

Invasive Species Management Project

Buckthorn Be Gone!

The Challenge

In Minnesota, buckthorn and other non-native plants are invading Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area parks, natural areas, and neighborhoods. Removal of these exotic invaders and the restoration of native plant communities is needed. Beyond the metropolitan area, invasive plants are affecting smaller communities across the state fueling a demand for information, expertise, and research on invasive species and their control.

The Solution

A collaborative effort of government agencies, non-profits, trained educators, and neighborhoods created a model to help communities understand and manage their invasive plant problem. Thanks to a USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry grant, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and St. Paul Parks & Recreation (SPPR) joined forces to combat invasive plants along the Mississippi River Corridor that these two cities share. Park personnel, along with variety of partners, surveyed for invasive plant species and ultimately removed invasive species from over 68 acres in Minneapolis and restored 4 acres with native plant species. Saint Paul removed invasive plants from over 23 acres and restored 2.5 acres. Coincident with the survey, eradication and restoration on public lands was a campaign to accomplish these same goals on adjacent private property. Collaboration with university partners yielded additional insight that improved invasive species management on all lands.

Resulting Benefits

- A model was developed for managing woody invasive species in urban areas.
- Residents of Minneapolis/St. Paul are more aware of woody invasive species.
- Urban forestry professionals and park workers are

*"The **Buckthorn Bust Neighborhood Guide** is a resource for communities, neighborhoods and individuals to develop removal programs for invasive plants, specifically buckthorn."*



The "Buckthorn Bust Neighborhood Guide" and other invasive species information can be found at www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/depts/parks/environment/buckthorn/buckthorn_index.htm

more informed about invasive species issues and that is being translated into improved stewardship of the urban forest.

- Dynamic partnerships were forged between the urban forestry community and various neighborhood groups and special interest organizations.
- New techniques for eradicating buckthorn have been developed since project managers found that the traditional chipping of buckthorn debris was not sufficient to prevent the germination of seeds.

Sharing Success

- Developed and distributed a "Buckthorn Bust Neighborhood Guide." This guide is available on the internet, compact disc, and in hard copy.
- Accomplishments were presented at the Natural Areas Conference and Invasive Symposium - a Midwestern regional conference.
- Invasive species displays were created and are available for community use.
- Worked with all forms of media to increase awareness of invasive species to the broadest possible audience.
- Inspired private property invasive species removal projects in ten Minneapolis neighborhoods and in nine St. Paul neighborhoods.



USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
 State and Private Forestry

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