



PW-11



Invasive species task force

In response to citizen requests, the Hillsborough County, Florida (999,000), board of commissioners created an invasive species task force to combat the invasion of nonnative vegetation. The task force of approximately 50 members includes staff from the county, the city of Tampa, and the state, as well as private citizens. The task force sponsors six workdays each year that typically draw around 40 volunteers who work with city and county equipment operators to remove and dispose of nonnative plants in designated areas. The task force's education committee is developing a two-hour, bimonthly seminar for homeowners that will address why invasive species are a problem, how to identify them, and how to use herbicides or mechanical means to remove them. The county contributes \$5,000 a year to the task force in addition to the task force coordinator's salary. The task force has also received grants to produce a field manual and hire a contractor to remove some large trees.


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Hillsborough County Invasive Species Task Force	Invasive Species	Replacements	How Can You Get Involved?
 <p data-bbox="378 1493 505 1507">Air Potato (<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>)</p>	Brazilian pepper (<i>Schinus molle</i>)	Yaupon holly	
	Melaleuca (<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>)	Magnolia	<p>1. Participate in Task Force invasive removal work days.</p> <p>2. Participate on the Education and Outreach Committee of the Task Force to help to educate others on the problems of invasive species.</p>
	Australian pine (<i>Casuarina</i> spp.)	Long leaf pine Slash pine	<p>3. Eliminate seed sources; remove invasive species from your yard and personal property.</p>
	Skunk vine (<i>Paeonia foetida</i>)	Coral honey suckle	<p>4. Purchase and landscape with native plants when planting your yard. Encourage your local nursery to carry native plants.</p>
	Air Potato (<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>)	Carolina Jessamine	<p>5. Support invasive removal; encourage your neighbors, families and friends to remove invasives from their yards.</p>
	Old world climbing fern (<i>Lygodium microphyllum</i>)	Coral honey suckle	<p>6. Sign up to be added to the Invasive Species Task Force mailing list. (See contact info on back).</p>
	Lead tree (<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>)	Pignut hickory	
	Cogon Grass (<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>)	Gamma grass Muhly grass	
	Chinese Tallow (<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>)	Red maple	
	China berry (<i>Melia azedarach</i>)	Sweet gum	
	Carrothead (<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>)	East Palatka holly	
	Camphor tree (<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>)	Red cedar	

Working to Control the Spread of Invasive Species in Hillsborough County


 Hillsborough County
 Florida