

Connecting People with Nature

Thank you for your interest in the Ivy Busters Program with the Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES). Through your participation in Ivy Busters, you will make an important contribution to restoration efforts in Stanley Park, while working with a great group of people in a beautiful outdoor setting!

An Introduction to English Ivy in Stanley Park:

Invasive plant species have had devastating impacts in many areas, and are considered one of the greatest threats to biodiversity in our world today. When a non-native invasive plant species such as English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is introduced into an ecosystem such as Stanley Park, it spreads rapidly, out-competing native vegetation and compromising natural shelter and food sources for wildlife. We estimate that up to 30% of the forested area in Stanley Park has already been covered by English ivy. As a result, invasive species management has become a priority in Stanley Park in order to conserve the natural forested areas, and ensure native plant survival in restoration zones.

Ivy Busters is a key conservation program started in 2004 by SPES staff in partnership with the Vancouver Park Board. Participants in the Ivy Busters program join SPES staff to carefully remove invasive plant species from selected areas of Stanley Park, and work towards restoring reclaimed areas with native vegetation.

Dates and Times:

Ivy Busters Spring and Early Summer 2008 Schedule:

Community events are held twice per month, on the second Saturday (from 10-1) and fourth Sunday (from 12:30 to 3:30) of the month, with the exception of holidays. The next few dates are below.

April	Saturday, April 12 th from 10-1
	Sunday, April 27 th from 12:30 to 3:30
May	Saturday, May 10 th from 10-1
	Sunday, May 25 th from 12:30 to 3:30
June	Saturday, June 14 th from 10-1
	Sunday, June 22 nd from 12:30 to 3:30 (<u>Note:</u> part of Park Drive will be closed until noon this date)

* Ivy Busters events are open to the public; please let the coordinator know if you will be attending so that we can plan ahead

**Ivy team leader opportunities are available for individuals who would like to be more involved in invasives programs with SPES.

Contact the Stewardship Coordinator for more information on training!

*The program typically involves at least 2 hours of active work outdoors, **rain or shine**. In the interest of everyone's safety, **we will not go out if there are winds above 20km/hour.****

What to Wear and Bring:

- Please **dress for the weather** (i.e. rain gear if it is rainy, sunscreen and hats if not) and wear solid footwear. Long sleeves are recommended as some people's skin reacts to the sap of the ivy.
- We ask that you **bring plenty of water** and a light snack (especially if you get hungry from doing hard work!).

Please note that participants under the age of 18 must have consent forms signed by a parent or guardian

What SPES Provides:

- We have **work gloves** and **safety vests** for program participants to borrow during our Ivy Busters sessions. In addition, we provide the tools needed for removing ivy (although most of it is by hand!).
- SPES also provides **light refreshments** (typically iced tea and cookies) for program participants.

Meeting Place and Directions:

We meet at the SPES office, then head out to the site to do work. The SPES office is located on the second floor of the Dining Pavilion in Stanley Park- come right on up when you arrive. There are several options for travel to and from the Dining Pavilion at Stanley Park (instructions for each below).

By foot or car:

Take the Stanley Park exit off Georgia Street. Continue north, you will come to a traffic circle/ round about. At the traffic circle continue straight on to Pipeline Road. Take the first right off of Pipeline Road- marked "Malkin Bowl/ Stanley Park Dining Pavilion" (it is just past the Rose Garden). Around the bend you will see a beautiful brown character building with a stone foundation- the Stanley Park Dining Pavilion.

****Before you pay for parking, make sure you come and get your parking pass – good for one free day in the park!****

By bus:

Take the Stanley Park bus (#19) to its terminus in the Park. The Stanley Park Dining Pavilion is visible just to the south.

Map of office location:

<http://www.stanleyparkecology.ca/news/library/maps/mapSPESLocations.php>

If you have any questions or concerns relating to Ivy Busters, feel free to contact Jillayne Peers, Stewardship Coordinator with SPES: stewardship@stanleyparkecology.ca or (604) 718-6522. We look forward to having you join us as a Stanley Park Steward!