

DRAFT Implementation Plan
RIP – Removing Invasive Plants Project

1/10/05

This is a first draft of a Plan for implementation of the RIP Project. The intention is to lay out the responsibilities of the RIP Coordinator and Steering Committee, provide a prioritized list of RIP activities, develop a schedule for plant removal, and set out some other potential issues and activities. The specific details on how each activity will be accomplished will be developed by the Coordinator, Committee, RIP Section Teams (see RIP Project Plan for descriptions) and other interested volunteers. This is a work in progress and will change in response to success, problems and feedback from the community.

Your comments and suggestions on this plan are welcome. A meeting to discuss the Implementation Plan is scheduled for 7:30, January 25 at the Long Branch Community Center, 8700 Piney Branch Road. If you can not attend the meeting, please send your comments to Rhonda Kranz at Rhonda@esa.org.

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Misc Tenets (some general ideas to start with)

The Coordinator and Committee will work as a team to achieve the goals of the RIP project. The primary goal is to preserve native plants by removing invasives. Education is important but a secondary concern. Projects will be jointly weighed for time needed vs. value of result. Different sections will achieve results at different rates.

I. RIP COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The Coordinator's primary responsibility will be to:
 - maintain communication with section leaders;
 - coordinate with section leaders and Carole Bergmann to develop events;
 - check on project results in the park; and
 - ask Carole to review the results at the end of each season
- b. Other responsibilities will be to:
 - maintain frequent communication by email or phone with Section Teams and the RIP Steering Committee on project activities; and
 - attend Board, Park, and miscellaneous other meetings as appropriate.

II. STEERING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Form RIP Section Teams which will be responsible for RIP activities in their sections, including setting up and advertising work events, identifying needs in the section, organizing and running removal events, keeping in contact with RIP Steering Committee.
2. Build teams of knowledgeable plant removers.
3. Decide how much publicity is needed and if there will be a kick-off event each spring.
4. Set up education plant walks with Carole Bergmann or John Parrish.
5. Help to set up quick identification tools on the website.
6. Find Guardians to keep track of areas where invasives have been removed.
7. Address deer problems.
8. Find places to utilize groups (e.g., scouts, high schoolers, college students, environmental college teachers, groups who seek work from Jayne Hench).
9. Work to get the DNR Maintenance Division to help bush hog or mow for plants such as thistle and porcelainberry before they go to seed.
10. Decide if there is a need for a soil study.

RIP PROJECT ACTIVITIES (more or less in order of execution)

Getting Started

1. Form RIP Section Teams, including Team Leader, Plant Identifier and Event Planner.
2. The Coordinator and will meet with the RIP Section Teams, walk in their sections with them, and talk about the specific section needs and long term plans.
3. The Coordinator will meet NACCP staff: Carole Bergman, Rob Gibbs, Geoffrey Mason and Paul Carlson, Division of Natural Resources; and Jayne Hench, Director of Volunteers.
4. The Coordinator and the Committee will develop plant training activities. The Committee will work with the RIP Section Teams to identify a core group of people who know invasives well enough to lead small work groups. The Coordinator will work with the Committee to set up training sessions for these core people to provide further training on such things as native look-alikes. Knowledgeable plant people such as Susan Solarz, Alice Lowthorp, Janet Ishimoto, Ross Campbell, Laura Mol, Sally Gagne, and more will help.
5. As soon as feasible, hold preliminary work events for each section.
6. Set a Launch Date – perhaps in April in coordination with Earth Day. Consider getting a day, week, or month set by County Executive Doug Duncan designated as Invasive-Plant day/week. Publicize events in local venues and papers such as the Gazette.
7. Through discussions with Carole and the Committee, the Coordinator will decide on plants to be tackled for the season.
8. Before each event the Coordinator or a Committee member will work with the RIP Section Team Leader to survey the area to be addressed and to point out to

- them backup work if the first priority is completed early. Work out with Team Leaders on where, what and when the next work session will be.
9. Contact RIP Section Teams after events to discuss results, issues and next steps. Include Rhonda or Sally to join the discussion if it is possible.
 10. As soon as time allows this winter, get “Quick Invasives ID Pictures” including look-alikes up on the website.
 11. Appoint specialized experts for problem plants, e.g. ailanthus, Japanese knotweed, lesser celandine, Canada thistle, mile-a-minute, new invasives.
 12. Keep notes on where replantings may be needed.
 13. Coordinator or Committee member will asking stewards to add street names and landmarks to the section maps.

On Going Activities

14. Keep a photo record of work teams, vegetation before and after removal, unusual plant growth, and identification photos for the web.
15. Keep information on the invasives webpage updated.
16. Identify at least one specialist who will be responsible for each problematic plant throughout the park, i.e. ailanthus, Japanese knotweed, Canada thistle, mile-a-minute.
17. Re-cut new growth and/or work with qualified people to have herbicide applied.
18. Identify “Guardians” for upkeep of segments as areas are completed.

III. PLANT CALENDAR

Overview:

- Fall and winter 2004-5: remove shrubs and have experienced people work on vines.
- Spring 2005: garlic mustard and mile-a-minute.
- Fall and winter 2005-6: remove ground cover. i.e. English ivy and Japanese honeysuckle. Trees will probably be the last to be removed, when smaller replacement trees have been planted.

Specific Removal Timeline:

Winter 2005

1. Vines removal: only by those who can differentiate look-alikes.
2. Shrubs: Rose, privet, wineberry, bush-honeysuckle are the main ones. [Problem: people will have to go back in late spring to cut fresh growth, and this time apply Vine-X. But the time-consuming work of moving branches out of the way will have been done.]

Spring 2005

1. March, and April: work with sprayers for lesser celandine if needed. Sally will help.
2. April-May: stay out of woods except for garlic mustard, because of all the spring ephemerals. Set the Ferguson Potomac-Wide spring litter pickup date for early April for this reason.

3. Mid-April: Make a link with Earth Day. Plan an easy, large-crowd event – maybe a tree planting wherever we put out red flags along the bank. This is a good way to take advantage of a pool of labor.
4. Early April and again second week in June: garlic mustard.
5. June: Mile-a-Minute and Garlic Mustard
 - Make sure herbicide is used or second and third cuttings of new growth are done.
 - When ephemerals are gone, work on vines in the woods only by those who know vines.
6. End of Spring: invite Carole Bergmann down to see the best and worst sites.
7. Decide where shrubs and trees should be planted in fall.

Summer 2005

- Mid-June to mid-Sept: Work with individuals who don't mind the heat. It might not be possible to hold regular events due to the heat.

Fall 2005

1. Same as winter 2005, above.
2. Plant trees and shrubs where planned.

2006

Repeat calendar above with changes as we learn them. Some sections will get ahead of others. When shrubs and vines are taken care of, start work on ground covers.

2007

Remove trees, find solutions to bank erosion.

IV. MISC IDEAS (to be further developed)

1. Work with Park Maintenance and the Committee on spraying for lesser celandine.
2. Contact Carole or John Parrish with plant questions.
3. Consider submitting a grant for developing a first-rate website on invasive plants.
4. Consider submitting a grant for tree replacement, spraying, and other activities.
5. Discuss the possibility of asking high school students to raise trees from local Sligo seeds and/or cuttings.
6. Work on tree and shrub re-planting where needed.
7. Identify and work out plans to support specific habitat types at specific sites i.e., meadows, wetlands, vernal pools, and other.

Current RIP Steering Committee Members:

Chair, Rhonda Kranz, Vice Chair, Sally Gagne, Alice Lowthorp, Jane Curtin, Jane Welsh, Janet Ishimoto, Marty Ittner, Mike Blain.