

You are invited to participate in Fairbanks' first ever

Weed Smackdown!

What is it? Local agencies and community groups will join forces in a fun and friendly competition to help control the growing problem of invasive plants in Fairbanks.

When and Where? The 2010 Weed Smackdown will take place at the new Tanana Lakes Recreation Area on Saturday, June 26th from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. This will include an orientation and weed identification session, 1 ½ hours of weed pulling, followed by a weed weigh-in, lunch, and awards ceremony.



Tanana Lakes will be a multi use park in South Fairbanks. Let's keep invasive plants from spreading around our newest recreation area!

Why do it? There is a growing problem with weeds in Alaska. Invasive plants are aggressive non-native invaders that have the ability to spread rapidly and out-compete native plants for growing space. The more hands we have working on the problem in Fairbanks, the more we can accomplish. This event will also be fun and your team could win prizes!

What are the benefits? Entry fees will be used to purchase *Weed Whackers* curriculum kits for area schools. Our new city recreation area will benefit from having fewer weeds and more native plants. We will also help contain the spread of these invasive plants and decrease the seed source. Our native birds and animals will benefit from access to more nutritional and healthier habitats, as well as decreasing the chance that these animals will transport invasive plant seeds to other areas.

What do you need to do? No weed identification expertise is needed, so form a team and send in a registration form, or come alone and join a team. Develop a weed-theme costume if you want to compete in the costume category. Come prepared to spend a few hours outside enjoying some exercise, fresh air, and habitat clean up! Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring gloves, a hat, and sunscreen. Water will be provided to our excellent volunteers!

Invasive plants can change the landscape as we know it – from our gardens and backyards to the wild places of Alaska that we love.

Invasive plants that will be targeted during the *Weed Smackdown*:



White Sweetclover



Foxtail Barley



Perennial Sowthistle

For more information, contact: Laurel Devaney 456-0558 or Darcy Etcheverry 474-5702