



## **VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION**

### **Invasive Investigators**

#### **Purpose/Objective**

Identify potential areas of invasive species infestation for City confirmation. Invasive species may be aquatic as well as terrestrial plants or animals from a list compiled by the City.

Volunteers would also communicate information regarding invasive species to schools or other civic groups.

#### **Department/Division**

Environmental

#### **Location of Volunteer Position**

Outside, various places wherever invasive species may be growing within the City (which may include City parks and trails). Opportunities for teaching about invasive species could be indoors for interested groups (such as classrooms).

#### **Key Responsibilities**

Learn about an invasive species that interests the volunteer (life cycle, identification, and control methods), then actively look or monitor for the species selected at home or in the City's public areas. Report any "suspicious" plants or locations to the City Environmental Department for verification prior to control (to limit removal of beneficial "look-alike" natives). Volunteers should be willing to share their knowledge with groups. Possibly assist with public education events (for example, Environmental Ed Days, children's educational events, etc.)

#### **Requirements/Qualifications:**

- Age: 16+
- Willingness to learn and identify invasive species, then report and potentially educate others.
- Physically able to walk over uneven terrain because invasives may not be located in easy to reach areas.
- Ability to accurately identify locations so that others may find them simply or to lead others to the location of the infestation. Use of GPS units is acceptable but not necessary.



**Time Commitment**

Flexible; for identification of invasives, mainly during spring – fall months when invasives are active and identifiable. For education, winter may be a time to conduct presentations to interested groups.

**Training/Support Provided**

Confirmation of invasive versus native species by staff.

Information regarding invasive species of choice by the volunteer may be available, although some research may be necessary by the volunteer.

**Benefits to Volunteers**

Enriching and beautifying the City parks or residents' neighborhoods by increasing diversity and removing a problem invasive species. Early detection of new invasive species in the City may lead to better and less expensive control of the particular invasive species. Potential for building leadership and public speaking skills. Possible resume builder.

**Other Information**

- Volunteers should wear sturdy footwear (boots are recommended) and layered clothing appropriate for any weather condition during the time they are actively working as an Invasive Investigator.
- Collection of a sample for verification may be necessary if a photograph is not possible or the invasive species is expected to leave the area before confirmation may be obtained (for example, collection of an insect suspected to be emerald ash borer).
- Measures for personal safety such as use of sunscreen or bug spray are expected. Ticks may be present in City public areas and should be planned for accordingly.