

# Spades Park

Indianapolis Parks

Eco Logic, LLC

Project Profile  
Greenway Restoration

## Marion County, IN – 31 acres

Most urban streams and greenways in Indianapolis are experiencing intense pressure from invasive plant species. Maintaining a healthy forested riparian corridor is critical to maintaining water quality and habitat for aquatic organisms. When invasive plants like Bush Honeysuckle begin to take over forested riparian zones, a loss of regeneration of the native species occurs, especially the canopy trees. Invasive plants can also out-compete many native grasses, sedges and wildflowers that help to control erosion and reduce sediment loads in our streams.



*Streambank after bush honeysuckle removal*

Spades Greenway was dominated by Bush Honeysuckle and in some areas a new invader, Japanese Knotweed, was taking over. Eco Logic worked with The Land Stewardship Department of Indy Parks to restore the stream corridor, using a variety of methods to eradicate the invasives on site. In the open areas and along the forested edges a Fecon forestry mower was used to remove the bio mass. On the steeper slopes we utilized cut stump and basal bark applications. All of the initial clearing work was performed in January 2011 when the ground was frozen.

All follow up treatments were foliar applications utilizing backpack sprayers and gasoline powered sprayers. Japanese Knotweed was treated two times during the 2011 growing season with a water safe broadleaf specific herbicide. This noxious invader is an upright, shrub-like, herbaceous perennial that can grow to over 10 feet in height. Japanese knotweed spreads quickly to form dense thickets that exclude native vegetation and greatly alter natural ecosystems. It poses a significant threat to riparian areas, where it can survive severe floods and is able to rapidly colonize scoured shores and islands. Once established, populations are extremely persistent.

Eco Logic is working with Indy Parks Land Stewardship division to learn how to better control Japanese Knotweed in several greenways and riparian areas. As Knotweed is a relatively new foe, Eco Logic is trying several different control strategies, allowing us to find the most environmental and economical approach to controlling it.



*Japanese knotweed quickly forming dense thickets*

[www.ecologicindiana.com](http://www.ecologicindiana.com)

