



Organizing & Publicizing Local Strike Teams

A step-by-step guide to creating a successful and meaningful local effort

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Introductions

What are your experiences?

What do you expect to take away
from this gathering?



Reasons for Forming a Local Strike Team

The problems we face are on a landscape level, but starting from the roots and working up can have profound effects!

- Invasive species knows no boundaries
- Leveraging and sharing resources
- Visibility, community awareness, and participation
- More boots on the ground
- Early Detection, Rapid Response
- Funding





Step 1: Determine the Goals

Arguably, this is most important step of this entire process!





Step 2: Establish the Boundaries



- Be realistic and determine an appropriate scale
- Large enough to address invasive plant issues, but small enough to be manageable!
- Can vary in size
 - Single park or municipality
 - Geographic feature (e.g. island, watershed)
 - County or multiple counties
 - Regions (e.g. Delaware River watershed)



Step 3: Identify Partners and Supporters

Begin identifying partners by contacting the major land management entities in your area:

- National Wildlife Refuge
- State lands
- County or municipal governments (e.g. open space, transportation departments)
- Non-profit organizations (e.g. The Nature Conservancy, NJ Audubon, Natural Lands Trust)
- Private landowners





Step 4:

Identify Administrative “Stuff”

It's important to map out all of the “behind the scenes” details. Although this step may seem small, it's an important ingredient for the overall success of the strike team!

- Select a coordinator
- Choose a fiscal manager
- If necessary, establish a steering committee and select officers
- Develop an agreement
- Establish *ad hoc* committees



Step 5: Name your Partnership

You will need to be in the public's view in order to build support – pick a name that is catchy yet represents your group well!





Step 6: Create a Strategic Plan

The plan should include:

- Long-term and short-term goals
- A map of your target area
- An inventory of invasive species
- Management responsibilities
- Prioritization
- Control and prevention techniques
- Identify equipment, supplies, and resources available from each partner





Step 7: Host a Public Meeting

Invite members of the public to a meeting and discuss the goals and objectives of the group:

- Submit press releases to local and regional newspapers
- Reach out to environmental commission members, master gardener groups, local green teams, native plant nurseries, active volunteers
- Post information on social media and on web sites





Step 8: Implement Your Plan

Management

Biological

Mechanical

Manual

Chemical

Volunteer
Events

Monitoring

Plant
surveys

Wildlife
surveys

Education

Press
Releases

Meetings

Trainings

Plant
Swap

Brochure

Prevention

ED/RR

Compost

Legis-
lature

Nursery
Program



Step 8: Implement Your Plan - Management





Step 8: Implement Your Plan - Management





Step 8: Implement Your Plan - Monitoring

Map showing monitoring points in Cape May, NJ. The map displays property boundaries (pink) and monitoring points (colored pins with icons). The map includes labels for North Cape May, West Cape May, Cape May, and Cape May Point. Key roads shown include Lincoln Blvd, Sandman Blvd, RT-109, and Beach Ave. The map also shows the Cape May Canal, Cape May Harbor, and the US Coast Guard Training Center.

Map controls: +, -, Home, Full Screen.

Map Style: Topographic

Filters:

- County (27): All
- Property (453): All
- Species (108): All
- Eradication Status: All

Reset

Population Count

- 9525 by Criteria
- 183 in Map Extent

Export Data

- GPX
- KML
- XLS
- Shapefile

Legend

Population Size	Eradication Status
1 (Yellow pin)	No Action (Lightbulb icon)
2-10 (Orange pin)	Initiated (Pin with dot icon)
11-100 (Red pin)	Completed (Pin with X icon)
>100 (Purple pin)	
Pink square	Property Boundary
Green icon with flower	Click to expand

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Step 8: Implement Your Plan - Education





Step 8: Implement Your Plan - Education



Garlic mustard
photo by Suzanne Trayger

A Coordinated Weed Management Area dedicated to controlling non-native invasive plants and restoring wildlife habitat in Cape May, NJ

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL

SEAGROVE AVENUE MARITIME FOREST RESTORATION SITE

NJ AUDUBON AND CAPE MAY POINT STATE PARK: RESTORING OUR LANDSCAPE



Cape May Point State Park and NJ Audubon staff members have collaborated for several years to control invasive plants and restore maritime forest habitat at this site. This long-term restoration project requires careful planning, implementation, and monitoring to ensure this maritime forest is restored to a diverse mix of native shrubs and trees that are essential habitat for migrating birds and resident wildlife.

WHAT IS MARITIME FOREST?





Maritime forests are important habitat for large concentrations of migrating birds that stop here to rest and eat before continuing their long journey. Maritime forest is also important breeding and wintering habitat for many animals and supports diverse native plants.

WHAT ARE NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS?





They often outcompete native vegetation, dominate entire landscapes and reduce plant diversity. Invasive plants are spread by people, sometimes accidentally or unknowingly, and by animals that eat the fruits and help to distribute their seeds.

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL AND MARITIME FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT





Maritime forest at Cape May Point State Park has become highly degraded due to the presence of numerous invasive plants. Of particular concern are several invasive vines, like sweet autumn virginibower (Clematis), which have climbed mature trees, impairing their growth and survival.

To reduce the number of invasive plants, control strategies, such as mechanically removing invasive plants with a forestry mower, are being used to help restore native plants and health to maritime forest. Our goal is to suppress invasive plants, monitor plant and animal populations, and allow for native plant regeneration to occur.

Volunteers are an important part of the restoration project, helping to hand weed many invasive plants as they regrow. Manually removing invasive plants is an effective control method and volunteer efforts here have helped reduce invasive plants over most of the restoration site.

EXPLORE NATIVE PLANTS

Native plants are very beneficial and provide a diverse mix of habitats for wildlife. They provide a variety of food for wildlife, such as nectar, fruits, and seeds. Native plants are also a food source for many insects that wildlife eat. Native plants also provide ideal habitat for wildlife to raise young, seek cover, and roost at night.

GO NATIVE!

To help stop the spread of non-native invasive plants, you can:

- purchase native plants for your yard and control businesses that sell native plants
- support invasive plants on your property by mowing, cutting, or hand weeding repeatedly
- Remove known invasive plants from your property and replace with natives
- Volunteer to help control or monitor invasive plants at your local park, nature preserve or other natural area
- Spread the word! Tell your neighbors, friends, and family about invasive plants and what they can do to help stop the spread





Step 8: Implement Your Plan - Prevention

HAVE YOU SEEN
THIS PLANT?

KUDZU



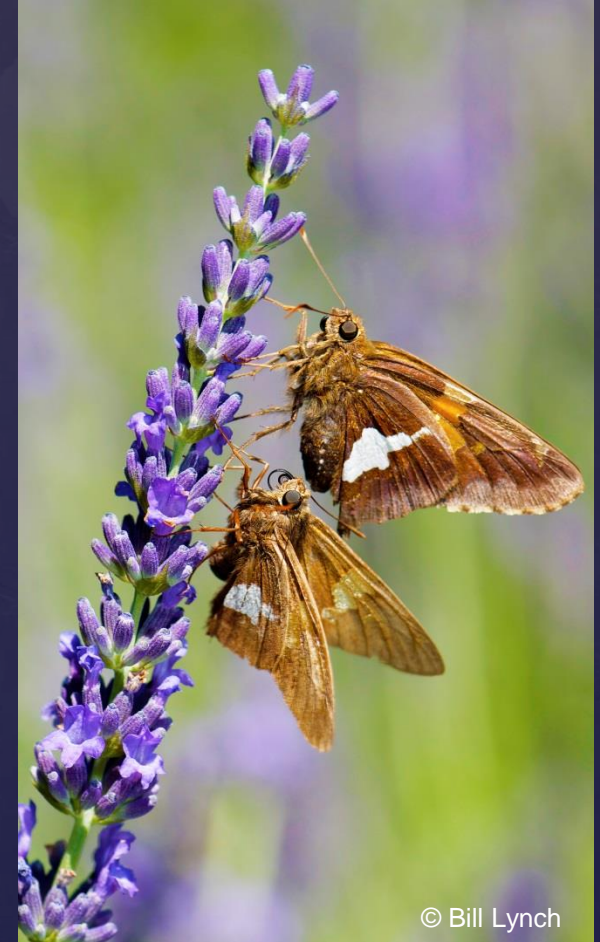
Kudzu is a highly invasive vine that has been found on Cape Island. The Cape Island Habitat Restoration Task Force wants to stop kudzu from spreading throughout this area- please contact us immediately if you find this plant!

Please call: 609-861-1608 x29





Steps 9 & 10: Celebrate and Evaluate!



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Questions?



Contact Information

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