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## Weed warriors attack

By Steve O'Brien, CBS 11 News Reporter  
Article Last Updated: 08/23/2007 06:45:07 PM AKDT

A foreign plant has become a problem in Anchorage. The more we have of it, the more damage it can do to Alaska's environment.



You can find it at Westchester Lagoon. You can even see it in your own backyard. If you do, you shouldn't judge it by its attractive appearance. Purple loosestrife can damage our environment and kill the fish that swim in our water.

It looks nice, but purple loosestrife can grow and grow, which eventually clogs up the waterways. For the third year in a row, a group of Alaskans are doing something about it by pulling them out one by one. Three years ago, it gained the city's attention. That's because a biker rode the trail at Westchester Lagoon and he contacted the city and



system itself, so it doesn't function as

it's intended to," said David Wigglesworth of the Municipality of Anchorage.

The group of warriors not only pull up the weeds, they use a GPS system to track where the loosestrife grows, so they can check back next year.

made them realize how damaging it can be to our fish. Not only that, it could kill off our state's native plants.

"It can take over wetland areas like this in a way that essentially forces out all the other native species and starts clogging the wetland

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