

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed April 23, 2021

### Let's Pull Together, Nanaimo!

*Residents invited to participate in invasive plant removal*

#### Summary

May is Invasive Plant Month in the City of Nanaimo, and residents are invited to participate in a variety of Work Parties and to bring their invasive plants to one of two Drop Zones as a way to protect our parks and natural spaces from being overtaken by invasive plants.

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. Others, such as Knotweed and Giant Hogweed are spreading. The work parties will focus on the removal of Broom, Daphne and Ivy at various locations, including Pipers Lagoon Park, Neck Point Park, Linley Gyro Park, Lotus Pinatus Park, Sugarloaf Mountain and Bowen Park. Also, residents who remove invasive plants from their own property can bring them to the two Drop Zones for safe disposal.

All work parties will follow the latest COVID-19 protocols by keeping to small groups, physically distanced and by participants wearing masks.

If you are able to participate in any of the work parties, please register through the City website or call 250-756-5200.

*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 Linley Gyro Park on Saturday, May 1 and at Bowen Park (off Wall Street) on Saturday, May 29. Both Drop Zones are open from 10 am to 2 pm.

#### Quotes

"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 the community for some organized Invasive Plant Work Parties with Parks, Recreation and Culture to help keep our parks and open spaces free of invasive plants."

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo



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

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