



Illiniwek Forest Preserve

Along the banks of the Mississippi and beyond



Garlic Mustard Pull

Saturday, May 6 2017

Event Information

The Rock Island County Forest Preserve District will be hosting their annual Garlic Mustard Pull at Illiniwek Forest Preserve at Illiniwek on Saturday May 6th from 9:00 am-11:00am. Please meet at the overlook trailhead parking lot off Illinois Highway 84 just north of Hampton, IL. Trash Bags and water will be provided but participants are encouraged to wear gloves and long pants suitable to gardening. A group native wildflower hike will directly follow for those interested.

Facts about Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard is an invasive noxious weed which threatens native plants in high quality woodland areas across the United States. With origins in Europe it possesses no comparable native competition and can eliminate native plant communities in as little as ten years. The aggressive nature of this plant is the main reason extra care must be taken to keep its population in check.

Each plant produces hundreds of seeds that can have a dormancy period of up to five years. The seeds small size allow them to piggyback on shoes, bike tires, clothing and skin in damp or muddy conditions. This piggyback method is the primary way the plant has been able to spread to new areas.

How to Identify the Plant

- Grows to a height of 1-4 feet
- Distinctive clusters of 4 petal flowers on top of plant
- Long thin seed pods
- Leaves resembling a heart shape with tooth like edges and a pointy tip
- Vibrant green leaves/stems that fade to a dark purple towards the base of the stem and root system.
- Pungent garlic aroma when leaves/stems are crushed