

Habitat Report for August 2023, By John Hillmer

Summary:

	Volunteer Hours	Piles Burned	Firewood Bins Used	Firewood Donations
October	1,726.65	111		
November	720.25	104		
December	689.70	126		
January	677.00	112	13.00	\$ 34.00
February	614.50	84	11.00	\$ 10.00
March	906.75	316	9.50	\$ 93.00
April	868.00	169	21.50	\$ 128.00
May	622.75	88	18.00	\$ 106.00
June	733.00	108	10.00	\$ 61.00
July	768.25	80	24.00	\$ 194.00
August	529.00	48	18.00	\$ 135.00
	8,855.85	1,346	125.00	\$ 761.00

Friends of Lapham Peak
"Free the Oaks"



Buckthorn Busters

During the HOT month of August:

Assisted Rangers with a re-route on the Black Trail around "The Wall" (as of 9/1 that work is still in progress).

Spent several days scouting the West Side Prairies for invasive trees and bushes (there were, and still are) many! Removed many Black "thorny" Locust trees, Many-many Black Walnuts, many Boxelders, some Honeysuckles, and of course a number of Buckthorn trees. Each tree was either dug out completely or cut and herbicided. Problematic areas included "Garlic Mustard Hill" (just North of Lilian Ct.) and the far NW corner, near the Cushing Park Road parking lot).

On the East side, a re-growth grove of Black Walnuts was also removed SE of the Butterfly Garden, between E13 and E14 on the purple (?) Kame Terrace Trail.

We cleaned up a large tree worth of cut logs at the Springs by splitting them there at the Springs and then we brought them back to complete their drying at the Log Cabin.

We've used up all of the wood that was drying inside the Log Cabin since we first started in January (2+ cords). This is giving us a chance to reconfigure the Cabin for better tracking the age of each row inside, now that we're re-filling the Cabin back up. (We also test moisture content). About once a week, we go around to the wood racks and re-fill them. Reminder, each of our "bins" is the equivalent to 4-5 bundles that you would get at a retail store, plus we include small-split kindling (shrink-wrapped) in each bin to help people get their fires started; at the Southern Unit, people pay extra for kindling.

The Gator went in for additional maintenance for a week, but this work was covered under warranty. Michael Neimon, our weekend leader, lent us his UTV during that time, and also when we needed a 3rd vehicle.

On a few different occasions, we helped the Rangers with storm-damage trees (a few that fell or might fall on the far-East side neighbors) and also on the GDT, and the IAT too. And, we cleaned up some brush issues around the Garden as well.

An Eagle Scout project added new Boardwalk just across Hwy C on the re-routed IAT; now let's get the crossing lights!



Buckthorn Buster volunteers with DNR: Colton and Collin, at “The Wall” re-route

After cleaning up and salvaging nice Oak and Hickory from some recently fallen trees that were just to the right of the road going up the hill to Homestead Hollow, we enjoyed some kielbasa thanks to Eva. We’d welcome any and all board members to join us any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 9-noon! See what you are missing 😊

