

2nd Year Results of the 2008 Resident-Based Efforts to Control Garlic Mustard in the Skyline Ridge Neighbors & Forest Park Neighborhood Association Areas

05 November 2008

For the second year in a row, Skyline Ridge Neighbors (SRN), Forest Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA), and Skyline Grange worked together to encourage and support local residents to volunteer to decrease garlic mustard infestation within SRN and FPNA boundaries. West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) agreed to support SRN's request for reimbursement for project costs.

Goals of the Project:

1. to increase awareness of local residents to the threat garlic mustard imposes upon local native habitat,
2. to increase the ability of local residents to accurately identify and locate garlic mustard plants,
3. to recruit local residents to volunteer to help pull second year garlic mustard plants in a way that does not unintentionally spread seeds,
4. to provide volunteers with the project protocol to better ensure plant identification, decrease unintentional spreading of seeds, correct pulling and disposal of these plants,
5. to support volunteers with information, disposal bags, & a convenient drop-off site,
6. to dispose of pulled garlic mustard in a way to minimize the spread of seeds
7. to inform local landowners with garlic mustard infestation of potential agency assistance, such as Clean Water Services and WMSWCD,
8. to encourage volunteers to return to their sites several times to monitor for new growth

Local education and recruitment for volunteers occurred by:

1. Placing signs along local roadsides marking areas of garlic mustard infestation. These signs included informational sheets about garlic mustard and project protocol about how to participate in this effort,
2. Calling for volunteers and distributing information on SRN's *Skyline Rural Watch Newslines* and on FPNA's member email list,
3. Placing a specimen plant and literature at Plainview Grocery, at Skyline Grange's spring garage sale and at Skyline Grange's spring Trees & Native Plant Sale.
4. Placing information about this project in SRN's *Skyline Ridge Runner*.

History:

Local awareness of garlic mustard began in 2005 with No Ivy League's first annual "Garlic Mustard Mania" day in nearby Forest Park. Since then Skyline Ridge Neighbors (SRN) and Forest Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA) repeatedly have informed its residents of this threat, including how to recognize it. During the annual SOLV-IT Neighborhood Clean-up Day in 2007, volunteers working at the Forest Park Neighborhood site discovered the presence of garlic mustard infestation along the roadsides in the Skyline Boulevard/Germantown area. On further inspection, it was discovered that garlic mustard infested many miles of local roadway mostly south-eastward of Newberry Road. Jointly SRN, FPNA and Skyline Grange devised an immediate action plan to solicit community volunteers to hand pull flowering garlic mustard before it went to seed. In spring 2007, fifty-one volunteers in 236 man-hours pulled 8,220 pounds of second year garlic mustard plants. These were disposed of through the financing from West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District at the Metro Transfer Station.

2008 Project Results:

Twenty-seven local residents pulled at least 3,220 pounds of second year plants in 151 volunteered hours from late April to early June 2008. This is an under-reporting of the pounds since at least eight bags "disappeared" from the Grange's drop site. This disappearance timing coincided with when paid (city or CWS?) workers had been also working the area. Whether they disposed of the missing bags for us is unknown. We did not find a significant spread of the plants beyond Newberry Road north-westward compared to 2007.

Costs:

\$144.00	Disposal at Metro Disposal Station
\$6.97	Wooden Stakes (for roadside signs)
\$18.00	Lamination for roadside signs
\$16.98	Garbage bags
\$185.95	Total Cost (This does not include printing of literature, gas mileage of volunteers, and the reuse of last year's roadside signs.)

Areas targeted by volunteers (roadsides and some adjacent properties):

- NW Germantown Road:
 - Skyline Blvd. to Old Germantown Road
 - Abbey Creek Ranch near Kaiser & Germantown Roads
 - Skyline Blvd to Leif Erickson trailhead
- NW Greenleaf Road
- Newberry Road (infestations mostly in upper section)
- NW Old Germantown Road (including some private properties)
- NW Old Skyline Blvd.
- NW Royal Blvd. (including some private properties)
- NW Skyline Blvd.:
 - 400-410
 - NW Newberry to NW Germantown Roads
 - NW Germantown to Thompson Roads (certain segments)
 - NW Thompson to NW Cornell
- Spring Rd.
- Thompson Rd. & Skyline Blvd. intersection

Observations:

- There appeared to be less second year plants this year in many roadside areas. This may be due to the large effort of SRN/FPNA volunteers last year, City and County's roadside spray programs, efforts of different agencies who worked also in our area.
- There are areas of garlic mustard escaping into woodlands & private property (corner of Skyline & Newberry for one).
- We have a committed number of local volunteers who monitor, know the areas they worked on, and can compare infestations/spread from year to year. These volunteers have also encouraged their neighbors to be involved and vigilant.
- Some volunteers were overwhelmed with the amount of mustard on their properties/roadsides and devoted many, many hours to its control.
- Many residents and agencies put time, resources, and money into the control of garlic mustard in the SRN/FPNA areas. Miles of roadside were sprayed, paid workers pulled plants and select sprayed. We collaborated to get Entry Permission forms signed from willing landowners for Clean Water Services (CWS) so they could treat infested areas in the Tualatin River Watershed. CWS actively treated our area. WMSWCD mailed out fliers alerting residents to this plant and was a contact if landowners needed assistance.

Planning next year:

- SRN, FPNA and Skyline Grange are willing to continue their volunteer support efforts in spring 2009.
- It would be helpful if there was organized regional garlic mustard coordination so that we could know what other individual landowners, volunteers, governmental and non-profit agencies are doing so not to duplicate efforts and to receive direction as to how we can best assist in this regional problem.

Submitted by: Sen Speroff for SRN

Karen Smith for FPNA