

AN INVASIVE SPECIES TRAIL ON THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CAMPUS

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Abstract

Invasion of exotic species can cause loss of native biodiversity, alter ecosystem functions, and affect human health. Billions of dollars are spent annually to combat invasive species. In order to increase awareness of invasive species in our community, a trail map was created showing invasive plants on the University of Kentucky campus. Landscaped areas were surveyed to locate non-native plants within 176 acres of central campus. Points and polylines were collected at a PDOP ≤ 5 with a Trimble GeoXM GPS unit. Shapefiles were differentially corrected then edited

In Proceedings of the 6th Southern Forestry and Natural Resources GIS Conference (2008), P. Bettinger, K. Merry, S. Fei, J. Drake, N. Nibbelink, and J. Hepinstall, eds. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

in ArcGIS 9.1. Polylines were converted into polygons to represent landscape beds. Buildings, roads, and sidewalks were also digitized from existing maps. Six hundred and forty individuals or patches comprising eleven invasive species were identified. A trail was then created that links all species in a short distance. The resulting 1.4-mile loop connects invasive trees, shrubs, grasses, and vines. A brochure with the trail map and a short description of each species was published then distributed around campus.

[Abstract Only]