

NEWS RELEASE

Distributed April 16, 2018

Let's Pull Together, Nanaimo!

Residents invited to participate in Invasive Species work parties

Summary

This is the sixth year the City has led invasive plant work parties and offered drop zones, raising awareness of invasive plants and their effects on our parks and natural areas.

Invasive plants have the potential to negatively impact local ecosystems. Plants, such as English Ivy, Scotch Broom and Himalayan Blackberry are well established in Nanaimo while others, such as Knotweed and Giant Hogweed are spreading. The work parties will focus on the removal of invasive species at various locations including Linley Point Gyro Park, Beban Park and Pipers Lagoon Park. Also, residents who remove invasive plants from their own property can bring them to the two Drop Zones for safe disposal.

If you are able to participate in any of the work parties please register through the City website or by calling 250-756-5200. Thank you for helping us maintain our natural areas and restoring the integrity of our native ecology.

Strategic Link: Invasive species control falls under Environmental Responsibility, one the four Pillars of Sustainability in the City of Nanaimo's Strategic Plan.

Key Points

- Residents are encouraged to register for the work parties held throughout April and May.
- Residents can drop off invasive plants they have removed from their property at the Drop Zones located at the Wall Street entrance of Bowen Park on Sunday, April 22 and at Beban Park on Saturday, May 26 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Quotes

"We are working on many different strategies to manage invasive plants in our parks. With such great support from stewardship groups and community volunteers, we get a few steps closer to controlling the spread of these plants."

Rob Lawrance
Parks & Open Space Planner
City of Nanaimo

"Invasive plants are non-native plants that cause environmental harm to our ecosystems by out-competing our native plants for space, nutrients and sunlight. They can lessen the diversity of our ecosystems and destabilize them, increasing further invasion of non-native plants. Join us for some of our organized Invasive Plant Work Parties or plan your own Work Party in your neighbourhood to get rid of these Invasive plants."

Deborah Beck
Recreation Coordinator
City of Nanaimo

Continued... Let's Pull Together, Nanaimo!

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