

ILLINIWEK GARLIC MUSTARD PULL

EVENT INFORMATION

Who: The QC Friends of Off-Road Cycling (FORC) and hopefully you!

What: Pulling and bagging garlic mustard along trails throughout the park.

Where: Meeting at the overlook trailhead just off of IL-84 at Illiniwek Forest Preserve in Hampton, IL.

When: Sunday May 18th 9:00-11:00am

Why: To prevent the spread of this noxious weed and protect native flora/fauna.



GARLIC MUSTARD FACTS

Garlic mustard is an invasive noxious weed which threatens native plants in high quality woodland areas across the US. Originating from Europe, there are no natural processes to slow down its spread within this country. If left unmanaged, garlic mustard can out-compete and eliminate native plant species in as little as 10 years.

Each plant produces hundreds of seeds which can lie dormant in the soil for over five years. These seeds are small enough that they can easily hitch a ride on shoe soles and bike tires under damp or muddy conditions. It is thought this is the primary way this weed is spread to other areas and many parks now require bikes and shoes to be thoroughly cleaned before and after using trails.

Garlic Mustard is easily recognized by these features:

- Grows to a height of 1-4 feet
- Clusters of white 4 petal flowers at the top of the plant
- Long thin seed pods
- Leaves resembling a heart shape with toothed edges and a pointy tip
- Bright green leaves/stems with stems turning red or purple towards the roots
- Pungent garlic aroma when leaves/stems are crushed

