

**Wissahickon Valley Park**



**Pileated woodpecker**



**Project Description**

This project is aimed at removing invasive species of trees, shrubs and ground covers that threaten the existing native plant community. Native plants provide important habitat for birds, insects and other forms of wildlife. Carpenter's Woods also provides important forest interior habitat dominated by large native trees. Forest interior is especially valuable for neo-tropical migratory birds. Over the years, invasive tree species, primarily Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), have been encroaching on the forest interior from the surrounding edge. These trees, which have greatly reduced wildlife habitat value, are marked to be removed in this project. The work will begin in fall 2010 and will include:

- Removal of both hazardous trees and non-native invasive trees within “reach” of targets such as local roads, trails and utility wires (trees marked with blue paint and white “X”).
- Killing non-native/invasive trees located beyond “targets.” Trees will be girdled and/or treated with systemic herbicide (trees marked with blue paint or blue paint and letter “G”).
- Mowing/ manual removal and herbicide treatment of invasive shrubs and ground covers that threaten the regeneration of forest understory plants.
- “Habitat Logs” greater than 12” diameter will be left on site as habitat for insects and herptiles.
- Native plants will be avoided and protected. A number of representative native shrubs and saplings throughout the project site have been identified and are marked with orange paint.
- Planting of native trees and shrubs to replace the removed vegetation
- **Funding for this project is from an ARRA Grant through the U.S. Forest Service**

**Benefits**

The benefits of this project include:

- Enhancement of the site’s plant species density and diversity as well as increased forest structure complexity
- An increase in food, cover, breeding, and nesting areas for the variety of neotropical migratory and resident birds that utilize Carpenter’s Woods
- Removal of a significant invasive plant seed source that may be transported into and threaten downstream Wissahickon natural lands
- Removal of hazard trees resulting in improved safety for surrounding residential properties and park users



**Scarlet tanager**



# CARPENTER'S WOODS FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why was there orange fencing up at various park entrances?

A: The orange fencing is a "CAUTION" sign at restoration sites—intended to warn users that construction activity has been happening, and the terrain may be affected. We intentionally had the contractor leave this in place since the project is ongoing. We recently completed the mowing and cutting of invasive shrubs within about 10 acres of the site and there will be more work in June and July. Because of the time lag between these activities, we have had the contractor remove the orange safety fencing. They will post signs during the several days of herbicide work scheduled for June/July.

Q: Why are there logs left in the project area?

A: The logs over 12" in diameter were intentionally left in place as "habitat" logs. These large logs increase habitat for herptiles and small mammals and food sources for bark gleaning birds. This also reduced the amount of fuel burned to move this material offsite. The logs will weather and become much less noticeable fairly quickly. The contractor is on site the week of April 25 conducting final clean-up of logs, etc. Their work includes: 1) lowering stumps near the outside edge of the park; 2) removing trunks and branches smaller than 12" in diameter further into the woods; and 4) cutting some logs to firewood length for people to take. The contractor will remove any firewood that is not taken in a couple weeks.

Q: Why are herbicides used to remove invasive trees and other plants?

A: Due to the size of the site, the quantity of trees and the tenacity of the species (Norway maples, honeysuckle, knotweed and ivy), judicious use of herbicides is the only practical means of controlling invasive plants and giving native species an opportunity for establishment. We use it in combination with other methods, such as mechanical removal and mowing. All herbicides are applied according to manufacturer's directions by licensed applicators. The herbicides that will be applied in June /July on the shrubs and vines are mixed in water so that they are highly diluted. In addition, we require blue dye to be added to the herbicide so that plants that have been sprayed can be easily identified.

Q: As of end of April 2011, what remains to be done in the project area as part of the ARRA Grant work, and when will these things be done?

A: May 2011	Light grading of 12-foot strip along Wissahickon Avenue and part of N. Mt. Pleasant Avenue to make area under power lines mowable.
May 2011	Remove 2 large hazard trees along Wissahickon Avenue and top 1 large hazard tree at Sedgwick and Sherman Streets.
June 2011	Initial foliar herbiciding of invasive ground cover and re-growth.
August 2011	Follow-up herbicide treatment of remaining invasives.
Sept - Oct 2011	Plant 2,000 trees and 2,000 shrubs

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