



**Invasive Plant Species  
Presentation For The North  
Saanich Municipality**

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Parks**



# Part 1: Invasive Plant Types





# How Is Invasive Seed Transfer Achieved?

- **People-by bringing in seeds from elsewhere on footwear and gear.**
- **Other mammals-by deer, rabbits or squirrels-on their coats or through seed consumption.**
- **Most frequently by birds that have eaten seeds and then defecate.**

# **Invasive Plant Species Removal**

## **Why Do It ?**

- Safety-poisonous plants.**
- Reduces plant competition.**
- Reduces fire hazard.**
- Aids pollination of remaining plants.**
- Reduces seed transfer potential to other lands.**





**Who Are These Invaders?**



# Key Invasive Plant Species

- **Daphne (*Daphne laureola*)**

**Poisonous plant, the sap has been known to cause skin rashes, nausea, swelling of the tongue, and coma.**






# Daphne (continued)

- **Very hardy, can grow almost anywhere.**
- **Keep children and pets away from plants.**
- **Removal: Wear gloves, do not clip plants except to remove seed.**
- **Daphne has a long tap root –it will regrow-remove the root as much as possible.**





**English Ivy:  
In trees or on the  
ground it can  
become  
a fire hazard.**



# English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Smothers natural or domestic species-  
very hardy, debilitates or kills trees.

Removal: Manual  
removal or  
clipping or lopping.  
Must remove roots  
within soil.



# English Ivy Removal

Several removal sessions usually necessary.

Remaining roots will grow.

For trees remove ivy completely about 4.5 feet above the ground.

The remainder above that height will die.





# English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Can grow in sun or shade,

Seeds spread easily by birds.

Removal: Out competes other species  
for nutrients and

water. If stem is

cut, tree will

grow again.

Dig out root/stump.



# Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)

- Small evergreen plant; Forms dense mats.
- Showy white or purple flowers.

Suppresses  
other plants.  
Removal: Take  
out all solons  
(runners).





# Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)

- Wide range of microsites, seeds easily spread, forms impenetrable thickets, 7000-13,000

seeds/m sq.

Removal:

Cut canes

and dig roots.



# Common Morning Glory (*Calystegia sepium*)

- Quick growth,
- Smothers plants, shrubs and small trees.
- Seeds viable to 30 years.

**Preferred Removal:**

**Repeated manual sessions.**





# Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

- Spreads rapidly, densely,  
Sun loving.
- Prevents forest regrowth,  
Reduces plant diversity.
- Causes allergies.
- High in volatile oils-fire hazard.
- Toxic to grazing animals.

# Scotch Broom (continued)

- Can produce up to 3500 pods, each with 5-12 seeds.
- Pods expel seeds up to 5 m.
- Removal: Hand-pulling, cutting or mowing.





# English Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*)

- Dense, adaptive shrub or small tree, 10 to 30 feet. Seeds poisonous to humans, single trunk or multi-stemmed.

- Easily spread by seeds or layering.

**Removal: Remove root and stump.**





## **Part 2: Invasive Plants in Forested Areas**



# Benefits Of Public Natural Areas (Parks and Trails)

- Promote Community Health and Well Being.
- Preserve Our Natural Ecosystems.
- Ecosystems May Be Used for Education and Research.
- Reduce Our Carbon Footprint. BUT
- Invasive Species-Seed Transfer.

# Addressing Invasive Species on Public Lands

- 65% of North Saanich Parks
- 50% North Saanich Trails

**Have Invasive Species.**

**Photo: Former Daphne at Nymph Point Park.**





- **Mission: To Remove Invasive Species-RO Bull below is now 95% Invasive Plant Free-after 6 years**





# More Chance for Flowering Herbs





# Take Home Messages From Our Study of Invasive Species and Removal

- **Species persist more than three years after removal –particularly Daphne seedlings.**
- **One has to visit parks over and over again.**
- **When one species wanes another may enter the park depending on vectors and seed production.**
- **No matter how cleanly invasive species are removed it is never 100%.**



**After Removal in Year 1 at  
Denham Till Park**





# Denham Till Park Year 5







**'Friends' Project Example:  
Lillian Hoffar Park-Before  
Treatment**



# Creating a Pathway in the Invasive Jungle





**Removal Of Himalayan  
Blackberry On Road Edge  
Lillian Hoffar Park About Year 2**





# Road Edge in Lillian Hoffar –Year 5





# Tools For Removal

- **Shovels and Pickaxes for Roots**
- **Loppers for blackberry vines**
- **Trowels for smaller plants**
- **Use tarps and bins for debris transfer**
- **Use puller bears for large roots (holly, ivy, laurel, and Hawthorne saplings).**

# This is a Very Valuable Tool for Removal of Large Roots



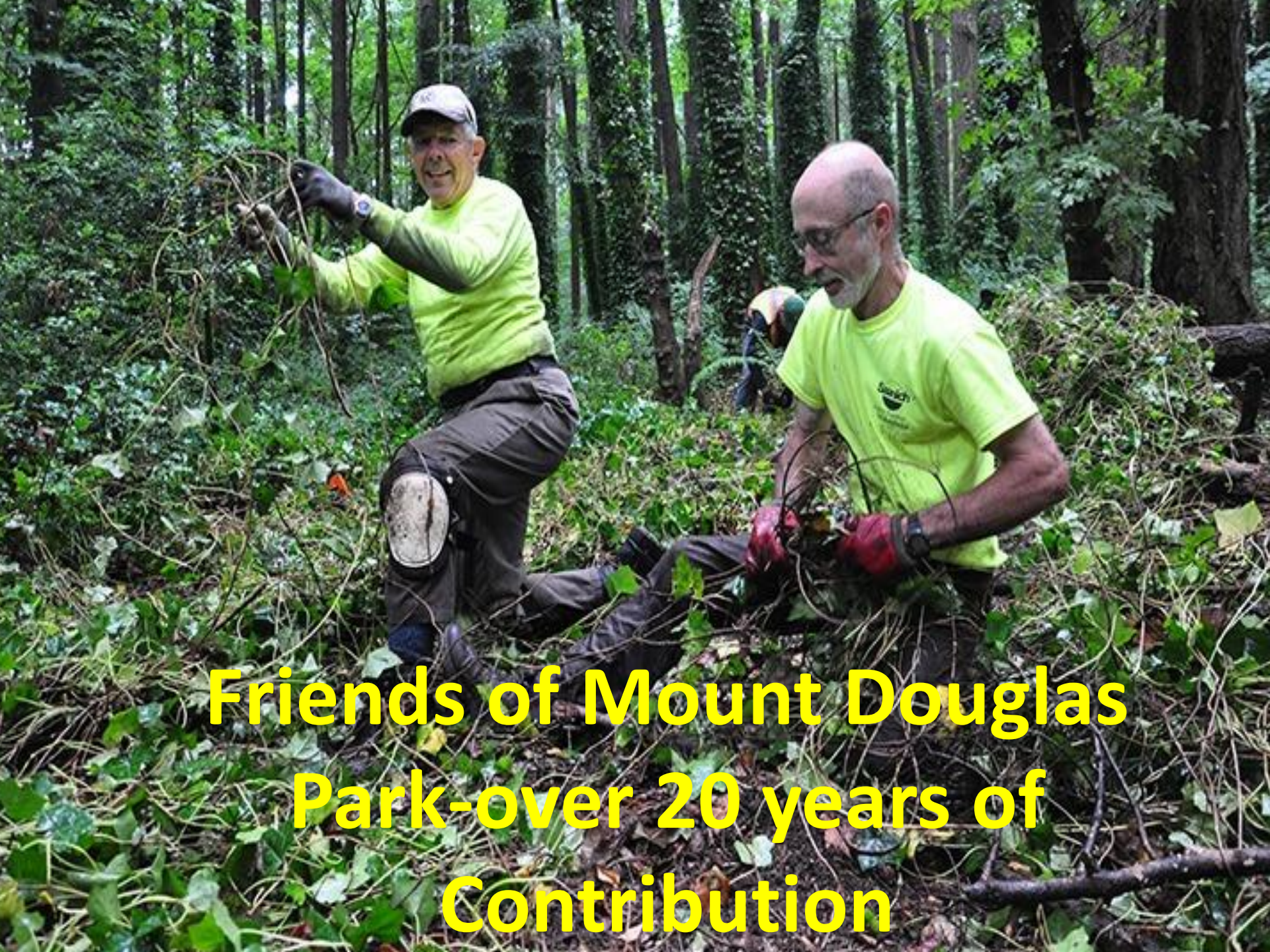


# Collaboration with Volunteer Groups

## Example Groups -Saanic







**Friends of Mount Douglas  
Park-over 20 years of  
Contribution**





**Elsewhere: Ivy Hand Work in Stanley Park**