

Exotic Invasive Plant Removal



Volunteers pull young honeysuckle plants along the Lake Trail

Large areas dense with invasive plants cause a monoculture. These areas have little plant diversity which results in limited food and habitat for wildlife.

There are several effective ways to remove exotic plants. The preferred way is to pull the plant up by the root. When this is not possible the next best option is the stump-cut method. This consists of cutting plants low to the ground and then treating the stumps with herbicide. For larger invasives such as Tree of Heaven, plants may be girdled by cutting a ring around the trunk and then treating the exposed layer of wood with herbicide.



Join us for Volunteer Day!

Work alongside park staff on the fourth Saturday of every month (except December).

Show Your Support!



The Friends of Radnor Lake mission is to protect, preserve, and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake through land acquisition, environmental education and park support. This is accomplished through donations including your purchase of the Radnor Lake license plate.



The Tennessee State Park license plate raises money for exotic plant removal and native plant landscaping projects at all of Tennessee's State Parks and Natural Areas. Show your support for the Iris Fund today!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
RadnorLake.org

TNStateParks.com/Parks/About/Radnor-Lake

MADE POSSIBLE BY:



As part of their mission to preserve and protect Radnor Lake, funds are provided annually from Friends of Radnor Lake for exotic plant removal.



Tennessee Division of Forestry and the USDA-Forest Service provides grant money and expertise for the planning and removal of exotic species within Radnor Lake State Natural Area



Environmental research following the progress and effects of exotic plant removal is done annually in cooperation with Dr. Robert Loeb from Penn State University.



Recreational Equipment Inc. Community Outreach program provides funding through grants that benefit Radnor Lake's volunteer program.



INVASIVE PLANTS

Non-native plants that invade the natural habitat, inhibiting the growth of valuable indigenous plants, adversely impacting food and habitat resources for wildlife.



Stop Invasive Plants
in their Tracks!



Tree of Heaven

Ailanthus altissima



Tree of Heaven Bark



Compound Leaves

Native to China, Tree of Heaven is a fast growing tree with a high level of adaptability. It is able to grow in most soil and air conditions which led to its cultivation in urban areas. Since its introduction to New England in 1748, it has spread to more than 30 states. It is easily identifiable by its distinct odor. It is very resilient and has the ability to grow multiple trees from one root.

Winter Creeper

Euonymus fortunei



Dark evergreen leaves

This evergreen vine was introduced to North America as an ornamental groundcover. It has escaped and expanded to most of the eastern United States. It grows along the ground, displacing native understory plants, but also has the ability to grow on trees and into

the canopy of the forest eventually killing the trees. The best way to eliminate this plant is to pull it up by hand while it is still a young groundcover plant.

Bush Honeysuckle

Lonicera maackii

Also known as Amur Honeysuckle, Bush Honeysuckle was first introduced from Asia as an ornamental garden plant. It has since spread throughout the eastern United States. Honeysuckle has a longer growing period than many native shrubs and out competes them for sunlight. Its bright red berries are spread by birds.



Berries present in the fall



Springtime honeysuckle blossoms

Once dense with Honeysuckle, the woods at Radnor Lake have greatly benefited from exotic removal projects. This is an ongoing process as one area must be treated multiple times. After mature plants are removed, the dormant seed in the soil will grow and young plants must be removed as well. If you have honeysuckle in your yard, removing it is the best way to allow native plants, including wildflowers to thrive.

Information and images courtesy of invasive.org and nps.gov

Privet

Ligustrum vulgare



Opposite leaves



Fruit during the fall

This shrub can grow to 15 feet tall. Once a popular ornamental used in hedge rows, privet now thrives in the woods all across the eastern United States. Its distinctive dark green glossy leaves persist into the winter giving it a much longer growing season than other native species. Eradication is encouraged by pulling the plant up by the root. If the plant is too large it can be cut low to the ground. Herbicides can be used on stumps of cut plants or the leaves of younger plants.

Mimosa

Albizia julibrissin



Bipinnate leaves and pink flower clusters

Native to Asia and originally cultivated for its beauty, Mimosa (or Silk Tree) has become well established in the wooded areas of Tennessee including Radnor Lake.