



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division

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SUBJECT: Buckthorn Brigade Events to Start in July

BY: Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator

Buckthorn Brigade Events to Start in July

[Duluth, MN] - The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation division invites volunteers to join in on the ongoing fight against the invasive shrub - Buckthorn. Buckthorn is a common invasive plant that is prevalent not only in City parks and on trails, but also in backyards and front lawns. Buckthorn was first introduced into our area in the early 1800's when it was used as a popular hedging plant. Now, it is illegal to import, sell, or transport buckthorn in Minnesota. Buckthorn poses a threat to other plants, provides a host to pests, forms an impermeable layer of vegetation, and grows rapidly due to the lack of natural controls, such as insects and disease that would curb its growth.

The Buckthorn Brigade events are sponsored by the City of Duluth's Invasive Species service initiative, organized by Duluth Parks and Recreation, and aims to educate the public on the impact of invasive plants, how to eradicate and remove invasive plants, and restore habitats to their native ecosystem.

Volunteers are invited to the following removal events. Information on identification and removal techniques will be shared.

Thursday, July 10th – 5-6:30PM @ Western Waterfront Trail
Meet at trailhead just outside Indian Point Campground at 7000 Pulaski Street

Thursday, July 17th – 5-6:30PM @ Hawk's Ridge
Meet along E Skyline Parkway, at the first overlook, about a mile in from Glenwood Avenue

Thursday, July 24th – 5-6:30PM @ Enger Park
Meet near restroom facility, just off parking lot, in Enger Park (entrance located on Hank Jensen Drive)

Thursday, July 31st – 5-6:30PM @ Irving Park
Meet at the Irving Park playground located at 57th Ave W, between Main Street and Raleigh Street

Pre-registration is encouraged. Please dress accordingly for the weather. For more information or to register as a family, an individual, or a group, contact Cheryl Skafte, Volunteer Coordinator, City of Duluth, at cskafte@duluthmn.gov or 218-341-8454.

Those seeking more information about Buckthorn and other non-native plants are encouraged to visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn.

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