

lbassett

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Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 12:05 PM
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Subject: Greenspace Minutes 03/07/15

Greenspace Minutes 03/07/15

Pat Hogan put together a high level Invasive Management Plan (attached).

This plan is short term and intended to train folks to assist the scouts on their participation.

The committee has scheduled two Nature Park familiarization sessions for interested volunteers:

Sunday, 3/15/15, 9:00 AM to Noon and Saturday, 4/18/15, 9:00 AM to Noon.

Topics will include Invasive ID, control methods, tools, web links and an open question session.

The scouts work detail is set for early May

The Sky Valley property has been cleared. Currently plans call for leaving it a natural area as both the township and the county park district are without funding for a project.

Clarence Roller

Pierce Invasive Species Management Program

Mission:

To better control the adverse effects of invasive species in Pierce Township through currently published and practiced invasive management techniques.

Goal:

To significantly reduce the number of invasive plant species in the Pierce Township Nature Area.

Short term plan (now through Spring):

Given that the ideal time to most effectively reduce or eliminate invasive species is Fall to early Winter (in general) there are actions we can take now to reduce the impact of the invasives during the coming Spring and Summer growing seasons. Following are a list of the more common invasives and the actions we can take now.

- **Bush/Shrubs:**
 - o Amur, Morrow's & Tatarian Honeysuckle , Burning Bush, Autumn-olive and Russian-olive
 - These plants are easily identified year round, are found just about everywhere, and can be very large
 - o Winter/Spring actions
 - Uproot small plants (entire root)
 - Cut Large plants 12-18 inches from ground, pile cuttings, tag stump
 - Easy to get to with no leaves
 - Reduces the number of berries they will produce
 - Opens the area around the plant so more native species may grow
 - Piled cuttings create habitat for other wildlife (rabbits, etc)
 - Tagging enables easy finding for further control with herbicides
- **Vines:**
 - o Grapevine, Japanese Honeysuckle, and Asian Bittersweet
 - Again, easy to identify and affect during their dormant season
 - Left uncontrolled, these vines will decimate the native plants and trees by limiting their sunlight an strangling saplings
 - o Winter/Spring actions
 - Unwrap the honeysuckle from young trees and saplings and pull out the plant at its roots
 - Vines should be bagged and removed from the site
 - Grapevines can be cut head height or above depending on foot traffic and again at the base where they enter the ground

- Special consideration should be given to the grapevines that have already destroyed trees. It may be preferred to allow these to exist as there is nothing left to save and the vine can continue to be a safe haven for some animal species
- Cut vines may be piled (if in an area where many are cut) or left on the forest floor to decay naturally