

The initial phase of the McDowell Grove/West Branch River Restoration Project will span three years and include the control of invasive species and establishment of native species. The control of invasive species will include the use of pesticide, specifically herbicide. Herbicide use will be implemented by utilizing Best Management Practices including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the control of invasive species. IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

Herbicides will be applied by Illinois Department of Agriculture licensed contractors. All regulations including herbicide labels will be strictly followed. Also, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and DuPage County intentionally regulate the types of herbicides to a very limited few that are known to have low hazards to humans and the environment.

Targeted application, large droplet size to reduce drift, and ample signage will be utilized to notify public and reduce exposure. Pin flags will indicate specific areas where an herbicide application has occurred, and access shall be restricted. Flags will remain in place until reentry into the area is permitted.

Control methods implemented include physical removal, mowing and selective mowing, introduction of native plant competition and the appropriate judicious use of herbicide application. Herbicide application methods and materials are outlined below:

- Herbaceous invasive species control will occur during summer and fall 2013. This will include the targeted use of the aquatic-approved [AquaNeat® Aquatic Herbicide](#) to control reed canary grass and other weedy species, [Habitat® Herbicide](#) to control common reed, and [Garlon® 3A Herbicide](#) to control purple loosestrife. Maintenance control of invasive species over the three-year period will be achieved through prescribed fire, selective foliar herbicide application and cutting or pulling the plants.
- Minor woody invasive species control is planned to begin during summer and fall 2013 and includes the isolated use of [Transline® Herbicide](#) to control black locust.
- Most of the woody invasive control will occur during the winter of 2013/2014 and includes woody brush removal followed by a targeted stump [Garlon® 4 Herbicide](#) application. During the spring/summer 2014, a targeted foliar follow-up herbicide application will utilize [Garlon® 3A Herbicide](#). After initial control maintenance of invasive species over the three year period will be achieved through a multitude of measures including prescribed fire, selective foliar herbicide application and cutting or pulling the plants.