

# Open Space Committee Newsletter Update

## Open Space Update

This month's update focuses on the pressing issue of invasive vines and shrubs that are increasingly affecting North Castle and the Northeast. These invasive species pose significant threats not only to our environment and local ecosystems but also to the economic health of our town and communities. Here are two key points to consider:

1. **Habitat Degradation** : Invasive vines like Porcelain Berry and Asian Bittersweet, among others, aggressively outcompete native plants for resources, often smothering and killing them. This leads to a decline in biodiversity, which in turn reduces habitat and food availability for native wildlife. Additionally, the degradation of local wetlands can negatively impact water purification.
2. **Economic Impact** : Invasive vines significantly increase maintenance costs for public spaces, parks, and hiking trails, as well as on private properties. We've all witnessed the damage these vines can cause along roadways, sometimes even pulling down trees and power lines. This not only results in expensive property repairs but also impacts the integrity of roads and buildings, leading to additional financial burdens for the community.

Invasive vines not only affect public lands but also encroach on our private properties, where gardens and trees are often compromised. We are all interconnected through our land and environment, making it vital to protect these resources for ourselves, our children, and future generations.

## What Can Be Done?

Your Open Space Committee is actively working to find solutions to address this issue. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements about educational opportunities, including vine-cutting workshops and events, designed to help tackle this problem on both public and private properties.

In the meantime, there is a wealth of online resources available that provide valuable guidance on managing invasive vines and reducing their negative impacts on your property and property values. For a comprehensive resource, we recommend exploring Westchester County's excellent website, which offers in-depth information on combating invasive species: [Westchester County Invasive Species Resources](#).

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