

Akebia quinata infestation in Forbes Woods was first reported by Tom Palmer a few years ago (see [Forbes Woods Management Plan, 2004](#) and references therein). *Akebia* was then present together with other invasives -- particularly in place of a former "Formal Garden." We visited Forbes Woods in 2007 and then noticed *Akebia* only as a few insignificant shoots overwintering green (<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/plantgallery>). Paul Somers advised us to revisit this area in 2009.

The major infestation that we observed occurs in the southeast square, which roughly corresponds to the "Formal Garden Area". The area of 100% *Akebia* cover starts at a stone wall (about 50 m from the parking spot). From the wall *Akebia* is spreading in the direction south-southwest. Upon reaching the border of the public land, *Akebia* overcomes another stone wall, invading the adjacent private land, where it also covers all of the wooded area reaching the mowed lawn in front of the house. In the circumscribed area *Akebia* is completely covering the surface and all formerly existing small shrubs, climbing on every surviving shrub and onto many small and large trees. Amidst *Akebia*, we could observe only some weak sprouts of *Impatiens capensis*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Campsis radicans*, and *Chelidonium majus* forming a sparse (less than 10%) second layer over the continuous *Akebia* 100%-cover layer.

There exists a transitional zone in the northern part of the lot (between the parking spot and the first stone wall). *Akebia* is also present there, though only at 30-60% cover, sharing the habitat with other, mostly invasive or alien plants, such as *Alliaria petiolata*, *Euonymus fortunei*, *Vinca*, *Urtica dioica*.

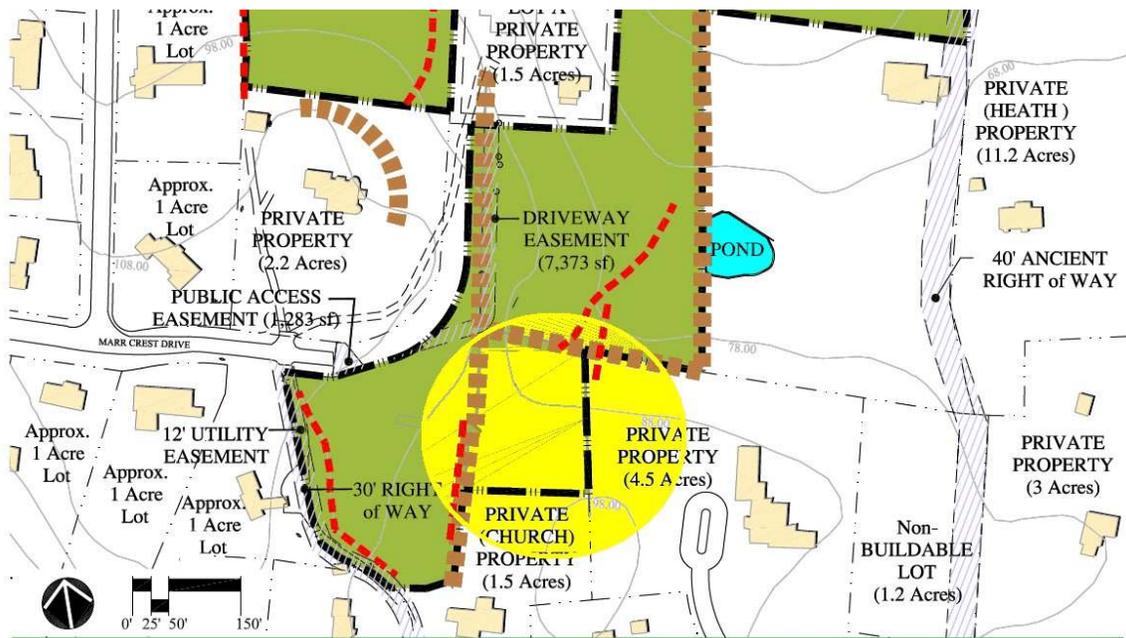
On the eastern side, upon overcoming yet another stone wall, *Akebia* invades a brookside with some remnant native vegetation (*Lindera benzoin*, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *Impatiens capensis*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Toxicodendron radicans*).

We could not come up with the exact size of the infested area, as part of it is on the private land that we could not survey. Our estimate is about 3 acres. There were control measures planned in the RPM, and according to indirect evidence (some distorted leaves on *Akebia*), pesticides might have been applied since then, though without success. A harmless way to get rid of *Akebia* would be covering it with black plastic for a while. Because the infested area is so large, this treatment could be applied to different parts at different times, with subsequent monitoring and hand weeding as needed.

1. Topo map with geo-references to photos of *Akebia* (public area only)



2. Forbes Woods territory including the zone affected by *Akebia* (from Forbes Woods Management Plan, 2004)



3. View of major infestation area



See more photos at <http://www.salicicola.com/photos/plantgallery>