

## Volunteers take on stewardship of Charing Ravine in Upper Arlington

Charing Ravine is an unseen gem in the City of Upper Arlington. This small public park is not hidden in a remote corner of this suburb; on the contrary, it is located next to the heavily traveled Riverside Drive/US 33. Yet the ravine cannot be seen because the view is obstructed by nearly impenetrable invasive bush honeysuckle.

Slowly that view is changing. An invasive plant demonstration project was initiated at Charing Ravine in April 2011. Volunteer groups are cooperating with the Upper Arlington Parks and Forestry Division to control honeysuckle in the ravine.

Students in the Environmental Club at Upper Arlington High School were first to volunteer to remove the invasive shrub and they put in a good effort during two Saturday morning events this spring with the help of the Upper Arlington Forestry crew.

Upper Arlington Boy Scout Troop 417, of the Simon Kenton Council, also showed a strong interest in getting involved in a local stewardship project. The Charing Ravine project was proposed to the group during one of their regular Monday night meetings at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church on Lytham Road.

The scouts were very enthusiastic about becoming stewards of Charing Ravine. Around 30 people, scouts and their parents, turned out on a hot and humid June evening to work on honeysuckle removal. Plants were cut at the base and herbicide was applied to the cut stumps to prevent them from resprouting. Cut material was laid on the ground to promote quick decay. Significant progress was made in the 2 acre park that evening.

The UA Parks and Forestry Division has since revisited the site to do some follow-up spraying of resprouts and small shrubs.

Another volunteer service event has already been scheduled with the Boy Scout group and, given their unbridled enthusiasm, their stewardship and service seems likely to continue in the future.



A UA High School student and a member of the UA Parks and Forestry Division work together to remove invasive honeysuckle.

