



MANAGING INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

An invasive species is an introduced, nonnative organism (disease, parasite, plant, or animal) that spread or expand their range from its introduction site and has the potential to cause harm to the environment, the economy, or to human health. Many invasive species were introduced en masse when European settlers came to the Americas. They brought disease, insects, and plants with them, intentionally and unintentionally. Trade with Asian countries increased the number of unwelcome plants.



Border Privet in bloom

Plants arrived as stowaways in cargo or imported as ornamental plants for display in gardens or to be grown for food, and some imported for erosion control. Many of them became invasive. These species out-compete the natives with longer growing seasons, with aggressive growth, and sometimes by releasing chemicals in the ground to stifle competition. As a result,

native plants are displaced from their habitats, upsetting natural food webs.

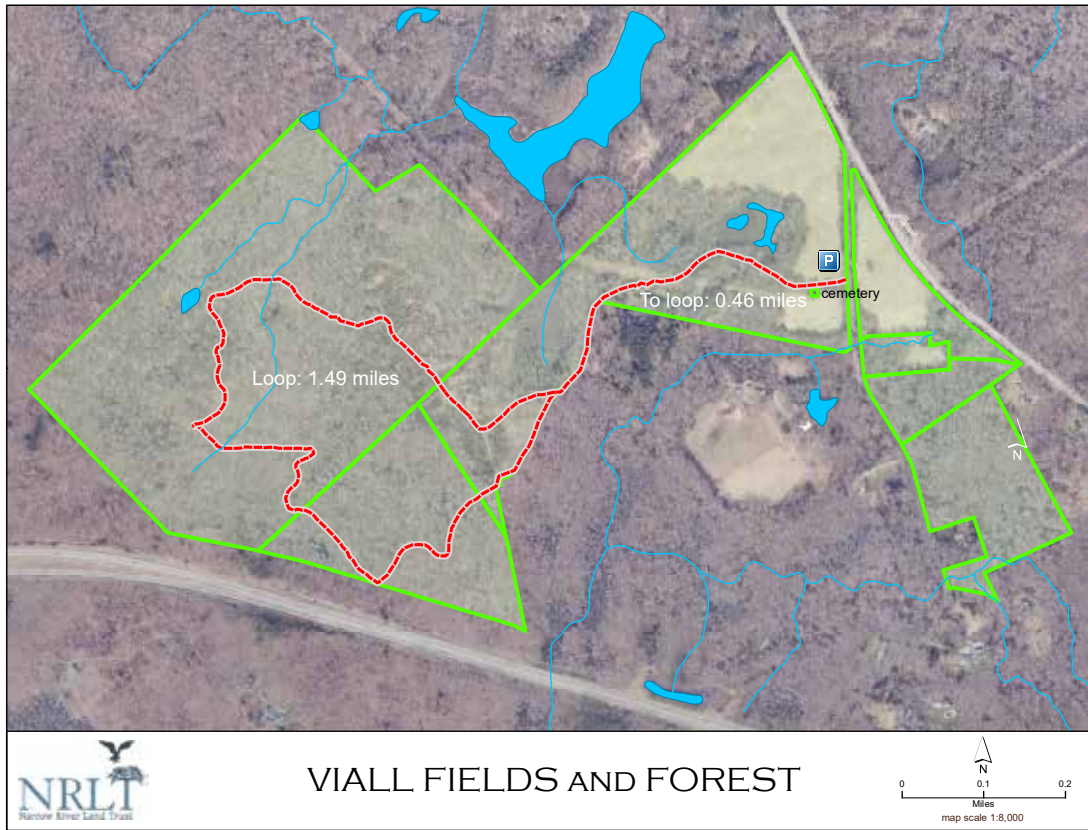
NRLT has identified invasive species on all of the properties. Management of these unwelcome plants is a challenging and daunting task. We set priorities according to the value of the property for habitat, the achievability of control, the resources we have available, and the preferred means of control. Ideally, control is achieved through manual methods such as cutting and pulling. Occasionally we turn to the least harmful herbicides which may be necessary to effectively remove the most stubborn pests.

In May, Narrow River Land Trust adopted a comprehensive invasive plant policy. It is posted on our website, www.narrowriverlandtrust.org. Hopefully, this guide will help you identify and remove invasive species from your own properties.

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Fern



“Wildlife viewing at Viall is superb. In addition to the abundant deer and turkeys, dozens of songbirds inhabit the property.”

VIALL PRESERVE

NRLT invites you to take a hike through the fields and the forests at our Viall Preserve, which is located near the intersection of Gilbert Stuart Road and Boston Neck Road in North Kingstown. The property has been owned by NRLT since 1999. It consists of two primary parcels, the smaller 10-acre parcel found to the east of Gilbert Stuart Road, and the larger, 202-acre parcel located to the west. The larger parcel includes about twenty acres of fields, a dozen acres of wetlands, and about 170 acres of forests. The forests are populated by a variety of oaks, red maples, sassafras, black gum and yellow birch. The fields are primarily grasses, but have many wildflowers, including several types of milkweeds which are attractive to the monarch butterflies.

There is a well-maintained trail that is approximately two miles in length. Entering the property from the gate on Gilbert Stuart Rd, the trail runs due west past the field. At approximately the .75 mile mark the trail splits, forming a loop approximately 1.25 miles in length. The trail takes you past the wetlands, over some small streams, and around some interesting rock outcroppings.

Recently established, a path follows the perimeter of the large field. This field was hayed for many years, but the NRLT Board decided to allow the grasses and wildflowers to grow. The entire field will be mowed periodically to enhance its development as a wildlife habitat. Walk the path and enjoy the activity!

Wildlife viewing at Viall is superb. In addition to the abundant deer and turkeys, dozens of songbirds inhabit the property. The birds include the relatively uncommon black and white warblers and eastern towhees, a variety of sparrows and warblers, hawks, orioles, and woodpeckers. We enjoy using the free Merlin app to identify birds.

When you visit, park along Gilbert Stuart Road near the entrance near the metal farm gate.

QUICK FACTS:

- The trailhead is found on Gilbert Stuart Road, Saunderstown, RI 02874, just before Route 138 overpass, at the metal farm gate. The approximate address is (Lat x Long: 41.52662, -71.44248).
- There are approximately two miles of trails in the woodlands and a pleasant, mowed path around the circumference of the field.
- Hunting is allowed from September 15 to January 31st. Wear “blaze orange” during that period.
- Dogs should be on leash.
- NRLT maintains the Viall Preserve with the help of volunteers. Our next workday is on August 16th starting at 9:00 A.M. Work may include trail maintenance, removal of invasive species, and planting trees.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Narrow River Land trust is kicking off its first ever capital campaign for equipment. As an organization, we are tasked with the stewardship of our properties in perpetuity. We find it necessary to buy a tractor with a brush cutter, a trailer to transport the equipment and a storage container to properly maintain our Viall Preserve, Hammond Farm South and Garrison House Acres properties. We are applying for Legislative and Foundation grants but will need to raise a 25% match. The budget for these items is \$50,000. Please help us raise \$12,500 to help us achieve this goal by November 2025! You can donate on our website, returning the enclosed envelope, or by using the QR code. Thank you!

ANNUAL MEETING PRESENTATION

NRLT was honored to have Dr. Charles Clarkson, Director of Avian Research for the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, present a talk on “The State of Our Birds, Why Birds Matter, and What the Audubon Society of Rhode Island is Doing to Protect Them.”



Dr. Clarkson provided chilling statistics on the decline in all classes of birds, including year-round residents, seasonal residents, and the birds which visit briefly during their annual migrations. Climate change and loss of habitat are critical factors leading to these losses.

Dr. Clarkson also offered practical advice on things that everybody can do to help the birds, including keeping your cats indoors; putting stickers on windows to reduce bird strikes; avoiding pesticides; keeping plastics out of the environment; reducing monoculture lawns and planting native plants; drinking certified shade-grown coffee; and actively observing the birds around us. His talk was enthusiastically received.

NEW BOARD BIOS

JOHN LAWLESS has an undergraduate degree from Penn State and Johson & Wales, and a master’s degree from Benedictine College. John is a retired Commander from the Navy who served 22 years on active duty. John has lived in Rhode Island since 2004. His nonmilitary professional career ranges from a highly technical systems engineer to customer-facing in the service industry including casino beverage and restaurant manager. He is currently a sales associate at the Savory Grape in East Greenwich. John and his wife, Marianne, live on Walmsley Lane, right across from the Lower Pond Overlook, a property owned by NRLT.

TRACY FISHER is a Senior Principal for a global consulting firm where she is responsible for business development in the area of executive benefits. She is a licensed insurance and securities broker and is experienced in business strategy, sales and marketing. She has a bachelor’s degree in economics & finance from Bentley University. Tracy has been a member of NRLT since moving to Rhode Island in 2019. Tracy lives with her husband Mark Glovasky and their two dogs overlooking Winter Preserve, a property owned by NRLT.



NEW EQUIPMENT FOR NRLT

A SNEP Restoration Capital Mini-Grant was awarded to NRLT for the purchase of equipment and supplies. NRLT purchased its first significant piece of equipment that will be used to groom fields and trails on select properties. The purchase included a DR tow-behind mower and a Weed Wrench. A generous member donated funds to purchase a trailer for transporting the mower. The equipment will be used for the annual mowing at Garrison House Acres, Viall and Hammond Farm South. The Weed Wrench will be used to pull stubborn, larger invasive plant species from the ground with roots intact.

Many thanks to South Kingstown Land Trust for donating a John Deere garden tractor that will be used to mow the walking trails at Garrison House Acres.





Cinnamon fern fiddleheads unfurling at Garrison House Acres.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our longstanding contributors and new donors who make Narrow River Land Trust's (NRLT) a success every day. We depend on your generous donations for preserving our properties.



We welcome new members all year long, so if you have not yet renewed or wish to join, please do so today! Please spread the word about our vital work and invite your family and friends to join us as well. Visit the NRLT website to join (www.narrowriverlandtrust.org) or use the QR code.

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

There is one organization that stands out when it comes to protecting the Narrow River Watershed (NRW). The Narrow River Land Trust (NRLT) owns and preserves more property in the NRW than any other group or government entity. The total land area protected in the Narrow River Watershed is over 660 acres.

NRLT is committed to its mission of preserving the natural resources in the NRW by monitoring, maintaining, and improving its properties for the public and future generations.

Address Correction Requested

PO Box 65, Saundertown, RI 02874

Narrow River Land Trust

