



LACEY PARKS
CULTURE & RECREATION

Volunteers In Parks Invasive Plant Removal Information



Why Are These Invasive Plants A Problem?

- They spread over the ground and crowd out native wildflowers, ferns and tree seedlings.
- When ivy grows up trees, the reduced access to light can cause disease and rot leading to overall decreased health of the trees.
- They are fast-growing and compete for water and nutrients needed for the native plants and trees.



Wonderwood Park Left: Ivy beginning to climb a tree trunk. Right: Overgrown ivy on a tree.

Thank You

The invasive plants within the City of Lacey Parks are a significant problem. With over 1,200 acres of park property, it is impossible for staff to remove all of the invasive plants without help from volunteers.

Thank you for helping us keep our parks vibrant and healthy - today and for future generations.



LACEY PARKS
VOLUNTEERS

360-491-0857

How To Remove Invasive Plants

- Grip the plant at the base, near the ground and pull it out of the soil to ensure the roots are removed.
- Put all of the plants that have been removed in garage bags and tie the top of the bag.
- To remove ivy growing on a tree, cut the vines all the way around the tree at ankle and shoulder height, remove the section between the cuts. Vines above the cuts will dry out and fall off on their own. Cut any ivy back 6 feet from the base of the tree. If you don't have clippers, leave the ivy on the tree, tearing ivy off the trunk can cause damage.

BE SAFE

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE PRECAUTIONS

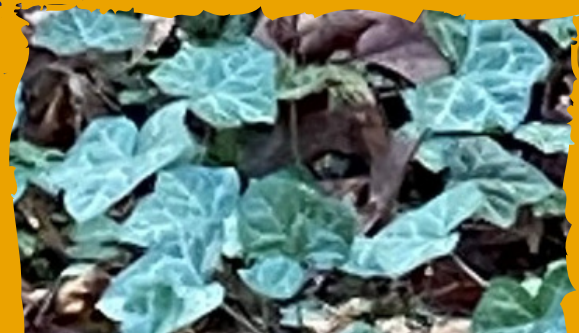
- Please dress for weather conditions and wear your own gardening or work gloves. Gloves are important to protect you from Stinging Nettles, Poison Ivy and Poison Oak.
- Children should always be closely supervised with the following criteria:
 - One adult to every 4 youth age 10-13.
 - One adult to every 8 youth age 14-15.
 - One adult to every 10 youth age 16-17.
 - Children under age 10 are not eligible to volunteer.
- Watch your step, the terrain can be uneven and slippery.
- When pulling weeds, look before you reach to make sure there is nothing under the plant that could cause injury.
- Tree branches can become dislodged and cause injury during wind. If wind is forecasted to be 20 mph or more the event will be cancelled. The group leader should monitor the forecast and communicate with volunteers any cancellations. If unexpected winds arise during the volunteer event, everyone should immediately exit wooded areas and check-out with the designated group leader. (A 20 mph wind is a moderate breeze that causes small trees sway and loose paper to blow away.)
- Anyone with a bee allergy is required to have their prescribed medication (ex: Epi-pen) with them and notify the group leader of the allergy. Anyone who has an allergy and does not have medication onsite is prohibited from volunteering. Keep in mind, bee stings can happen during all seasons and are prevalent when disturbing wooded areas.
- If a hypodermic needle is found. Don't touch or move the needle. Note the location and notify staff after the event so it can be safely disposed. Follow the same protocol for broken glass, suspected hazardous materials or large or heavy items.
- Do not pick up garbage you cannot clearly identify such as bags, boxes or unrecognizable plastic/metal objects. Volunteer safety is our top priority so if you are unsure, leave it and notify staff.
- If you find tents or any shelter-type structures please leave them, exit the area and notify staff.
- You can bring your own hand tools (ex: clippers, shovels) however no power tools are allowed.

WHEN YOU ARE DONE

- Before leaving, check-out with your volunteer group leader.
- Unless given other instructions, put all the garbage bag in one pile in the parking lot for staff to pick-up.
- Follow-up with City of Lacey staff to report the total hours volunteered and any park maintenance issues that need to be addressed.
- Report any injuries or illnesses incurred during the event, no matter how minor.

WHAT PLANTS SHOULD YOU REMOVE?

All the plants below are invasive and should be removed



English Ivy



Juvenile English Ivy



Yellow Archangel



Geranium Robertianum (Stinky Bob)