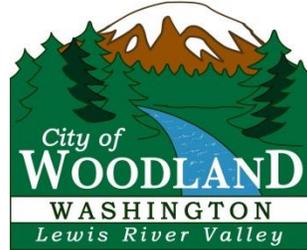




WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Caring for your natural resources ... now and forever



Urban Forestry Restoration Project

News Release - May 16, 2014

Helping our trees help us

The Urban Forestry Restoration Project, administered by the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban and Community Forestry Program, is an exciting opportunity to enhance the capacity of urban forests to manage stormwater and improve air and water quality by improving the health and functionality of trees and forested sites in urban settings. Even more exciting is our opportunity to participate in this program here in Woodland.

A Washington Conservation Corps team will work with City staff to remove the English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom, and other invasive weeds from the Scott Hill Park Site and the creek and wetland area that runs along the east side of Scott Hill. These invasive non-native plants prevent forested areas from providing our community the full benefits and services of healthy forests by competing for water and nutrients, and in some cases even killing trees. Many undesirable plants that grow in dense thickets also harbor rats and other vermin, creating a public safety hazard as well. Once the unwelcome plants are gone, native vegetation will be allowed to grow stronger which will help keep out the invasive species in the future.

The WCC team will also work with City staff to prune young street trees to help them develop strong, sound structure that will keep them healthy and safe as they mature. Well-cared-for trees provide a wide variety of environmental services while contributing to the health, beauty and economic vibrancy of the community.

In future years the City of Woodland will lead efforts to keep invasive plants out of the Scott Hill area with volunteer efforts like Make-a-Difference Day and through staff maintenance. To learn more about how you can help keep Woodland Parks healthy in the future, contact Bart Stepp with Woodland Public Works at 360-225-7999.

For more information about the Urban Forestry Restoration Project, visit the [Project online](#) or contact Micki McNaughton at (360) 902-1637 or micki.mcnaughton@dnr.wa.gov. DNR's Urban

and Community Forestry Program is made possible through a partnership with the USDA Forest Service. The Washington Conservation Corps is supported through grant funding and Education Awards provided by AmeriCorps.