

Environmental Stewardship Program

Boot and Tool Sanitization Protocol

HELP PROTECT OUR NATURAL AREAS

EVERY STEP COUNTS!

Help prevent boots and tools from spreading weed seeds and plant pathogens! Invasive weed seeds and harmful plant pathogens can survive in infested soil and plant debris for many years and be picked up and moved by shoes or tires, negatively impacting native plant communities.

Plant pathogens are organisms that cause disease and often kill plants. They can be fungi, bacteria, nematodes, or water molds, and they are often spread by microscopic particles called spores.

Plant pathogens in the genus *Phytophthora* are of particular concern. *Phytophthora* is responsible for Sudden Oak Death, root rots, and the mold that caused the Irish Potato Famine. We want to reduce the risk of spreading these harmful pathogens to native plants and habitats.



HOW TO CLEAN BOOTS AND TOOLS:

Prior to entering the permitted area (creek corridor or natural area), all equipment, tools, and shoes must be clean and free of mud, debris, and soil. Cleaning of personal gear and small tools may be accomplished using a sanitizing agent such as 70% isopropyl alcohol.

Step 1: Use a stiff brush or hoof pick to scrub soil, mud, or other debris from shoe soles and sides, and from any tools used. Ensure all soil and debris are fully removed from the item before sanitizing. Remove weed seeds from shoes, paying careful attention to bootlaces and the inner folds of the shoe.

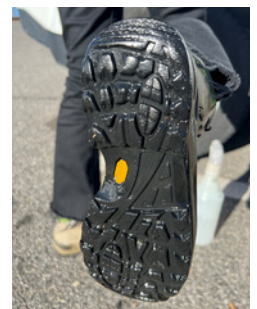


Step 2: After soil and debris have been removed, use a spray bottle filled with 70% isopropyl alcohol to thoroughly coat the shoe sole, the sides of the shoe, and all tools that will come into contact with soil.



Step 3: Allow items to air-dry for roughly 30 seconds.

Step 4: After you leave the site, repeat steps 1-3 if you plan to access another natural area.



For more information,
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