Order of Saint Benedict Policy and Saint John's University Policy
Effective July 1, 2010

Preventing Invasive Species at Saint John's

Welcome to the lands of Saint John's Abbey. The Abbey has owned and cared for this site since 1856. In keeping with our Benedictine values, the monastic community is pleased to share our home with you where you may observe nature and be physically and spiritually refreshed. As a guest on this private property, please be respectful of our policies and this land which we consider sacred. Thank you.

Policy Statement

- Non-native, invasive species shall not be intentionally or unintentionally introduced through landscaping, land management projects, recreational activities, or as components of scientific experiments.
- A cautionary approach is to be used and introduction avoided when it is not certain if the species will be invasive.
- Existing invasive specimens should be eradicated when their abundance is not already to the level of being endemic. Removal is to be completed at a time frame appropriate to the level of the problem.

Additional Policy Statement Information

- This policy applies to all students, residents, employees and visitors of Saint John's.
- This policy applies to all areas of the inner, developed SJU campus.
- This policy applies to all areas of the outer, undeveloped Abbey forest and lands.

Campus Landscaping, Forest and Prairie:

1. To avoid un-intentional introductions of invasive plants and to avoid planting at undesirable locations, all trees, shrubs, plants, flowers, etc., intended for planting at Saint John's must be planted under the direction of the abbey land management staff, the Saint John's grounds staff, or other authorized monastic members and employees. No faculty, staff, students, guests or unauthorized employees may conduct plantings on campus or on abbey land without approval.
2. Faculty and students involved in research requiring plantings must submit their projects for approval to the Abbey Land Manager.
3. Native species of trees and plants should be preferred when possible.

4. Because of various wood infestations, no off-campus cut wood is allowed for bonfires or fireplaces. The risk of bringing in a fungus or insects that could affect the forest at Saint John's is too great.

Watercraft and Fishing:

To protect the local lakes from plant and aquatic invasive species, the following practices are required:

1. Inspect canoes, kayaks or other watercraft and equipment prior to placing them in the lake, removing visible aquatic plants, animals (muscles, snails, worms, etc) and mud before entering and after leaving the water access. These should be placed in the garbage, not on the shoreline or woods.
2. Drain water from your canoe, kayak or other watercraft and from bait containers before leaving the water access.
3. Dispose of unwanted bait (including earth worms) and other animals or aquatic plants in the trash, not on the shorelines or woods.

Reason for Policy

Private Property:
The land of Saint John's Abbey is private property and is the permanent home of the monastic community as well as the home of many students for much of the year. As the owners, the Abbey has set forth these rules for the use of their property.

Ecological Integrity:
Invasive species can be plants, animals, and other organisms (e.g., microbes). Human actions are the primary means of invasive species introductions. In recent years, Saint John's has become more concerned about invasive plants. Today, with an increased awareness about the environmental and economic threats posed by invasive species, Saint John's is strengthening its invasive plant policy.

It should be noted, however, that most exotic plants are not invasive and greatly enrich our lives. From vegetables and fruits to roses and lilacs, many non-native plants are not aggressive and do not negatively affect our environment.

Some invasive plants like canary grass are now so dominant and common in the landscape that they can never be eradicated and have replaced the previous native species. Simplifying the landscape with invasive species such as common buckthorn has a ripple effect on many other species in the area and can lead to the degradation of whole ecosystems.

Economic Sustainability:
Introduction of invasive species such as Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer, and oak wilt can lead to the eradication of species valuable for direct human needs and economic activity.

Special Situations

For invasive species (such as canary grass) which are already so firmly and widely established that no hope of eradication or control exists, the Abbey Land Manager may recommend not to eradicate that species subject to approval of the Land Manager's supervisor.

Existing invasive species which can be and are held in a vegetative state which does not allow seeding or other proliferation may be maintained, as recommended by the Abbey Land Manager and approved by the Land Manager's supervisor.

Due to the very high downside of introducing invasive species, no exceptions are expected to be allowed for species which are not already beyond control. The Abbey Land Manager may suggest exemptions which must be approved by the Land Manager's supervisor.

Rates, Fees, or Penalties

Violators may be restricted from Saint John's property.

Contacts

Subject	Contact	Phone	E-Mail
Policy Enforcement	Abbey Land Manager	320-363-3163	Arboretum@csbsju.edu
Policy Enactment on landscape design	Corporate Design Committee		
Policy Enactment on inner campus plants	SJU Grounds Department	320-363-2050	
Corporate Responsibility	SJ Abbey Treasurer	320-363-3167	sjainfo@osb.org
Policy Modifications	Abbey Forest & Lands Committee	320-363-3163	Arboretum@csbsju.edu

Procedures and Forms

In support of this policy, the following procedures and forms are included:

None.

Definitions

The term *invasive species* is defined as **"a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health**." National Invasive Species Management Plan (NISMP)

Not all problem species or species becoming a problem will be found simultaneously on all lists. The following are examples of the kinds of lists that should be used to identify current and potential problems.

- Minnesota State Laws and Invasive Species List can be found at www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives
- MN Dept of Ag Invasive Species website: www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/invasive-species-council.aspx
- The USDA National Invasive Species website is www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov
- Midwest Invasive Plant Network www.mipn.org

Order of Saint Benedict, Saint John's Abbey, Saint John's or Abbey all refer to the monastic community legally named Order of Saint Benedict.

Policy History

Approved by:
Saint John's Abbey Treasurer on 14 June 2010
OSB Forest and Lands Committee on 14 June 2010
OSB Senior Council on 29 June 2010

Endorsed by:
Saint John's University on _____
Saint John's University Regents on _____

- Saint John's Abbey owns and controls the land and retains the right to modify its policies at any time. Minor amendments and corrections endorsed by the Abbey Forest and Lands Committee and approved by the Abbey Treasurer may be made as needed.