

OUR PARTNERS

DRIPP partners represent academic institutions, government agencies, nonprofit organizations and concerned individuals, including the following:

- ◆ Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve
- ◆ Delaware Highlands Conservancy
- ◆ Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
- ◆ Delaware River Basin Commission
- ◆ Hickory Run State Park (PA)
- ◆ High Point State Park (NJ)
- ◆ Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council
- ◆ Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania
- ◆ Morris County (NJ) Park Commission, Outdoor Education Division
- ◆ National Park Service - Delaware Water Gap NRA, Upper Delaware S&RR, Regional IPM, and NE Exotic Plant Mgmt Team
- ◆ Native Plant Society of New Jersey
- ◆ Natural Lands Trust
- ◆ PA Department of Transportation
- ◆ PA Department of Agriculture
- ◆ PA Department of Environmental Protection
- ◆ Stokes State Forest (NJ)
- ◆ The Nature Conservancy
- ◆ Tincum Township (PA) Environmental Advisory Committee
- ◆ U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (APHIS, PPQ)
- ◆ Washington's Crossing State Park (NJ)

and many more!

GET INVOLVED

You can work with us in several ways:

- ◆ Work with us at one of our new project areas.
- ◆ Join the DRIPP listserv to stay informed of projects, information, and meetings. Simply send an email to DRIPP-subscribe@yahoo.com, then respond to the invitation email. You can unsubscribe at any time.
- ◆ Join our Steering Committee or attend a meeting. We do not require any minimum attendance and we welcome whatever assistance you can give. Your perspective is important to us!
- ◆ Provide volunteers, staff, equipment, meeting space, funding, or other assistance to DRIPP.

CONTACT US:

Visit our website at

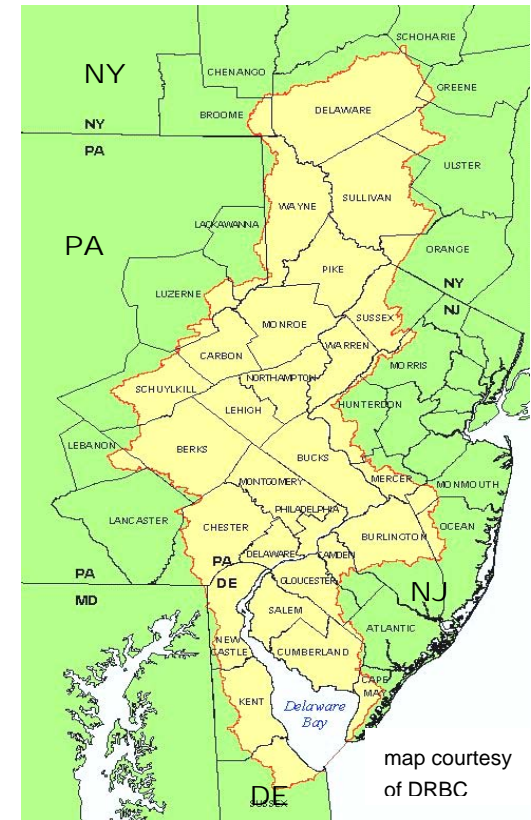
www.paflora.org/DRIPP_home_page.htm

For more information please contact:

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DELAWARE RIVER INVASIVE PLANT PARTNERSHIP

**Advancing regional coordination
and planning for invasive plant
management in the Delaware
River watershed.**



Invasive plants are a major threat to the Delaware River watershed, displacing native plant communities, destroying wildlife habitat, degrading the wild and scenic beauty of the landscape, altering natural processes, hindering roadside and utility management, and disrupting recreational activities.

The Delaware River Invasive Plant Partnership (DRIPP) was formed in 2000 to initiate a regional effort to reduce the negative impacts of invasive plants in the Delaware River watershed.

WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to advance regional coordination and planning for invasive plant management in the Delaware River watershed.

We work to unite private citizens, organizations, and academic institutions with local, state, and federal agencies working to control invasive plants in the watershed. We exchange information and expertise, share innovative tools and encourage applied research. We coordinate management, prevention and education across the watershed. We develop tools for training volunteers to assist with inventory, control, and early detection/rapid response to combat new invasions; and we work to increase public awareness and understanding of the impacts, prevention and management of invasive plants.

HOW WE DO IT

DRIPP's strength lies in the diversity of our partners and our connection to the landscape. To accomplish our mission, **DRIPP will work on-the-ground to better understand and effectively reduce the ecological impacts that invasive plants have on the health of the Delaware River watershed.**

<p>GOOD AND HEALTHY: Wetland with diverse, native plant community</p>	<p>Invasive plants replace native plants. They degrade wildlife habitat and alter water, soil, and light conditions. These impacts must be reversed to preserve and restore the healthy native systems vital to the Delaware River watershed.</p>
	
<p>LOVELY BUT WRONG: Wetland invaded/altered by purple loosestrife</p>	
	<p>Photos by Jenny Case, The Nature Conservancy [top], and Randy Westbrook, USGS, www.invasives.org.</p>

Invasive plants alter soil composition, change water levels and water quality. They alter natural processes like fire and hydrologic regimes. They replace native plants that serve as sources of food and shelter for all kinds of wildlife -- insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals.

Successful management plans must include a clear picture of what plants should be in the place of invasives and why. Understanding how invasive plants impact native species and then measurably reducing those impacts changes the focus from simply killing weeds to preserving and strengthening healthy native systems. We must learn more about how invasive plants change native systems, when that change becomes irreversible, and what management methods work best to reduce those impacts and prevent or reverse those changes. Identifying thresholds where invasive plant populations push native species to extinction (or to recovery only at great expense) will help land managers prioritize and *"get the best bang for their buck"*.

DRIPP will engage partners in work at project areas where monitoring, research, and adaptive control and restoration will create a laboratory for understanding and reducing impacts while educating professionals and the public about the issues. Partner roles in these project areas will include the following:

- designing and implementing monitoring programs,
- planning and implementing control and restoration,
- conducting research projects and compiling existing research,
- managing volunteers, and
- designing and implementing education/outreach programs.

