

Bulletin



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Update on the European Buckthorn Control Program in Winnipeg

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The MNS in partnership with the City of Winnipeg's Naturalist Services Branch is embarking on its fourth year of the *European Buckthorn Control Program* aimed at eliminating the spread of European Buckthorn across the city.

2005 proved to be a successful year, with the treatment of five new sites with varying densities of the invasive plant. In addition, six sites within Assiniboine Park were treated with either glyphosate injection or by painting cut stumps with liquid herbicide – an effective control method to prevent suckering or re-growth from the stumps. This method has little or no effect on the surrounding vegetation because only the cut surfaces are spot-applied with herbicide.



European Buckthorn stump treated with liquid herbicide. Photo: K. Koziy (December 24, 2005)



The Deloitte Team on Impact Day at Assiniboine Park. Photo: J. Martin (September 30, 2005)

In order to help the forest regenerate after the removal of Buckthorn, three sites in Assiniboine Park were replanted using bare root and containerized native plant stock. In total, 700 specimens were planted over the summer months by Naturalist Services Branch Staff in areas near the conservatory parking lot.

Of special mention this fall was the work carried out by 20 enthusiastic employees of the Deloitte & Touche office of Winnipeg on Friday, September 30 (see photo above). The team removed eight dump-truck loads of European Buckthorn from the forest around the south picnic grounds in Assiniboine Park. These efforts were part of the *Deloitte Impact Day* – a day where the firm demonstrates their commitment to the communities in which they do business.

And what an impact indeed! It is certain that the hard-working efforts of this bunch have significantly contributed to limiting the spread of European Buckthorn, creating usable woodland for local wildlife and restoring Assiniboine Park's unique natural heritage.

Plans for the European Buckthorn Control Program in 2006 include further monitoring of previously treated sites for re-growth (sites include golf courses, parks and natural areas), treatment of new parcels in Assiniboine Park, and broadening public knowledge of this invasive plant.

For more information on European Buckthorn, please contact the Naturalist Services Branch at (204) 986-7235.

European Buckthorn Removal Day

SATURDAY APRIL 29



Photo: H. Fabbri (Mar 22, 2003)

The MNS and City of Winnipeg's Naturalist Services Branch are pleased to announce *European Buckthorn Removal Day* on **Saturday, April 29** from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm at the MNS test plot site (north of the Assiniboine Park Zoo parking lot between the two entry roads). Designated as a test plot in 2002, the site was chosen because of its diversity of native species and high potential for natural regeneration.

If you are interested in volunteering for this year's event please contact Cynthia Cohlmeier at (204) 889-6823.