

# Forest Hero! Network

## Outreach Ideas for Engaging Our Communities

- Organize a workday in your community
- Get involved with a local Bioblitz/bliss (see North Branch Nature Center for an example)
- Send out seasonal invasive updates through Front Porch Forum
- Write an article for your local paper
- Volunteer with a local park district or non-profit, offering to help remove invasive plants
- Set up a display in the spaces where people (usually) go:
  - Ex: Town Hall; summer farmers' markets or the local store; the transfer station
- Work collaboratively with your local Conservation Commission
  - Is there a project in town that needs volunteers? Help plan that event!
  - Be the voice to the Commission about the issue of invasive plants in your town, and make a record of your time at meetings
- Partner with local school to do a garlic mustard pull event in May
  - Combine it with a cooking lesson on how to make pesto! (if garlic mustard pulled from safe location, i.e. not near roads or other contaminants)
- Work with a local Conservation District or similar organization to host restoration plantings in your town where invasive plants have been removed
- Work with your local library
  - Create a display for your local library (ex. The connection between invasive plant and ticks)
  - Host an activity such as reading "Miss Rumphius" with a discussion or craft afterwards
  - Incorporate invasive plants into a fun craft, such as leaf rubbings
- Give an evening virtual talk hosted by a local organization like a birding group, nature center, museum, land trust, Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, etc. Here are some topic ideas:
  - In the spring, share alternatives to invasive plants for gardening
  - In the summer, offer advice on removal, or the virtues of regional plants in the landscape
  - In the fall, share strategies for creating a management plan, or a talk on impacts to hunting
  - Anytime, give a talk on how to identify common invasive plants, human health impacts (parsnip rash, ticks in barberry, etc.)
- Work with local scout or school groups:
  - Afterschool activities
  - Can you help a local scouting troupe create a new badge for restoration work? Host a pull invasives event to help them earn that new badge! (Check out Burlington Intervale's Have a Heart Pull a Weed event)
- Hold a mapping workshop to teach community members how to use iNaturalist
  - Have a town wide competition to see who can map the most invasive plants
- Go to local fish derbies or other outdoor recreation events and have a table or workshop to teach about how invasive plants, and speak on how they impact that activity, and what simple steps everyone can take to help out.
- Get creative and create your own opportunities to talk with the public about invasive plants