



MEMORANDUM

TO: WILLIAM MACOMBER AND DR. BRIAN REYNOLDS
FROM: JOSEPH L. LOMAX
DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2014
RE: ARMACOST PARK HEALTHY FOREST INITIATIVE – DAMAGING VINE CONTROL – NE PORTION OF PARK

The following species are **targets for vine control** by cutting them in accordance with the Healthy Forest Initiative -- Damaging Vine Control Protocol Numbers. 1 and 2 (attached):

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|----|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Greenbriar/Catbriar | <i>Smilax rotundifolia</i> |
| 2. | Japanese honeysuckle | <i>Lonicera japonica</i> |
| 3. | Virginia creeper | <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> |
| 4. | Poison Ivy | <i>Rhus radicans</i> |
| 5. | Grape | <i>Vitis</i> spp. |
| 6. | English ivy | <i>Hedera helix</i> |

The following are the **trees and shrubs that should be preserved at the tree, shrub, sapling and seeding stages, to the maximum extent possible.**

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|----|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Trees: | |
| | <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Scientific Name</u> |
| | Eastern red cedar * | <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> |
| | Black cherry * | <i>Prunus serotina</i> |
| | Winged sumac * | <i>Rhus copallinum</i> |
| | Smooth sumac * | <i>R. glabra</i> |
| | Pitch pine | <i>Pinus rigida</i> |
| | Sassafras * | <i>Sassafras albidum</i> |
| | Hackberry * | <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> |
| | American holly * | <i>Ilex opaca</i> |
| | Scarlet oak | <i>Quercus coccinea</i> |
| | Black oak | <i>Q. velutina</i> |
| | Blackjack oak | <i>Q. marilandica</i> |
| | Scrub oak | <i>Q. ilicifolia</i> |
| | Pignut hickory | <i>Carya glabra</i> |
| | Mockernut hickory | <i>C. tomentosa</i> |
| | Persimmon * | <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> |
| | Red maple * | <i>Acer rubrum</i> |



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Serviceberry
Shadbush *
Southern red oak
Willow oak
Black gum *

Amelanchier arbore
A. canadensis
Quercus falcata
Q. phellos
Nyssa sylvatica

2.

Shrubs:

Common Name

Northern bayberry *
Wax myrtle *
Beach plum *
Groundsel *
Maleberry
Black chokeberry
Red chokeberry
Inkberry *
Southern arrowwood *
Sweet pepperbush
Highbush blueberry *

Scientific Name

Morella pensylvanica
M. cerifera
Prunus maritima
Baccharis halimifolia
Lyonia ligustrina
Photinia melanocarpa
P. pyrifolia
Ilex glabra
Virburnum dentatum
Clethra alnifolia
Vaccinium corymbosum

3.

Vines:

Trumpet vine

Campsis radicans

Mostly encountered species are identified with an asterisk (*)

Should you have any questions concerning this list or the use of the Damaging Vine Control Protocol, Numbers 1 and 2, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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Avalon Healthy Forest Initiative – Damaging Vine Control Protocol

The Avalon Healthy Forest Initiative entails rescuing, where possible, native vegetation in upland natural areas of the Borough, especially Armacost Park, from the damaging affects of densely concentrated stands of vines. Key to vine control is checking the unrestricted expansion of the damaging vines; bringing the vines into balance with natural stands of vegetation, especially in dune biotic communities, is an important component of the Armacost Restoration Work Plan during the winter of 2014-2015.

Vine control is proposed to be accomplished by the following approach:

1. Access Armacost Park initially from the 70th Street side of the Park and cut access paths to key areas of vine growth north of 72nd Street using hand-held, mechanized cutting tools (hedge trimmers and weed wackers).
2. Taking care to not cut native tree sapling or shrubs, cut a 5 foot section of vines, beginning at the ground surface of the soil. Allow the cut 5 foot section to decompose on the ground. The cut portions of the vines extending into the trees will be left in place to die and decompose. Where dense local monocultures of vines occur, cut the vines at the base and leave them in place to decompose.
3. Identify appropriate portions of the areas where the damaging vines have been cut for native plant replacement. Use only native trees and shrubs identified in the Approved List of Dune Vegetation. Principal native species should include, at a minimum, the species identified in the Dune Vegetation Management Plan, such as those listed below, based upon availability and costs:

Trees: American holly, eastern red cedar, red maple, black gum

Shrubs: bayberry, beach plum, inkberry holly, shadbush, groundsel

The native vegetation should be planted consistent with the Dune Vegetation Management Plan in early spring or late fall. Since no supplemental watering is available, appropriate soil amendments such as Terra-sorb, the moisture absorbing hydrogel, and mulch should be used where practical.

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4. Monitor growth of the planted vegetation and monitor re-growth of the vines. Report findings to the Avalon Environmental Commission along with recommendations to continue non-invasive, cost-effective control measures.
5. Maintain areas during the winter season where vines have been controlled using a weed wacker to cut the re-growing vines off at ground level. Care must be exercised by maintenance contractors to not damage or destroy non-vine, volunteer native vegetation and the planted vegetation.
6. Evaluate effectiveness of the 2014-2015 control effort in the northern portion of the Park and recommend vine control protocol adjustments for the vine control completion of the central and southern upland portions of the Park. Consider all effective control options; however, control efforts must be conducted during the winter when disturbance of rest or migrating wildlife is minimized. If herbicide treatment is considered as a control measure, safeguards must be in place to prevent inadvertently impacting native vegetation, only approved herbicides may be used and only properly briefed State-certified pest control operators may be used.
7. Continue selective vine control in the central and southern portions of the Park in the winter of 2015-2016 using the protocol defined above, as updated based upon the 2014-2015 control efforts and evaluations. Plant native trees and shrubs to compete with the vines as discussed in #3.
8. Monitor the re-growth of the vines and every two to three years cut the emerging vines at the soil surface and leave in place to decompose.
9. Update the Avalon Environmental Commission concerning the effectiveness at the vine control program as directed by the Commission.

The vine control program is necessary to return the biotic community balance to ensure biodiversity and structural integrity of the Armacost Park flora and associated fauna.

Joseph L. Lomax, Executive Vice President, The Lomax Consulting Group, LLC

Approved by the Avalon Environmental Commission, October 21, 2014