



UVIC

Invasive Species
Management Program

Invasive Species

The term invasive species is applied to **exotic, introduced, alien, non-indigenous plant species** that demonstrate ecological, social, and economic threats. This plan does not apply to native species demonstrating invasive qualities. Invasive species are a major threat to natural areas globally and the University of Victoria is no exception. University grounds are overrun with English ivy, daphne laurel, Himalayan blackberry, and other invasive species, some like giant hogweed can prove hazardous to people.



Vulnerable Campus Ecosystems

Subject to high levels of habitat degradation, loss, and fragmentation, as well as shifts in hydrological and soil regimes, and the loss of traditional land management practices, campus ecosystems areas are particularly vulnerable to the spread of invasive species.



Restoration Groups and Community

Governments and community groups have come to realize the need for taking a strategic and well-planned approach to deal with invasive species effectively; and ecological restoration is a core component of UVIC's Facilities Management's mandate. Students and faculty routinely remove invasive species, taking part in group restorations with the Ecological Restoration Volunteer Network (ERVN), or various other community groups, including Saanich Pulling Together. Campus-based ivy pulls and the like are a unique opportunity to connect with others and help heal the land.





Management Strategy

Produced in collaboration between the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability and UVIC Facilities Management, the purpose of the **Invasive Species Management Strategy** (ISMS) is to guide management activities in the designated natural and landscaped areas of campus, to be adaptive and responsive to new ideas and information. UVIC is situated within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic (BEC) zone, within which naturally occurring Garry Oak Ecosystems are found. These ecosystems have experienced increased negative human disturbances since European settlement.

Invasive species, in particular English ivy and Himalayan blackberry, have spread aggressively across campus; and manual removal is required to stem the invasions. Areas already cleared must be maintained to prevent re-invasions. This work is beyond the capacity of Facilities Management alone, and so the ISMS has been developed to guide students, faculty, and community members in coordinated removal and monitoring. Active groups on campus, include: Ecological Restoration Volunteer Network (ERVN); University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) clubs like UVic Parks Club; UVSS advocacy groups and affiliated organizations, such as the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG); and course unions, such as the Environmental Studies Student Society (ESSA); and community groups like the Greater Victoria Green Team, Friends of Finnerty Gardens, the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team and the University of Victoria Child Care Services.

Offering a clear adaptive framework for invasive species management on campus, the ISMS also encourages a deepening understanding of the historical impacts these lands have endured and to develop a respectful sense of place.

Individual Area Management Plans

Eleven area management plans that are intended to be used as modules are provided for convenient use as course activities on campus. The campus is used as a living classroom and invasive species provide an excellent opportunity to teach ecology, environmental stewardship and community engagement.

Each plan has a map showing the area's location on campus, a description of the site, a schematic diagram of the site showing the locations for invasive species removal and instructions for which are the best parts of the site and the best invasive species for removal.

The sites and their sections in the ISMS are as follows:

- 4.1 **Cunningham Woods**
- 4.2 **Bowker Creek**
- 4.3 **Mystic Vale & Hobbs Creek**
- 4.4 **South Woods**
- 4.5 **Garry Oak & Camas Meadows**
- 4.6 **Alumni Meadow**
- 4.7 **Haro Woods & Finnerty Ravine**
- 4.8 **Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG)**
Native Plant Garden
- 4.9 **Lorene Kennedy Garden**
- 4.10 **Ian Ross Memorial Garden**
- 4.11 **Rain Gardens**





Territorial Acknowledgement

The creators of this document acknowledge with respect that the University of Victoria is situated on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish and Straits Salish Peoples, specifically the Lkwungen (Songhees), Wyomilth (Esquimalt) and WS'ANEC' (Saanich) Peoples.

As the areas addressed in this plan have been an essential component of these peoples' sustenance and way of life since time immemorial, it is essential that this plan be carried out in a manner which supports Indigenous ways of living and extends these words into meaningful actions.

About Us

The Campus Invasive Species Management Program was developed with support from the University of Victoria's Campus Sustainability Fund. Members of the Advisory Committee for the project were: Matt Greeno (Office of Campus Planning & Sustainability), John Ho (Office of Campus Planning & Sustainability), Rhonda Rose (Facilities Management), Peter Roberts (Facilities Management), Ken Josephson (Department of Geography), Gerry Allen (Department of Biology) and Eric Higgs (School of Environmental Studies). Lindsay Kathrens and Julia Jennings, students of the School of Environmental Studies and the Department of Geography, and both previous Volunteer Coordinators of the Ecological Restoration Volunteer Network on campus, conducted research and wrote the original draft. Valentin Schaefer, Academic Administrator of the Restoration of Natural Systems Program, was the Project Supervisor and contributed further research and edits of the final draft of the report.



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