

"Free the Oaks"



Buckthorn Busters

Habitat Restoration Crew

2025 Summary of work for Habitat, and December progress:

- Nearly 8,100 hours donated by Habitat Restoration Crews in 2025!
- Record donations for Firewood in December, and
- Good sales of Habitat Merchandise in December (Christmas)
 - About \$6,500 profit from Habitat Merch sold this year (thank you to Mary Miller & other DNR members for the help making this possible!)

| Month | Habitat Volunteer Hours | Piles of Brush Removed | Bins of Firewood Taken | Firewood Donations | IAT Hours Donated | Habitat Merch Sold (Sales, not profit) |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| Jan 2025 | 533 | 79 | 30 | 106 | 202 | 1,425 |
| Feb 2025 | 702 | 102 | 30 | 311 | 343 | 457 |
| Mar 2025 | 876 | 81 | 21 | 111 | 433 | 530 |
| Apr 2025 | 737 | 78 | 26 | 178 | 104 | 956 |
| May 2025 | 536 | 67 | 67 | 433 | 3 | 934 |
| Jun 2025 | 546 | 66 | 13 | 125 | 12 | 588 |
| Jul 2025 | 531 | 14 | 54 | 150 | 0 | 1,194 |
| Aug 2025 | 531 | 17 | 41 | 283 | 164 | 332 |
| Sep 2025 | 692 | 120 | 52 | 276 | 197 | 696 |
| Oct 2025 | 1,030 | 113 | 100 | 657 | 0 | 3,305 |
| Nov 2025 | 740 | 51 | 91 | 725 | 257 | 1,498 |
| Dec 2025 | 646 | 114 | 53 | 747 | 134 | 2,467 |
| 2025's Totals | 8,098 | 902 | 578 | \$ 4,102 | 1,847 | \$ 14,382 |
| 2024's Totals | 7,892 | 1,436 | 467 | \$ 3,675 | 1,465 | \$ 12,058 |
| Delta | 206 | -534 | 112 | \$ 427 | 383 | \$ 2,324 |
| | | Due to new burn rules | | | | |

On December 22, after 2 hours splitting wood, we threw a Holiday Party for the Buckthorn Busters:



Work in December:

- Focused mostly on the area between Two-Tier and the Ice Age Trail, with lots of buckthorn removed, and many piles removed as well.
- We also worked on the new 3-acre prairie that we planted on the west side, just north of the Paul Sandgren trail after you cross over the little bridge.
- Other work in December included helping the DNR with trees that fell on the trails,
- And, we contributed 34 hours of time making snow for SnowMaking.

Here's an interesting picture that John Hillmer gathered for a report for Mike Ring showing the areas that our crews worked in 2025 – we get around! (does not include prairies or woodlands what were burned):

