



Onkwe'tà:ke lakotokénhstha

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Suggested Media

Instructions:

Please run at your discretion.

Media Inquiries:

MCKMedia@mck.ca

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

Kahnawà:ke Mohawk
Territory
P.O. Box 720
J0L 1B0

Tel: 450-632-7500

Fax: 450-638-5958

*As per the MCK
Communications Protocol,
all media requests must be
arranged through the Public
Relations / Communications
Unit*

New pilot project to manage invasive plant species

(Kahnawake – 17 Seskehkó:wa/September 2025)

The Kahnawà:ke Environment Protection Office (KEPO) wishes to inform the community about a new pilot project focused on managing invasive plant species—specifically *Phragmites australis* (common reed) and invasive buckthorn—through an integrated management approach.

Previous efforts that relied solely on manual removal have had limited success in controlling the spread of these aggressive species. Throughout the spring and summer, KEPO engaged with community members to explore alternative solutions, including the targeted use of herbicide. As a next step, this pilot project will implement a combined strategy that includes:

- Continued manual removal techniques
- Site-specific herbicide treatments applied with care in isolated locations
- Replanting of native trees and shrubs

This integrated approach is designed to more effectively reduce invasive plant populations and restore ecological balance in affected areas. The overarching goal is to enhance the health and resilience of local ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and support the long-term sustainability of the natural environment.

All herbicide applications will be carried out in accordance with environmental safety standards and under professional supervision to minimize impacts on surrounding habitats. Soil sampling and vegetation inventories will be conducted to monitor herbicide residue and ecological changes, with results shared with the community over the winter.

Pilot project locations include:

- A buckthorn removal and restoration site in the Big Fence area
- *Phragmites* management sites along the North Wall, a highway ditch, and spot treatments within the newly constructed wetland habitat on Tekakwitha Island

These varied locations will allow KEPO to evaluate the effectiveness of treatments under different growing conditions and plant densities. All sites will be closely monitored to assess outcomes and guide future restoration efforts.

Community members may observe activity in these areas during the removal, treatment, and replanting phases, which will take place between **Monday, September 22nd and Friday, October 31st**. Signage will be posted at all project sites.

KEPO appreciates the community's understanding and support as this important initiative moves forward. For more information or to share feedback, please visit KEPO's webpage at kahnawakeenvironment.com or contact KEPO at **450-635-0600** or EnvironmentProtection@mck.ca.