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**Date** March 6, 2025

**Report No.** 2025-55

**To** Chair and Members  
Environmental and Sustainability Policy Advisory Committee

**From** Gagan Batra  
Manager, Business Support and Sustainability

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## 1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item ☐  
Item For Consideration ☒

**2.0 Topic** Invasive Species Management Plan [Financial Impact: None]

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## 3.0 Recommendation

- A. THAT Report 2025-55 "Invasive Species Management Plan" BE RECEIVED;  
and
- B. THAT the following comments from the Environmental and Sustainability Policy Advisory Committee regarding the Invasive Species Management Plan BE INCLUDED in the Invasive Species Management Plan:
- a. \_\_\_\_\_;
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_; and
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_.

## 4.0 Background

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The City of Brantford is experiencing increasing numbers of invasive plant and insect species. The previous Invasive Species Program focused on addressing the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) but funding for that program ended in 2022. Staff have developed a new program that will implement direction provided by the Native Species Policy, approved by City Council on February 28, 2023 in [Report 2023-16](#) titled "Native Species Planting Policy". The new program aims to combat invasive species like EAB, Spongy Moth, Giant Hogweed, and Phragmites through direct intervention (eradication and mitigation), public education, and monitoring. As part of this program and to help guide the management of invasive species, staff are developing an Invasive Species Management Plan.

## 5.0 Analysis

The Vision for the Invasive Species Management Plan is to create a sustainable future for Brantford that includes healthy ecosystems, people, and animals as well as a vibrant economy protected from new and established invasive species populations. This will be achieved through a comprehensive community approach to environmental stewardship led and supported by City of Brantford staff working in partnership with others.

The goal of the Invasive Species Management Plan is to prevent, reduce, control, and mitigate the effects of invasive species on natural ecosystems, human health, and the economy.

For the purposes of the City of Brantford Invasive Species Management Plan, invasive species are defined as the non-native terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna and pathogens whose introduction and spread can pose significantly greater harm to the environment, economy, and society compared to any potential benefit they might provide.

To guide the management of invasive species in the City of Brantford, staff are recommending the following process as the approach to meet the goals of the Invasive Species Management Plan:

- Inventory and mapping of existing priority invasive species: to identify and record existing invasive species and to create a benchmark for future management activities and monitor the spread and reduction of priority invasive species.
- Early detection and rapid response to new invasions: to identify new, priority listed invasive species as early as possible to prevent

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establishment and future spread and to use Best Management Practices when costs are lowest.

- Management of established invasive species: control established invasive species using published Best Management Practices for removal and control.
- Restoration of native communities: reintroduce native species to management areas following invasive species removal to restore native vegetation.
- Prevention of new invasions: reduce the risk of reintroduction and spread of invasive species through monitoring to prevent delayed treatment of invasive species.

Currently, staff have submitted a grant application to the Invasive Species Action Fund to support the creation of the Invasive Species Management Plan and to conduct mapping and creating an inventory of current invasive species. From there, priority species will be targeted for removal. Management of established invasive species will be done according to Best Management Practices developed by the Invasive Species Centre and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council.

As the Invasive Species Management Plan is in the early stages of development, staff are looking for feedback from ESPAC on the approach and outline of the Plan.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

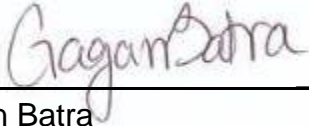
## **7.0 Climate and Environmental Implications**

Invasive species impact species diversity and species richness by competing heavily for resources such as light, moisture, and soil nutrients that native species require to establish and grow. Invasive species affect the intricate linkages that make ecosystems strong and resilient. Therefore, an Invasive Species Management Plan will guide actions in the removal and control of invasive species and allow native species of Brantford to thrive.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

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This report provided an outline and a plan of approach for the Invasive Species Management Plan. Staff have asked ESPAC members to provide feedback on what should be included in the Plan.



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Gagan Batra  
Manager, Business Support and Sustainability

Prepared By:

Rebecca Szczepanowski, Climate Change Officer

Attachments (if applicable)

None.

Copy to:

N/A

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required ☐ yes ☒ no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk ☐ yes ☒ no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? ☐ yes ☒ no