



Partners in Parks program

Short-term stewardship activity: Invasive plant species removal

Community groups interested in maintaining the biodiversity of Waterloo's natural areas may be interested in managing the spread of invasive, non-native plant species.



The Ontario Invasive Plant Council's "Best Management Practices" provide guidance for managing invasive plant species in Ontario. Through the Partners in Parks program, participants help manage the invasive plant species listed below through mechanical control measures (hand pulling or cutting to ground level) followed by mulching the disturbed soil, if required.

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a biennial herbaceous plant that produces flowering stalks in early to late May until June during its second year.

European buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* L.) is an invasive, non-native shrub or small tree, forming dense thickets, berries are spread by birds and wildlife.

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is an invasive perennial herbaceous plant that spreads aggressively via its root system and negatively impacts wetlands and waterways.

Responsibilities

The City of Waterloo and Group Leader work together to determine the extent of the project, location, timing and appropriate species. Responsibilities include:

- City of Waterloo provides required hand tools, wood chip mulch and staff assistance on the day of the event and provides orientation and monitoring during the activity
- Group Leader engages community involvement and ensuring participants are wearing personal protective equipment, have read and signed the Informed Consent Agreement and are directly supervised with suitable project tasks. Transportation to the activity site is the sole responsibility of the participants.
- A long-term commitment is required for both Garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed



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Group participants

- Group Leader must be 18 years of age or older to coordinate the activity with City staff
- geared to ages 14 years and up in good physical condition as moderate physical activity may be required such as bending, walking, digging and lifting
- ideally 10 to 15 participants to minimize trampling of native plants in natural area

Direct supervision

Group Leader directly supervises group participants during the activity. Parent or guardian of any under-age-18 participant must sign the Informed Consent Agreement for the minors' participation and supervise them with suitable project tasks.

Orientation

City of Waterloo will provide instruction, a tool safety talk and will monitor the initial activity (and as required thereafter) to ensure tasks are completed safely and of the highest standard.

Time and place

- Approved natural area on public parkland in Waterloo
- Monday to Friday (9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. / 1 pm – 3:30 p.m. / 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) or Saturday between 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (no statutory holidays)
- Garlic mustard: Early to late May until end of June
- European buckthorn: one time event in summer
- Japanese knotweed: twice in spring, once in summer, 1-2 times in fall before winter

Personal protective equipment

All group participants shall wear:

- closed-toe footwear which must be fully laced to provide full support and to prevent accidents
- clothing appropriate for outdoor weather and natural area conditions including long pants, hats, sunglasses, as well as sunscreen, insect repellent and bottled water, as required
- cloth gloves, supplied by City, where they may be exposed to the hazard of injury from contact of skin with a sharp or jagged object which may puncture, cut or abrade the skin

Acceptable tools and supplies

- cloth gloves, short-handled shovels, hand pruners, loppers, puller bears, wheelbarrows