

Trout Unlimited Heritage Tract Forest Restoration

Statement of Purpose:

Following the Coldwater Conservation Plan, which lists Japanese and Bush Honeysuckle as one of the highest vegetated threats to the LeTort's landscape, I propose the removal and restoration of CVTU's Heritage Tract on S. Spring Garden St., by removing bush honeysuckle and replanting native shrubs and trees. Work will get done by utilizing our 600+ members, and calling upon other LeTort stakeholders like LRA, CPC, and LeTort Stewards. No riparian (within 25ft) or in-stream work will be done.

Goals:

The goal of this plan is to remove the bush and Japanese honeysuckle from the area outlined in red, on the right. After removal, the area will be re-planted with agreed-upon native plant species.

The How:

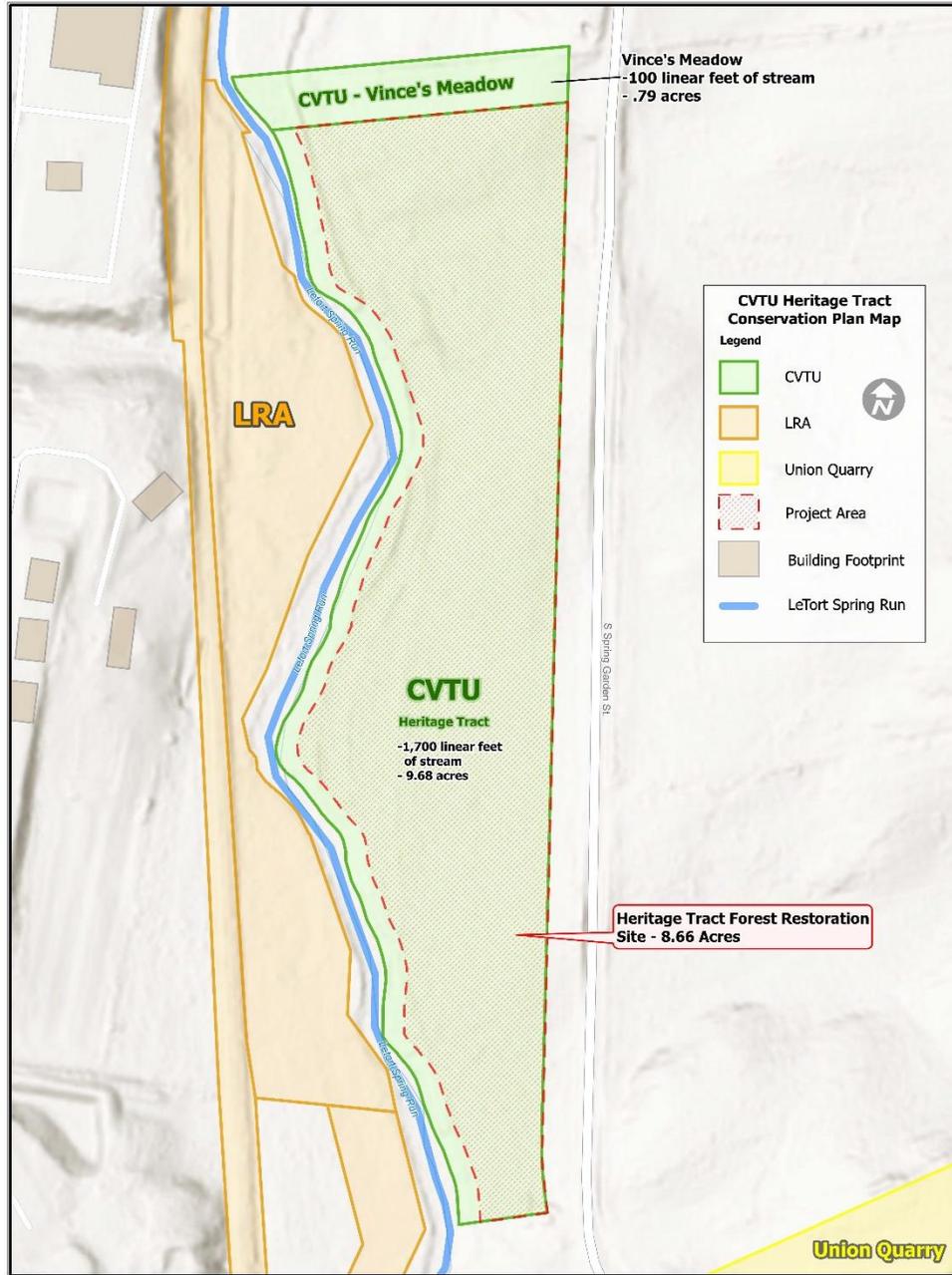
Bush and Japanese honeysuckle will carefully and methodically be removed by cutting the plant inches above the ground with hand and chainsaws. Then, by a Certified Pesticide Applicator, using a paintbrush to "paint" (and never spray) the top of the exposed stump with a DCNR and USDA recommended herbicide AquaMaster (high confidence, lower toxicity herbicide) the plant, and most importantly its powerful root system, will die. The cleared area will then be planted with native trees and bushes at the appropriate time of year.

Native Re-Planting:

After invasive removal, volunteers will coordinate the planting of Swamp Milkweed, Bluewood Aster, Joe-Pye Weed, Pussy Willow, and Swamp White Oak in the lowest wet areas (not within 25 feet of the stream). And native trees like Pin Oak, Red Maple, Hickory, Winterberry, Holly, and Spicebush on the hillsides. Native plant recommendations come from Cumberland County Master Gardner, Susan Skender.

Action Plan and Timing:

On a volunteer basis, work will start to cut and apply herbicides, by Certified Pesticide Applicators to invasive Honeysuckle. Herbicide must be applied within 24 hours of the cut, and ideally applied immediately after. Cuttings and herbicide application can happen all year, with plantings taking place in fall, winter, and most heavily in spring. The cut bushes can be burnt or composted, dependent on the time of year.



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References:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov> Herbicide use for native species

<http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov> Honeysuckle Fact Sheet

[LeTort Spring Run Coldwater Conservation Plan](#)

<https://georgeweigel.net/georges-favorite-plants-etc/ultra-local-native-plants-for-south-central-pennsylvania>