



What is Weed Wrangle®?

Weed Wrangle®, is a community initiative started by the Garden Club of Nashville, a member of the Garden Club of America, that joins the community with public parks and green spaces for a one-day volunteer effort of removing invasive plant species. In 2018, Weed Wrangle® had 18 participating parks, greenways, and public gardens with over 600 volunteers citywide. Volunteers register through Hands On Nashville and select a Weed Wrangle® site anywhere in the city. It is a wonderful opportunity for community involvement, while giving back to the city and the environment. Volunteers come to their registered site for a half a day of work and are taught how to identify and remove invasive plants.

Many invasive plant species, such as privet and bush honeysuckle, have taken hold in Middle Tennessee and are harming our native ecosystems. Invasive plants choke out our native plant species, which also effect animal and insect populations, while also increasing the risk of wildfire and alter the appearance of public spaces, including those set aside for the enjoyment and recreation of all Nashville residents. Invasive plants introduced in this region decades ago for agricultural or landscaping purposes are now a serious concern for our parks, our public green spaces, and our own backyards. More and more, experts warn, this city's beautiful native trees, plants and wildlife are losing the fight against these aggressive plants, vines, trees and insects that consume nutrients, disrupt the ecological balance and disfigure the outdoor world where Nashvillians hike, bike, picnic, ride horses and mountain bikes, or just relax. If left unchecked, future generations might never glimpse the forest floor, as alien undergrowth shrouds and chokes trees large and small.

Our objective, while removing invasive species from our public lands, is also to educate our volunteers as to the importance of this mission, so they, in turn, use these practices when managing their own yards and properties. We are fortunate to have Invasive Plant Control, LLC, a world renown leader in invasive plant management, headquartered here in Nashville. President, Steve Manning, has been a wonderful professional resource to host sites and a leader in helping to take the

Weed Wrangle® movement to a national level. While Weed Wrangle® was started here in Nashville, the mission has spread nationally to 13 states through the Garden Club of America, and many other cities like New Orleans, Dallas, and Houston are joining in the fight against invasive plants through Weed Wrangle®.

Want to participate in Weed Wrangle®? Each year there are multiple sites located in or near Belle Meade: Belle Meade Plantation, Cheekwood, and Warner Parks; along with sites scattered all over the city. Go to <https://www.weedwrangle.org> or Hands on Nashville and search for Weed Wrangle® to register for a site close to your home or close to your heart. It is a wonderful way to do your part to take care of the environment and give back to the Nashville community.

-- Carter Dawson, Society of Ceres committee member