January 11, 2017

SUBJECT: Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

June 28, 2016 Motion of Halifax & West Community Council

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts:

That Halifax & West Community Council request a staff report regarding an expedited response and financial implications to appearance of Multiflora Rose in Point Pleasant Park and other areas, including work to GPS sites and schedule cutback and/or removal by early Sept. 2016 with follow-up and monitoring for new sites in subsequent years. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- By-law P-600, Respecting Municipal Parks
- By-law P-800, Pesticides, Herbicides and Insecticides
- Administrative Order Number 23, Respecting Pesticides, Herbicides and Insecticides excluded from the Pesticide By-law

BACKGROUND

Multiflora Rose was first introduced to North America from Japan in 1866 as a rootstock material used in the propagation of ornamental roses. It was recognized and promoted in the 1930's as an effective form of erosion control and natural fencing.

In 2012, Multiflora Rose started to become prominent in the Halifax area and continues to spread in areas throughout Point Pleasant Park and within the municipality. Staff currently mitigates the distribution by cutting back stems to stop fruiting production and have removed the plant material through excavation, sodding and regular mowing in areas where the plant had become overgrown.

DISCUSSION

Multiflora Rose is tolerant of many growing conditions and can be found in wooded areas, along streams and riverbeds, ditches and pastures. The method of spread is through the rooting of arching stems and dispersal of seeds from birds and other animals. The invasive nature of this plant is due mainly to the uncontrollable spread of seeds by birds. Human health is not at risk because it does not have a sap or allergen causing a rash or other types of dermatitis.

As per industry standards and best practice by Environment Canada, the management of Multiflora Rose includes:

1. Mechanical Control – the removal of small plants by hand, cutting of stems and repeated mowing keeps the plant from producing seed. Removing the entire root system through excavation is the most complete method of mechanical control.
2. Biological Control – is not yet available for this rose species. There are studies conducting trials that are monitoring the effects of a virus spread through a native parasitic wasp, but it is not known if this could have implications to other ornamental rose species.
3. Chemical Control – upon the mechanical removal of the stems, an application or injection of a glyphosate based herbicide proves highly effective. It is not currently supported by the municipality or for purposes of this report.
4. Disposal – when mechanical means are used to remove the stems, it is important to dispose of the material properly so it does not root or propagate from the seeds. When proper compost techniques are employed, high temperatures will kill the seeds and stems. Stems can also be placed in the sun or in plastic bag to ensure they dry out and die.

HRM will continue to employ the Mechanical Control approach as a standard practice recognized by Environment Canada; this eliminates the dispersal of seeds by removing the fruiting structure. The fruit develops on new shoots from old wood, meaning it grows vegetatively for one season, and flowers and fruits on stems during the second year of growth. Biological and Chemical Controls are not considered viable options as effective products are not found on the acceptable list of pesticides that can be used as per Administrative Order Number 23, Respecting Pesticides, Herbicides and Insecticides excluded from the Pesticide By-law

Criteria for employing the mechanical control approach will be as follows:

- Action will be taken if Multiflora Rose is affecting access to HRM park infrastructure (i.e. playground site, trails and walkways)
- Action will be taken if ecologically sensitive (i.e. Frog Pond)
- Action will be taken if culturally significant locations are being impacted (i.e. Shakespeare by the Sea)

These are the same criteria used to evaluate all invasive plant species, their impacts and subsequent removal throughout HRM parks and greenspaces.

The 2017 work plan for Point Pleasant Park will include GPS mapping of Multiflora Rose locations. After mapping, a removal process will be employed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

While no community engagement has taken place, the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee is aware of the presence of Multiflora Rose as it has been noted in previous meeting minutes and were notified that a council report addressing the appearance of Multiflora Rose was being drafted.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – Multiflora Rosa photos

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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Appendix A

