



VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION

Buckthorn Busters

Purpose/Objective

Educate homeowners on identifying buckthorn as well as conducting buckthorn removal within the City, either alone or as part of a team. Removal of invasive buckthorn will help beautify the City of Elk River and restore native ecosystems.

Department/Division

Environmental (or Parks)

Location of Volunteer Position

Outside, various places wherever buckthorn is growing within the city (which may include city parks and trails or property of residents who have requested assistance). Opportunities for teaching about buckthorn could be indoors for interested groups.

Key Responsibilities

Learn to identify buckthorn and its native “look-alikes” to prevent beneficial natives from being removed as buckthorn. Volunteers should be willing and able to do the highly physical work involved in removing buckthorn as well as being willing to share this information with others (which may require teaching a group or leading a team).

Requirements/Qualifications

- Age: 10+ (under 16 must be accompanied by an adult)
- Knowledge of buckthorn or willingness to learn
- Physically able to walk over uneven terrain and lift up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to handle removal equipment, which may include chainsaws, hand saws, pruning shears, and herbicides

Time Commitment

- October – November annually; 2 – 4 hours per volunteered day depending upon the site and necessity
- Flexible time frame – during daylight hours. Groups may be organized more “rigidly” but individuals working alone may be more flexible



Training/Support Provided

Identification of buckthorn, if needed. City may be able to provide gloves, high visibility vests, safety glasses or goggles, and hearing protection (if using chain saws) as well as herbicides and applicators, removal equipment, and hauling services depending upon the location.

Benefits to Volunteers

Enriching and beautifying city parks or residents' neighborhoods by increasing diversity and removing a problem 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.
- Hand pulling of seedling buckthorn is a possibility.
- Although insects are not expected to be a problem at this time of year, ticks may be present and should be planned for accordingly.

