

Invasive Plant Removal Along The Capital City Trail

Invasive plants are a major concern for forests in Wisconsin. They reduce diversity, alter habitat for wildlife and reduce or prevent tree regeneration. Keeping our forests healthy and productive is critical.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is conducting a project to remove invasive and undesirable woody species from 36 acres of state land bordering the Capital City Trail in Fitchburg (see the map below). Species to be removed include black locust, honeysuckle, buckthorn, boxelder and black cherry.

The site will be forestry mowed during winter 2024/2025. Then, follow-up herbicide treatments will occur during the summer of 2025. Because invasive plants typically resprout after cutting, treatment with herbicide is necessary to effectively eliminate them.

The ultimate goal is to remove the invasive plants so that native tree seedlings can be planted and the site restored to a healthy forest.

To ensure user safety, the Capital City Trail will be closed for one day when mowing occurs

adjacent to the trail. Signage will be posted along the trail to keep users informed. When the trail is closed, please use alternate travel routes (shown on the map).

Dates of the planned activity windows:

- **Dec. 1, 2024, to Feb. 28, 2025:** Forestry mow of the 36-acre site.
- **June 1 to June 15, 2025:** Follow-up herbicide treatment of invasives.
- **Aug. 1 to Sept. 1, 2025:** Follow-up herbicide treatment of invasives.

For questions, contact DNR Forester Landin Brockman at (608) 815-5480 or by email to Landin.Brockman@wisconsin.gov.



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