



Policy Name: Invasive Species Management	Policy No: S802-XX
Committee approval date:	-
Council approval date:	-
Revision date(s):	5/24/2023
Department/Division:	Public Works

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a process that addresses the introduction of invasive species, management of existing invasive species, and the periodic infestation of pests experienced in the Town of Pelham.

The goal of this Invasive Species Management policy is to develop an integrated set of objectives and procedures that will combine to form a set of working guidelines that will:

- a) protect municipal assets and infrastructure from invasive species populations through an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach.
- b) Prevent the introduction of invasive species through public awareness and encourage public reporting.
- c) Monitor existing invasive species while continually surveying for potential incoming threats.
- d) Evaluating treatment options available and an analysis of potential impacts.
- e) Protect green infrastructure and establish mechanisms to fund response if invasive species are found.

## 2. Policy Statement

It will be the policy of the Town of Pelham to protect the natural environment within the Municipal Boundary against the damage caused by invasive species and hence, preserve and enhance the quality of Pelham communities.

## 3. Policy Constraints

This policy applies to all municipally owned lands within the Town of Pelham including road allowances, municipal boulevards, parks, trails, and green spaces, unless otherwise approved by the Director of Public Works.

The policy may be affected by the availability of Town staff, financial resources, regulatory restrictions and requirements from other departments and agencies.

## **4. Definitions**

*“Biological Controls”* means other organisms that prey specifically on a pest.

*“Commercial Property”* means a property that is being used for a commercial purpose and/or generates an income.

*“Integrated Pest Management (IPM)”* means a multi-disciplinary, ecological approach to the management of pests based first on prevention and when needed, a control (biological, cultural, physical or mechanical intervention), saving synthetic pesticide application as a last resort.

*“Invasive Species”* is an organism that causes ecological or economic harm in a new environment where it is not native. This definition includes all organisms, including vascular plants, animals (including invertebrates), fungi, bacteria, and viruses.

*“Invasive Species Action Threshold”* means the number or density of a pest when management action should be taken.

*“Pest”*, means an organism that causes damage, is a nuisance or interferes with the health, environmental, function or aesthetic objectives of citizens.

*“Sequential Sampling”* means a sampling technique wherein the researcher picks a single or a group of subjects in a defined area, conducts a survey, analyzes the results then picks another group of subjects if needed and so on.

## **5. General Provisions**

5.1 All maintenance operations including surveying and inspection performed on public property shall be carried out by the appropriately qualified municipal staff, or contractors acting for the Corporation of the Town of Pelham.

5.2 All work on public property shall be undertaken by trained persons in accordance with the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations, as well as established Town of Pelham Public Works Operations Procedures.

## **6. Prevention**

6.1 Preventing invasive species from becoming established can be more cost effective than restoring an injured ecosystem. Controlling established invasive species is costly and difficult, and complete eradication is extremely difficult. Prevention can avoid the potentially permanent species losses that may result from a pest invasion.

6.2 Public Awareness is essential for preventing the introduction of invasive species and pests. Public awareness campaigns may include updates on the Town of Pelham municipal website to highlight identification of targeted invasive species and tips on preventing their spread.

6.3 Encourage community volunteers to generate pertinent information that can be useful for municipal operations and help cultivate an awareness of invasive species among Town of Pelham residents.

6.4 Maintain plant diversity on Municipal lands to increase ecosystem resilience. Plants that are native to a site should be selected for use in landscaping, whenever feasible.

6.5 Optimize the use of fertilizer on Municipal property. Many invasive species have adapted to use plentiful nutrients for explosive growth; therefore excessive fertilizer application enhances the growth of invasives. The use of native plants may reduce or eliminate the need for additional fertilizers, as many native plants can grow well without them.

6.6 Develop invasive species expertise. In order to prevent or respond to invasions, and to remain knowledgeable on new species, and control techniques, municipal staff require training in invasive species identification, inventory, and control methods.

6.7 Carefully consider location when disposing of mechanically removed invasive plant species. Reproductive parts of many invasive plants can withstand seasonal cycles, including drying and freezing, therefore composting of invasive species residue is not recommended.

## **7. Inspections and Monitoring**

7.1 Once an invasive species has been identified, implement an invasive species survey and detection program to inventory the presence and abundance of new and existing invasive species to help establish management priorities. Decisions and control strategies for the management of invasive species will be made based on site inspections resulting from the identification of an invasive species or pest.

7.2 The frequency of site inspections and the number of monitoring plots is dependent on the type of pest, location, stage of growth or life cycle, history of infestation, mode of dispersal and its population density. A species-specific surveying program shall be developed upon identification of an invasive species.

## **8. Control Measures**

8.1 A species-specific management strategy and procedure shall be developed prior to beginning control efforts, including identifying management objectives and an Invasive Species Action Threshold (ISAT).

8.2 An invasive species ISAT is established in accordance with its environmental impact, management objectives, industry best practices, and guidance from the Invasive Species Centre of Canada or other agencies. A list of Council approved ISAT's is included in Appendix A of this policy.

8.3 An invasive species management procedure may include one or more control methods. Control methods depend on the species being controlled and the characteristics of the site being treated. Risks of each control method must be considered against the benefits of successful suppression. These controls might include biological control, synthetic pesticide application, or mechanical

control. Whenever possible, non-chemical treatments should be considered. Synthetic herbicides or pesticides should be used as a last resort.

## **9. Public Education and Awareness**

9.1 Engaging the general public is a key component of prevention, introduction, spread, and management of invasive species. Comprehensive outreach and education provide residents with information and tools to take appropriate action against invasive plants on their own property.

9.2 Effective communication with residents can be done in a number of ways including but not limited to: websites, social media, mail-outs, workshops, and signage.

9.3 Key information that should be communicated to the public includes identification to invasive species, how they are introduced and spread, potential impacts, how individuals can take action to reduce the spread, impact, and what regulations and policies are in place.

9.4 Species-specific management procedures may also include communication requirements depending on the species and the prescribed control method.

## **10. Invasive Species Reserve Fund**

10.1 The Town of Pelham will endeavour to strategically allocate resources toward the management of invasive species. The Invasive Species Policy identifies how invasive species infestations are treated by the Town of Pelham.

10.2 An Invasive Species Reserve will be established which will be used to fund programs related to invasive species infestations within the Town of Pelham.

## Appendix A – Invasive Species Action Threshold

Invasive Species	Management Objective	Action Threshold (ISAT)	Procedure
Spongy Moth	Prevent Tree Mortality and Severe Defoliation.	2500 egg masses/hectare	PW-IS-01 Previously (S801-03) By-law No. 4433(2022)