

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Wayne Ostlie

Director of Conservation Programs  
651-665-9500 ext. 19

[wostlie@greatrivergreening.org](mailto:wostlie@greatrivergreening.org)

Patricia Freeman  
Natural Resources Planner  
952-4968752  
[pfreeman@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:pfreeman@co.scott.mn.us)

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**WHO:** Community Leaders, Volunteers, Scott County Parks and Trails, Great River Greening, and Embrace Open Space.

**WHAT:** Over 50 volunteers led by Great River Greening, in collaboration with Scott County Parks and Trails, will begin the removal of 30 acres of buckthorn and other invasive species at Spring Lake Regional Park.

**WHERE:** Spring Lake Regional Park  
Prior Lake, MN 55372  
Volunteer event location on County Road 81 (Howard Lake Road) between County Road 82 and County Road 12; look for signs.

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 24, 2009  
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
8:30 - Registration and Orientation, 9:00 - Buckthorn Removal,  
Noon – Lunch and Brief Program featuring Kathy Gerlach, Chair, Scott County Parks and Trails Commission

**HOW:** Funding for this project is provided by Scott County and the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) through Great River Greening's membership in the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership.

**WHY:** Of the only 7,500 acres of maple-basswood forest in the County (out of 260,000 acres), 200 acres are on County park land. Buckthorn has invaded portions of the maple-basswood forest and has completely taken over adjacent areas. Stewardship of the rare natural features on the County's park lands is important for a number of reasons. It's Big Woods forest, prairies, savannas and other pre-settlement landscapes that define natural-based park systems and they create the unique landscape setting for regional park recreation; and at the same time they protect our water resources, provide wildlife habitat, and preserve biodiversity.



*restoring the land,  
renewing communities*