



# MT. LEBANON NATURE CONSERVANCY

## *Presentation to Park Advisory Board – March 7, 2017*

## **Invasive Control and Forest Restoration Project Report**

### Executive Summary

A targeted invasive plant control project was undertaken by the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy as recommended by the Parks Advisory Board to address the invasive plant proliferation in Mt. Lebanon parks causing death of native trees, impairing of natural ecological functions and significantly affecting the use and appeal of our passive use parks.

- Funding:** Municipality appropriated \$42,000 through FY2013 Unassigned Capital funds
- Scope:** Bird Park, 6.5 acres along Washington and Beadling Roads  
If feasible, Twin Hills Park, sections with dense sections of bush honeysuckle
- Timing:** January 2015 – Fall 2016, ongoing
- Activities:** Plan Development (MLNC and Eichenlaub)  
Removal  
Destruction of plant material  
Reseeding  
Treatment of stumps  
Tree planting
- Spend:** \$33,000 to date, addition of \$12,000 in MLNC and volunteer hours  
Direct cost of reclamation is \$4,700 acre or \$.11 per square foot
- Outcome:** The targeted areas of Bird Park were removed of three invasive shrubs (bush honeysuckle, common privet and vine oriental bittersweet), stumps treated and areas reseeded with native grasses and trees. Additionally, a section of Twin Hills Park at the main entrance was also addressed.
- Next Goals:** Remaining project funds earmarked for further planting and reemerging plant control  
Broader invasive plant control continues through recurring MLNC/volunteer work days  
Seek recurring funding for application of herbicides to inhibit regrowth after removal  
Twin Hill Park, nearly 1/3 of the 25-acre park is impassable due to bush honeysuckle  
Recommend capital funding for 2018 Invasives Control and Forest Restoration Project

*The Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy appreciates the partnership and assistance of the Municipality and Parks Advisory Board. We continue in our shared goals to protect and enhance our passive use community parks.*





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## Invasive Control and Forest Restoration Project



Figure 1 – Bird Park project area before mechanical clearing.



Figure 2 – Project area after mechanical clearing. Note lack of trees and dying bitternut hickory vines in background trees.



Figure 3 – Mt. Lebanon High School students and other volunteers plant native tree species, October 2015.



Figure 4 – Project area after reseeding with native grasses and tree planting.

