



# The Invasive Plant Management Project at Touch of Nature, SIU



Invasive plant management is a necessary part of sound forest management. A non-native invasive plant is any plant outside its native range that causes significant injury to displace or kill native species. At Touch of Nature, as well as most forests across Illinois, dense infestations of woody invasives can pose a serious challenge for forest managers. Woody invasive species such as autumn olive and bush honeysuckle dominate a significant amount of space in the forest understory, leaving sparse amounts of space and light penetration for natural communities of vegetation.

This project was a collaboration between Touch of Nature Environmental Center, the SIUC Forestry Department, the Illinois Forestry Association, and the Illinois Forestry Development Council. Woody invasive species were cleared using a skid-steer fitted with a brush cutting head. This invasive species management technique was utilized to enhance forest health and recreation at Touch of Nature Environmental Center.

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