Aggressive, exotic plant species have invaded the garden since it was first planted. The dominant invasive species in 2016 was Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense) and this was still prevalent in 2018 (Kathrens & Jennings). See Figure 348 for a photos of Canada thistle going to seed along the outer edge of the pond. Additional invasive species include creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), general garden weeds, and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). A few individuals of Himalayan blackberry (Rubus armeniacus) were also idenftified in 2016 (Kathrens & Jennings). See Figure 349 for a map of the distribution of invasive species in the rain garden and retention pond.

Figure 348. Canada thistle going to seed (Photo: Hebb 2018)

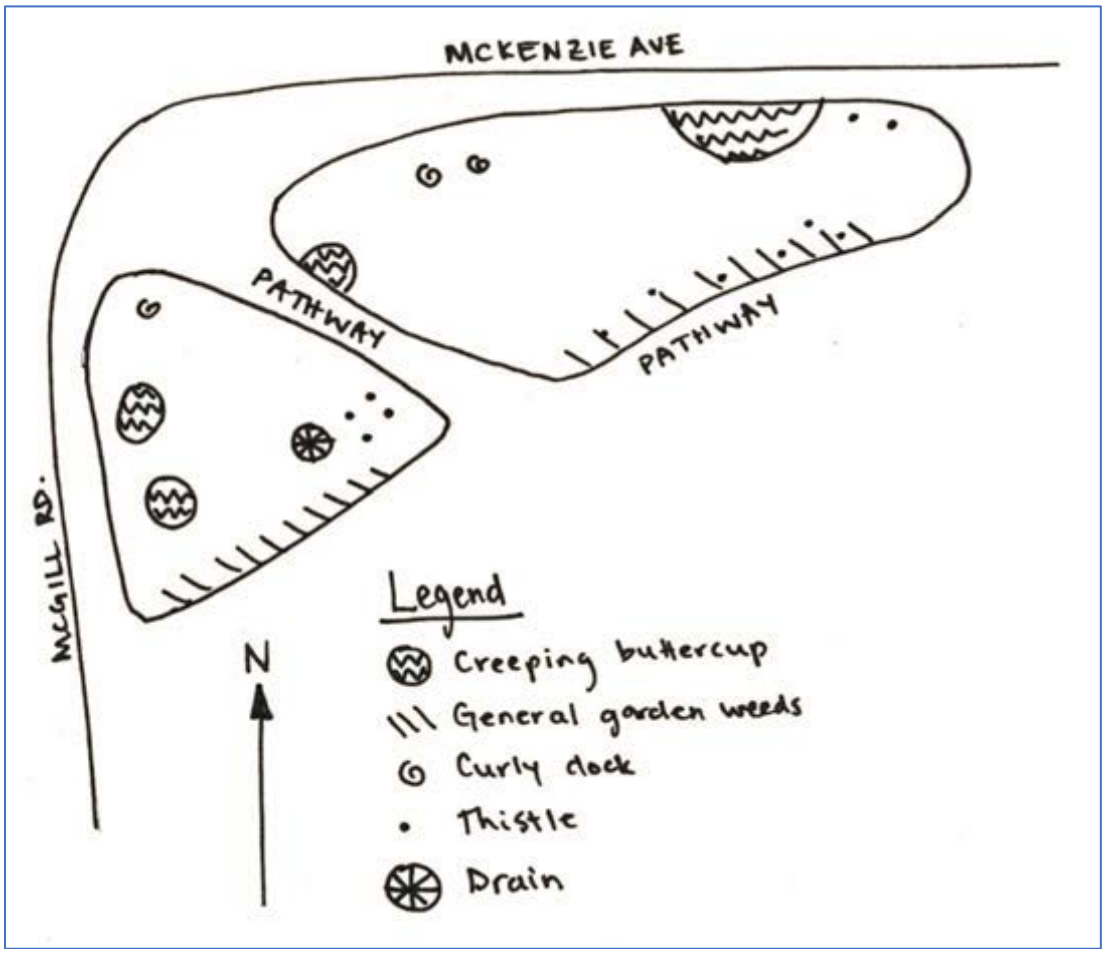

Figure 349. Distribution of invasive species at the McKenzie rain garden (Source: Kathrens & Jennings 2016)

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4. Conclusion

The University of Victoria campus is a rich natural area that offers many opportunities for experiential learning, environmental stewardship and research. In terms of its natural areas it is of regional importance because it is in the watersheds of four streams that serve the Capital Regional District. The integrity and resilience of the university's green spaces rely on constant ecological restoration from the university community. The natural areas are all relatively small and struggle to maintain themselves. There is disturbance from campus life and the hydrology has been permanently altered, challenging the survival of the creeks and their ecosystems.

The university has risen to the challenge. It has fostered several key biophysical inventories, developed an Invasive Species Management Strategy, and has made green space an important area of focus in its Community Plan. Although the natural areas on campus will be subject to ongoing disturbance, the constant engagement of the students, faculty and staff in ecological restoration through coursework, research and Facilities Management offers an optimistic future for their health.

Figure 350. Environmental Studies students hold a sword fern they are about to transplant in an area washed out by flooding from Hobbs Creek (Photo: Schaefer)