



NJ Invasive Species  
Strike Team

**FoHVOS**  
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

## European Black Alder - It's on the Move

Here is an open call for you all to be on the lookout for European Black Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). After our Technical Advisory Committee annual review, we've moved this from Stage 1 (10-100 statewide occurrences) to Stage 2 (101-500 statewide occurrences) – our feeling was that it is being underreported but what we do know leads us to believe that it is spreading quickly. Unlike our native alders, this species is a tree reaching 40-65' tall but it does occur in similar habitats to our native shrubs. Learn more [here](#).

**Please report any sightings so that we can better understand its distribution and determine recommendations by region.**



This month's Live and Learn is provided by Maggie Wasacz of Monmouth County Parks. She describes a massive control and restoration project that gives hope that even the worst infestations can be turned back into healthy habitat. Read on, you'll be very impressed!

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## Live and Learn

### Invasive Species Removal and Habitat Restoration at Hartshorne Woods Park By Maggie Wasacz

In early 2022, the Monmouth County Parks System took on an invaded forest restoration project on an 8-acre area at Hartshorne Woods Park that was densely infested with multiflora rose, tree-of-heaven, Japanese angelica tree, and Japanese knotweed, all covered with a thick carpet of porcelain berry. The forest surrounding this invaded area was identified as Priority Forest Area for invasive species removal by the NJISST, who received a U.S. Forest Service grant. As the Park System's matching contribution to the grant, this large-scale invasive species removal project was initiated to help protect this significant forest.



*Figure 1. Initial site conditions.*

The first step of this project involved forestry mowing the site, which proved to be difficult due to the hundreds of downed trees under the carpet of invasives, likely due to a previous windstorm. While the forestry mowing helped remove a lot of material, it left a mess of debris behind that still needed to be cleaned up.



*Figure 2. The site after forestry mowing in March of 2022.*



*Figure 3. The site after the debris was removed from the restoration area in March of 2023.*

After the initial land-clearing, an herbicide contract was awarded, and a glyphosate + triclopyr amine herbicide mixture was applied to the entire area in attempt to kill the abundant invasive regrowth. The following winter, a contractor was hired to remove and chip the standing tree-of-heaven, the downed debris, and the piles of vines that resulted from the initial treatments. This contracted work resulted in barren soil with the resulting woodchips spread evenly across the site (Figure 2).

In April 2023, the area was drill seeded with a native grass mix to get cover on the now-barren soil or in hopes to create a native grassland (Figure 3). Herbicide spot treatments continued in-house with a broadleaf-selective herbicide.



*Figure 4. The restoration area shortly after seeding native grasses in the Spring of 2023.*

As of September 2023, the native grass mix and the native seedbank have emerged to form a beautiful meadow with significantly fewer invasives. The Parks System will continue to mow annually, spot treat invasives, and fence naturally regenerating native trees to encourage a controlled, natural succession.



*Figure 5. Restoration area pictured in September 2023.*



*Figure 6. The restoration area in September 2023. While it is not 100% free from invasive species, it is greatly improved for both park visitors and wildlife.*

Overall, the natural resources team at the Monmouth County Parks System is happy with the results of this project. Inside the land-clearing area, we have achieved about 85% control of porcelain berry and multiflora rose. Including 3 contracts, the cost of seed, and herbicide, this project cost about \$11,000 per acre. Moving forward, we plan to continue monitoring the site, removing invasive species, and improving the site for both visitors and wildlife.



Figure 7. Wildlife species, like this common yellowthroat, have been spotted returning to the restoration area and interacting with the new plantings. Photo by RJ Curcio.

## Upcoming Events

Please contact [Mike](#) if you are interested in attending any of the following scheduled events.

- **November 14, 7:00pm-8:00pm, Clifton Public Library**
  - Invasive Species Threats, Identification, and Control

## Volunteer with us!

Looking for a volunteer opportunity?  
The NJ Invasive Species Strike Team is the organization for you!  
Visit our sign up genius below to share your interests with us.  
Contact [mvanclef@fohvos.org](mailto:mvanclef@fohvos.org) for more information.

I'm Interested!

Volunteer Stewardship Teams Information

## Consider a Membership Donation

The Strike Team needs your help to fight invasive species throughout New Jersey. By making a membership donation, you directly fund our efforts to keep invasive species at bay and protect our native plants and wildlife. Donate through the link below!

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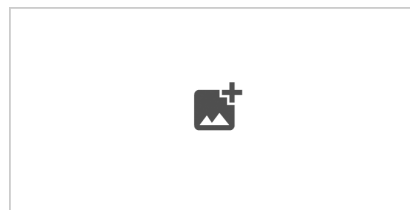
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