# Amur Honeysuckle Control by Parks & Recreation

Michael Almon

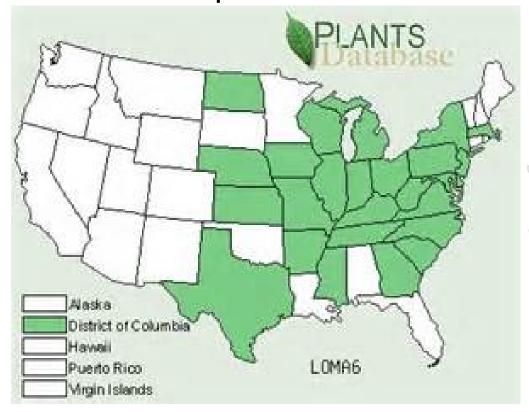
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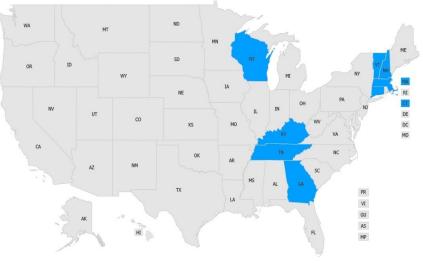


## Amur Honeysuckle Lonicera maackii

A large shrub from eastern Asia, that has become highly invasive in eastern and central U.S.A. It is rampant in Lawrence.



Some states have already banned it



## Why is it so invasive?

It chokes out other plants by:

- leafing out earliest in Spring
- growing very rapidly
- producing 1 million berries per shrub
- birds spreading berries all Winter
- root toxins inhibiting adjacent plants





## Amur Honeysuckel grows 15-20 feet



## Amur Honeysuckel forms dense groves



## How big a problem is Amur Honeysuckle in Lawrence?

- It is in virtually every neighborhood.
- The largest stands are in older affluent neighborhoods Sunset Hills, Deerfield, Hillcrest, Pinckney, Old West Lawrence.
- Many residential streets have it in the right-of-way.
- It is in every City park, except the most formal ones.
- It seems to have been planted as an ornamental in the older "flagship" parks – Holcom, Clinton, Centennial.
- It is extensive in the "nature" parks Prairie Park, Naismith Valley Park, Billings Nature Area, Brook Creek Woods, Burcham Park, Martin Park.
- Rock Chalk Park and the new Lawrence Nature Park are just beginning to be infested.
- At least one local nursery is still promoting and selling it.

Rockledge at 9th Terr.



Westdale at Centennial



Louisiana at 5th Street



#### Holcom Park

### Clinton (Pinckney) Park





Centennial Park, Skate Park



Prairie Park Nature Center



**Brook Creek Woods** 



### Naismith Valley Park



Burroughs Creek Park



De Victor Park



Martin Park



SLT Trail at Kasold



Parks Mntnce., 19th at Moodie



## Recommended Response Plan

- Declare an ecological emergency. Designate Amur Honeysuckle as a noxious weed for eradication.
- Charge Parks & Recreation Dept. with eradication by uprooting, or by cutting/stump herbicide, on yearly schedule - before the berries mature in November:
  - Year 1: all nature parks, with trained volunteers
  - Year 2: all formal parks, and street rights-of-way
  - Year 3 and beyond: mop up, monitor, maintain
- Hire two Program Managers for three years, and five Forestry Laborers (March-November) for three years.
- Inform and instruct the public through City media.
- Pass ordinance requiring it be removed from private property, with fines kicking in after three years.
- Coordinate with Douglas County and K.U. to achieve complimentary efforts.

## **Annual budget, for three years**

Year 1 2 Program Mgrs. @ \$50, 5 Forestry Lbrs. @ \$20,0 5000 replacement shrubs 1 crew truck 1 computer 1 miscellaneous  Total	00 \$100,000
Year 2 2 Program Mgrs. @ \$50, 5 Forestry Lbrs. @ \$20,0 5000 replacement shrubs 1 miscellaneous  Total	\$100,000
Year 3 2 Program Mgrs. @ \$50,0 5 Forestry Lbrs. @ \$20,0 3000 replacement shrubs 1 miscellaneous  Total	\$100,000 \$@\$20 \$60,000 \$10,000 \$270,000
3 Year	TOTAL \$975,000

## Thank you very much!



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