

# **FRIENDS OF TOMASSO NATURE PARK**

## **PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES**

The purpose of the Friends of Tomasso Nature Park shall be to maintain an association of persons interested in the maintenance and upkeep of the nature park through an all-volunteer organization, and this organization shall be sponsored by the Town of Plainville, the Plainville Conservation Commission, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and Ruth Hummel, Town Naturalist.

The primary activities of this organization shall consist of members working together to return the nature park to a pristine setting. This includes planting flowers, weeding and light brush cutting. Members will also be working to eliminate the invasive plants, such as, **Asiatic Bittersweet**, **Tree-of-Heaven**, **Purple Loosestrife**, and **Phragmites**. The **Asiatic Bittersweet** can be recognized at a distance by its glossy leaves, excessive climbing over other plants, and showy fruits. **Asiatic Bittersweet** may retard forest regeneration and smother native vegetation in meadows, thickets and young forests. The **Tree-of-Heaven** is common in urban settings. Its roots sprout vigorously (even through cracks in sidewalks) up to 50' from the mother tree. It may seed into mature forests and fill openings where native trees have died. **Purple Loosestrife** grows in wet, open, sunny areas. It is a wetland invader, which displaces open water and native plants of value to wildlife. **Phragmites** is a tall, native perennial grass that has taken over thousands of acres of wetlands in Connecticut. The shade from large phragmites stands hinders the growth of other native plants, reducing plant diversity. This is a listing of only four of the many invasive plants that are found in the nature park.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this association shall be open to all individuals interested in its purposes. There will be no membership dues.

## **MEETINGS**

Weekly work sessions shall be held at Tomasso Nature Park. Monthly meetings shall be held at the request of members. The place and time to be determined.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

A chairperson shall be appointed to head this association. The chairperson shall plan which projects are to be completed and will report progress to the Department of Recreation and Parks, and to the Conservation Commission at their monthly meeting.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Contact The Department of Recreation and Parks for volunteer registrations and information. Telephone Number: 860-747-6022.

# FRIENDS OF TOMASSO NATURE PARK

## Volunteer Sign-up Sheet

Name:

Address:

Phone #

Email:

How often are you available to volunteer?

Do you have your own tools?

i.e., clippers, rakes, weed-whackers, etc.

(None will be supplied)

List any special knowledge or experience:

### WAIVER

I, the undersigned, being a Friend of Tomasso Nature Park, understand and am aware that volunteering myself to do maintenance and upkeep at the Nature Park may expose me, or cause me, to suffer an injury (including, but not limited to, major or minor cuts, lacerations, abrasions, rashes and the like).

Fully understanding all risks of injury which could occur in doing such volunteer work, I hereby waive, relinquish and release the Town of Plainville, its boards, commissions, officials, agents and employees from any and all claims, including attorney's fees and costs which I, my heirs, successors and assigns might have as a result of any injury occurring as such volunteer.

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Date

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Name