

Early Detection for Invasive Pests & Pathogens Community Science Project

Reports to: Plant Taxonomist/Herbarium Curator

Program Description

The Early Detection for Invasive Pests & Pathogens Project aims to survey and report on the presence/absence of four non-native tree pests and pathogens that are not yet present at Hoyt Arboretum. Volunteers will be assigned a tree(s) or tree species to observe and regularly survey for spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) or sudden oak death/Phytophthora blight (*Phytophthora ramorum*).

Regularly surveying for these destructive pests will help us to best protect Hoyt Arboretum and the surrounding natural areas from their potential damages. The four species are currently not present or established in the Arboretum, but - due to our tree diversity and high number of visitors - have a likelihood of expanding their range. Outcomes for this project are to develop an ongoing survey process for these pests at Hoyt Arboretum and to serve as a model of an early detection sentinel survey program for other public gardens.

Responsibilities

- Become familiar with those tree species and locations to be surveyed, and learn to recognize the invasive pests and pathogens of interest including the signs and symptoms of pest damage
- Visit and regularly survey your assigned tree(s) – at least once per month.
- Record observations and submit data survey sheets
- Report volunteer service hours monthly

Qualifications

- Willingness to expand knowledge of plant and insect/pathogen identification skills
- Comfortable spending time outdoors and walking on trails
- Ability to follow survey standards and correctly fill out datasheets
- All volunteers must pass a background check

Time Requirements

Volunteers should be available to survey their assigned tree(s) **at least one visit per month**. Each survey visit should include enough time to locate and arrive at your assigned tree(s), survey the tree for pests and pathogens (approximately 5 to 10 minutes per tree), and another 1 to 2 minutes to fill-in your observation form. While there are no set shifts, volunteers are encouraged to be on site during times when the Visitor Center is open (Monday-Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday-Sunday 11am-3pm). Volunteers are encouraged to be available for a minimum **6-month commitment**.

Training

Early Detection for Pests volunteers are required to attend an introductory training session. During the training, volunteers will:

- Learn about Hoyt Arboretum, Hoyt Arboretum Friends and its partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation
- Learn about trees to survey, and how to recognize signs and symptoms of select insect pests and pathogens
- Choose at least one tree or species to regularly survey over the growing season
- Learn to fill out the survey observation form and submit collected data

Benefits

Hoyt Arboretum volunteers are eligible for an annual Washington Park volunteer parking pass and complimentary membership with HAF after **15 volunteer hours** have been completed. Benefits include a 20% discount in the Visitor Center, discounts on classes, monthly Lunch & Learn sessions, off-site field trip opportunities, invitations to members-only events, and an annual volunteer appreciation celebration.

To Apply: Please email volunteer@hoytarboretum.org or call (503) 823-1649 for more information.