Impact Project Report

Invasive Plant Control in Durham

Issue

Invasive plants are Non-native plants that cause environmental and ecological harm while out competing native plants. Invasive plants:

- Do not support local insect populations
- Have few, if any natural enemies to control them
- Crowd out and overtake native plants
- Are a poor food source for birds and native wildlife

Many native insects can only survive on native plants. When invasive species take over, the entire food web is compromised.



Project

For the Master Naturalist project Greg Van Stekelenburg paired up with partner organization Keep Durham Beautiful (KDB). The following activities to created a multifaceted approach to controlling invasives:

- Invasive Plant Removal (IPR) Team Leader – Lead or co-lead 30+ IPR events at Durham parks, Briggs Community Garden, Museum of Life Sciences, and other city properties.
- Assistance in KDB IPR program standardization including site invasive removal prescriptions, IPR standard development and web site content.
- Re-wilding study involving the planting and monitoring of over 60 trees/shrubs at Forest Hills Park.
- Community engagement to raise level of Invasive knowledge

Results

Beyond making an extensive impact on the level of invasives in Durham parks with the IPR teams Greg has helped lead, he has become an integral IPR volunteer with KDB. On-going events: keepdurhambeautiful.org

The Re-wilding study is in the process of formulating recommendations for replanting areas that have had extensive IPR work performed and Greg has developed a relationship with Panther Creek Forest Farm with the intent of developing a “contract” growing scenario for on-going rewilding.

Student

This project is the work of Greg Van Stekelenburg

Highlight

Partner Organization

Keep Durham Beautiful

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