

Path of the Flood Trail: Self-Guided Tree & Wildflower Tour

Invasive Species

This tour was designed to help trail goers identify common and interesting wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and other plants along the Path of the Flood Trail. You will find photos, information, and fun facts about the trail's native and invasive species. Happy Hiking!

Common Name: Garlic Mustard

Scientific Name: *Alliaria petiolata*

Habitat: Moist soil with part to full shade

Characteristics: Garlic mustard can be identified by its triangular toothed leaves that give off a garlic odor when crushed. Plants flower in small white clusters from May to June. Garlic mustard was brought to the US from Europe in the 1800s for food, erosion control, and medicine. It is an aggressive invasive because of its ability to scatter thousands of seeds over a large area and because it can out-compete native wildflowers.

For more information, visit Natural Biodiversity's invasive fact sheets <http://naturalbiodiversity.org/biobullies/garlic%20mustard.shtml>



Common Name: Common Burdock

Scientific Name: *Arctium minus*

Habitat: Moist, well drained soils with full sun

Characteristics: Leaves of burdock are large, heart shaped, and resemble rhubarb. Burdock is famous for producing prickly burrs that attach to clothing and fur like Velcro. The lifespan is around four years. It was brought to the US by French and English colonists and had spread so widely by 1663 that it was mistakenly identified as a native.

For more information, visit Natural Biodiversity's invasive fact sheets <http://naturalbiodiversity.org/biobullies/downloads/Common%20Burdock.pdf>

Common Name: Crown Vetch

Scientific Name: *Coronilla varia*

Habitat: Prairies, pastures, woodlands and stream banks; can withstand colder temperatures of the northeast US

Characteristics: Part of the legume family, crown vetch is a rhizomatous plant that can also spread by seeding. Seeds remain viable for up to fifteen years before regrowth. It flowers from May to August and produces white to lavender flowers that resemble clover head clusters. Crown vetch was introduced to the US from Europe as an erosion control method and for highway beautification.

For more information, visit Natural Biodiversity's invasive fact sheets <http://naturalbiodiversity.org/biobullies/downloads/Crown%20Vetch.pdf>



Common Name: Queen Anne's Lace

Scientific Name: *Daucus carota*

Habitat: Dry, sunny fields, openings, and disturbed sites

Characteristics: Queen Anne's Lace is a herbaceous biennial with hairy hollow stems, a white umbel shaped flower, and a carrot-like smell. It can reach four feet tall. Another name for Queen Anne's Lace is Wild Carrot because it is a relative of garden carrot varieties. A native of Europe and Asia, it invades disturbed prairies, fields, and roadsides across the US. The best way to combat Queen Anne's Lace is by hand-pulling or mowing followed by planting native grasses and herbaceous plants.



Common Name: Japanese Knotweed

Scientific Name: *Fallopia japonica*

Habitat: Prefers riparian areas, but will assimilate almost anywhere

Characteristics: The stem of Japanese knotweed resembles bamboo and its leaves are dark green and heart-shaped. Green-white flowers bloom all summer and are followed soon after by small, winged fruits. Knotweed was introduced to the US from East Asia in the late 1800s primarily for erosion control and for landscape screening. It spreads by rhizome, which makes it particularly aggressive and difficult to eradicate.

For more information, visit Natural Biodiversity's invasive fact sheets <http://naturalbiodiversity.org/biobullies/japanese%20knotweed.shtml>

Common Name: Multiflora Rose

Scientific Name: *Rosa multiflora*

Habitat: Dense woods, along stream banks and roadsides, and open fields and pastures

Characteristics: Multiflora rose is a thorny perennial shrub that flowers in late spring to early summer. The flowers develop into small red fruits that remain on the plant throughout winter. It was brought to the US from East Asia in 1866 as rootstock for ornamental roses. Now it is used as livestock barrier, crash barrier on highways and wildlife cover. It reproduces by seeding and spreads through birds. An average plant may produce a million seeds per year with seeds remaining viable for twenty years.



For more information, visit Natural Biodiversity's invasive fact sheets <http://naturalbiodiversity.org/biobullies/multiflora%20rose.shtml>



Common Name: Curly Dock

Scientific Name: *Rumex crispus*

Habitat: Moist areas with acidic soil and full sun

Characteristics: Curly Dock was introduced from Europe in the 1800's. The three-foot tall perennial has wavy dark green leaves and petal less flowers that begin as a light green in June and transform into a dry-looking reddish brown by October. The plant contains Oxalic Acid that can irritate sensitive skin. Curly Dock seeds can last up to fifty years.

For more information, visit Natural Biodiversity's invasive fact sheets <http://www.naturalbiodiversity.org/biobullies/downloads/Curly%20Dock.pdf>

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