

# Clematis Removal and Tracking Community Science Project

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**Reports to:** Plant Taxonomist/Herbarium Curator

## Program Description

*Clematis vitalba*, also known as Old Man's Beard or Traveler's Joy, is an invasive canopy weed that is abundant throughout the Portland metro region and has also been identified at Hoyt Arboretum. The Clematis Removal and Tracking Project aims to train community scientists to identify *Clematis vitalba*, report its location using iNaturalist, and remove it. Hand removal of *Clematis* over several growing seasons has been documented as an effective method for permanent control.

Outcomes for this project are to develop an ongoing monitoring, reporting, and removal process to eliminate *Clematis vitalba* from Hoyt Arboretum and select Washington Park Natural Areas.

## Responsibilities

- Become familiar with *Clematis vitalba* and its negative impact on forest ecology in the Pacific Northwest
- Monitor Hoyt Arboretum and the Washington Park Natural Area for *Clematis vitalba*
- Document locations of *Clematis vitalba*, physically remove small patches (if possible), and submit data using iNaturalist
- Learn best practices for removal including proper use of tools
- Report volunteer service hours

## Qualifications

- Willingness to expand knowledge of plant identification, invasive plant species, and forest ecology
- Comfortable spending time outdoors and walking on trails and uneven terrain
- Able to lift, carry, bend, kneel, dig and use hand tools
- Ability to report data using the iNaturalist app on your personal device
- All volunteers must pass a background check

## Time Requirements

Volunteers should be available to visit the Arboretum at least once a month during the growing season (approximately April through October) for a **minimum of 2 hours per month**. While there are no set shifts, community scientists are encouraged to volunteer 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

Clematis Tracking and Removal 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 how to identify *Clematis vitalba* and differentiate it from other native species with a similar appearance
- Learn to use the iNaturalist app to submit collected data
- Learn best practices for removal including proper use of tools

## 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](mailto:volunteer@hoytarboretum.org) or call (503) 823-1649 for more information.