



2017 MUNROE FALLS RIVER CLEANUP & INVASIVE WEED PULL!



Aside from the River Cleanup, INFORMATION ON HAND PULLING Invasive Weeds

Help eradicate invasive weeds in our parks, your homes, and our other public green spaces ...

IMPORTANT: Like last year, a legibly printed, completed and signed "**Liability Waiver**" form is required. A spare form may be acquired from:

- The Munroe Falls City Administration building at 43 Munroe Falls Avenue, Munroe Falls.

WHEN: from 9 AM through Noon ... rain or shine ... on **Saturday, May 13th** ... (a time when plants emerge from soil to just before Garlic Mustard seed pods burst).

WHERE: Brust Park ... on both sides of the local "Bike & Hike" Trail

Bike and Hike Trail – the local Munroe Falls section of the Summit Metro Parks Bike & Hike trail
Trail information at: <http://www.summitmetroparks.org/ParksAndTrails/BikeAndHikeTrail.aspx>

HOW TO "HAND PULL" Invasive Weeds: Thanks for volunteering! Our native wildflowers and woodlands will thank you!!

1. We are scheduling this year's pull for 2-3 hours, depending on the weather, rain or shine. Please dress accordingly. If there is a possibility of rain, please wear a rain coat or rain poncho to help you stay at least partially dry. We don't want anyone catching a cold from exposure!
2. Prior to beginning the weed pull, we will be holding a short **full group meeting**.
3. For protection, we *strongly* urge everyone to wear washable **full-length** slacks and shirts, and sturdy shoes. Gloves, nitrite (waterproof) and cotton, both in various sizes will be provided where needed. However, if you have your own set of favorite STURDY gloves ... by all means, bring and wear them.

4. Please remember this is also poison ivy territory. That is part of why we ask you to wear washable full-length slacks, shirts and sturdy gloves. Remember, during the pull, DO NOT wipe or touch your face or other exposed body parts with your gloves. Instead, please use your sleeve.
5. Take large, heavy duty plastic bags. **We will be providing** both large and small (for the small folks) plastic bags for you to use. Optional – take your digital camera along. We would LOVE to have photos of your effort and the result. (We may share them with our Web and Facebook fans)
6. Remember, we are pulling GARLIC MUSTARD only! Gently tug plant at its base until the main root loosens from the soil & the entire plant pulls out. Take care to remove the entire root system. Shake the plant to loosen excess dirt from its roots.
7. Place plant into plastic bag. **Remember, we are only pulling garlic mustard plants this year!**
8. When a bag is almost full, squeeze the extra air out & tightly secure the bag closed. Please do not over-fill your trash bags! If they should develop a tear, please ask us to patch the tear with duct tape.
9. Place bags, tightly closed, **next to (but NOT on)** the bike and hike trail. They will be picked up and transported back to our central collection point. This is important. Do not leave full bags elsewhere.
10. When you are finished, we will provide two containers for your work gloves ... one for the blue nitrile gloves (to be thrown away), and one for the cotton gloves (to be washed and reused next year).
11. When you get home, wash your clothing & thoroughly clean your footwear so you do not spread seeds (or poison ivy, if you should come into contact with it) anywhere else.

TREAT INVASIVE WEEDS LIKE AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE ☹️

Be super cautious not to spread plant or seeds to other locations. Be mindful of other beneficial plants in the area you are working.

Please follow these simple “defensive” steps:

1. If there is a hole in the plastic bag, let a supervisor know and he or she will secure it closed with duct tape. Don't overfill the bags.
2. If there is a gap in the closure of the bag, duct tape it completely shut.
3. Do not leave pulled plants on the ground or dispose in your compost pile. They must be placed in a trash receptacle after they are properly sealed.
4. Wash off your boots and wash your clothing after pulling.