# Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

# Haddington Woods | Forest Restoration

## Cobbs Creek Park

## Partners

- State of PA (Act 13 Grant Funding)
- Tree Vitalize (DCNR)
- Penn State University (Research)

Invasive honeysuckle shrub

## Project Description

The Haddington Woods project site totals approximately 23 acres. This site has been the focus of a community outreach effort, to engage the participation of citizens and local scientists. The majority of the forest is badly degraded, with a canopy that has been overwhelmed by vines, and an understory devoid of tree seedlings and over run with non- native shrubs. This severely degraded forest core is expected to continue to expand and threaten adjacent intact forest. The proposed project is focused on: 1) removing the overwhelming invasive species (in winter 2014/15); 2) erecting deer fencing to eliminate browse damage; 3) replanting to re-establish a healthy forest stand (starting in fall 2015); and
4) conducting experiments on restoration techniques and plant species. The following work will be performed in the sequence shown:

- Delineate the extent of onsite wetlands, which will be protected during project implementation
- Identify and mark beneficial trees and shrubs to be retained
- Remove (cutting/mowing) non-native, invasive species of trees, shrubs and vines throughout site
- Remove a large volume of trash, car parts, and encampments etc.
- Retain all woody debris (wood chips) which will be spread onsite to promote soil health
- Seed site to prevent erosion
- Conduct two herbicide applications (summer 2015) to prevent re-establishment of invasive plants
- Install 8 foot high deer fencing to surround and protect the project site from herbivory. Install a second deer fence around a 17-acre area immediately to the east, where restoration work has been done formerly. Pedestrian access gates will be installed in both deer fences at all major trails.
- Construct vernal pools to provide breeding opportunities for amphibians
- Plant appropriate native trees and shrubs that will be adapted to anticipated changes in climate
- Conduct ongoing research

Eastern box turtle

## Benefits

- Elimination of deer browsing and rubbing damage, allowing for natural forest regeneration throughout the fenced areas
- Restoration of a core forest area by replacing invasive non-native plants with native or near –native species, resulting in increased plant and wildlife diversity
- Improved aesthetics and safety
- Opportunities for citizens and local scientists to participate in a major forest restoration project.