



WILSON CREEK'S MOST **UN**WANTED



JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), native to Eastern Asia, is a shrub-like herbaceous plant that grows in dense stands along riparian (shoreline) areas. Spreading easily by rhizomes (underground stems), this plant clogs waterways and lowers the quality of habitat for wildlife and fish. Originally planted for erosion control in the early 1900's, Japanese knotweed (locally called "Bill Crump weed") has now spread throughout Wilson Creek.

Japanese knotweed is the "most unwanted" invasive species in Wilson Creek because it:

- Outcompetes native streamside vegetation
- Reduces trout habitat quality

What is being done to treat Japanese knotweed in Wilson Creek? The U. S. Forest Service, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, local landowners, and non-profit organizations are working together to eradicate Japanese Knotweed from Wilson Creek. Treatments include cutting back the plant as well as application of water-safe herbicides by certified pesticide applicators. Treatments started in 2013, with hopes of controlling Japanese knotweed by 2017.

What can I do? Learn to identify Japanese knotweed. DO NOT plant or transplant it. On private property, cut stems and bag or burn — DO NOT compost, Japanese knotweed can root from stem cuttings. For large infestations, trained pesticide applicators should apply water-safe herbicides. Contact the Grandfather Ranger District about volunteer opportunities in Wilson Creek.



For more information:

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