

Volunteer Activities Description: Invasive Management

Species being managed:

- English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Japanese honeysuckle vine (*Lonicera japonica*)
- Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)

Method of management:

- Volunteers will use loppers and hand pruners for manual removal of invasive vegetation.
- Volunteers will cut woody vegetation stems at the base; larger stems may require multiple cuts.
- Volunteers will cut vines growing up the trees, depending on the size of the vines. They will cut a “window” (completely cut through a short section) in the vine, roughly between 8” and 18” in length near the bottom of the tree. Volunteers will also be reminded not to pull the vine off the tree, potentially damaging the tree.

Physical demands:

- Volunteers should be able to walk and stand throughout the entire project. They should not carry anything that is heavier, larger, or more awkward than what they feel comfortable with.
- Volunteers should be able to use the tools that they have chosen to use during the project, such as loppers or pruners, and may choose to trade off with other people.
- Volunteers will have been told in writing before the project date and again verbally before the project begins that they may be walking on uneven ground, up or down small slopes, and may be walking on rocks or roots. Volunteers should avoid areas that make them feel uncomfortable.

Safety:

- Before work begins, the project leader will address safety issues and provide safe options for volunteers.
- Volunteers will wear work gloves while volunteering. If they are working near a parking lot, sidewalk, road, railroad tracks, or the towpath, they will also wear yellow high-visibility vests. Projects that take place beside any of these except the towpath will be available to adults only.
- First-aid kits, including poison ivy wipes, will be available onsite. Volunteers are invited to bring their own medical or first-aid items according to their needs and preferences.
- PPE such as masks and hand sanitizer will be available. Volunteers may choose to bring their own PPE or project supplies from home at their own risk and in accordance with park and Trust guidelines for performing the task.
- In writing and verbally, volunteers are reminded that they are not expected to perform any task that makes them uncomfortable and to notify a project leader if they’d prefer to do a different task.

Skills and training:

- The park or the Trust will provide at least one project leader who has the blessing of the park Resources Team and is comfortable with leading every project.
- Volunteers are not expected to have any previous training or experience with the tasks, but should be willing to be trained on the project and how to follow guidelines and expectations.