

# RIVER TRAILS

PARK DISTRICT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

401 East Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070  
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MARVIN S. WEISS COMMUNITY CENTER

1500 East Euclid Avenue, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056  
Phone: (847) 255-1200 Fax: (847) 255-1285  
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**Grant Agreement Number: #08-027W**

## **Woodland Trails Habitat Restoration Project**

River Trails Park District  
1500 East Euclid Avenue  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

**Time Frame:** August 9, 2007 through August 9, 2008

Report completed by:  
Thomas Pope, Superintendent of Parks  
847-394-0734  
[tpope@rtpd.org](mailto:tpope@rtpd.org)

### **Objective:**

To begin restoring 10 acres of scrub park land with native plants

### **Project Description and Accomplishments:**

This venture centered around 2 areas: The major area of restoration of park land and a minor aspect of establishing a nursery of future plantings.

With ongoing maintenance and labor considerations, it was decided that  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre would be a good start for this project. Two local scout groups provided labor for removal of garlic mustard and smaller buckthorn plants, and an Eagle scout adopted this project for the heavier part of removals and planting.

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Removal of buckthorn was accomplished with pliers used as grippers to pull smaller plants; and for the larger plants, a Weed Wrench was used. Anything above 1" diameter was hand cut with a saw and stubs treated by our licensed Horticulturist with an herbicide.

Illinois native tree seedlings were ordered from the National Arbor Day Foundation and planted in the cleared area. An additional 50 seedlings were planted in a small nursery to grow so that we will have larger specimens to plant during a future phase.

In order to give the new plants the best opportunity at survival, we mixed water absorbing polymers into the soil and placed a numbered square of fabric around the seedling. For 2 months following, the Eagle Scout was responsible for watering and weeding around each check listed sapling.

Even though it has been difficult keeping out buckthorn sprouts, we have had a much better survival rate of saplings than past efforts. An additional step we will be adding will be small wire cages around them to prevent animals considering seedlings as an easy lunch.

Along with posting the area as a restoration project and educating local scouts and the nearby middle school students scientifically using the woods, an added benefit has been to open up a potentially unsafe pedestrian/biking intersection. There is now much more visibility as this sharp corner is approached.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Pope".

Thomas Pope  
Superintendent of Parks

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## Woodland Trails Park Habitat Restoration Project 08-027W

| Summary of Costs below |                                  |  | \$ 1,379.49 |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------|
| September 11, 2007     | Hortasorb                        | Arthur Clesen Inc.,<br>543 Diens Drive<br>Wheeling, IL 60090       | \$ 114.95   |
| February 20, 2008      | Oak and Redbud seedlings         | National Arbor Day Foundation<br>PO Box 80208<br>Lincoln, NE 68501 | \$ 82.95    |
| March 4, 2008          | Weed Wrench                      | The Weed Wrench Company<br>PO Box 512<br>Grants Pass, OR 97528     | \$ 180.00   |
| March 27, 2008         | Tahoe Herbicide for woody plants | Arthur Clesen Inc.,<br>543 Diens Drive<br>Wheeling, IL 60090       | \$ 516.00   |
| March 31, 2008         | Planting Fabric                  | Erotex<br>N94 W14330 Garwin Mac Drive<br>Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 | \$ 130.00   |
| April 22, 2008         | Oak and Redbud seedlings         | National Arbor Day Foundation<br>PO Box 80208<br>Lincoln, NE 68501 | \$ 87.95    |
| July 10, 2008          | Roundup Herbicide                | Arthur Clesen Inc.,<br>543 Diens Drive<br>Wheeling, IL 60090       | \$ 267.64   |

# WEED WRENCH™

## WOODY PLANT PULLER

Made in the USA by Tom Ness, Designer and Manufacturer

U.S. Patent No 4,886,76

Weed Wrench is a manually-operated, all-steel tool designed to remove woody plants by uprooting. Powerful jaws with an 18:1 gripping leverage are teamed with a 6:1 leverage for pulling. Proven effective from coast to coast, Weed Wrench is an efficient, safe, selective, permanent means of eliminating unwanted shrubs and sapling trees. Soil disturbance is minimal and desirable plants are unharmed. Persons of ordinary strength can use it effectively after only seconds of familiarization. An important part of Weed Wrench's success has been that most people find it *fun* to use!

### HEAVY WEED WRENCH

Jaw Capacity: Up to 2.5 inches  
Height: 60 inches  
Weight: 24 pounds  
Price: \$189.00\*

### MEDIUM WEED WRENCH

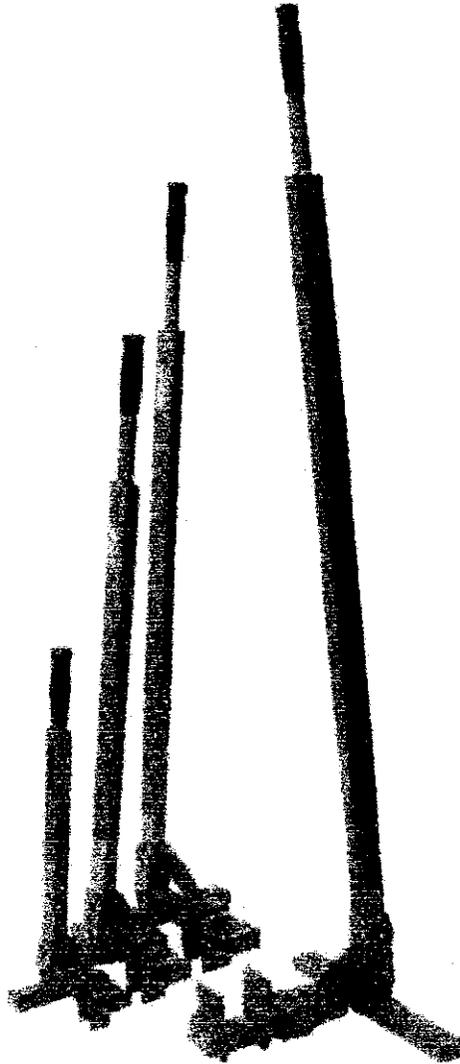
Jaw Capacity: Up to 2 inches  
Height: 53 inches  
Weight: 17.5 pounds  
Price: \$155.00\*

### LIGHT WEED WRENCH

Jaw Capacity: Up to 1.5 inches  
Height: 43 inches  
Weight: 11.5 pounds  
Price: \$130.00\*

### MINI WEED WRENCH

Jaw Capacity: Up to 1 inch  
Height: 24 inches  
Weight: 5.25 pounds  
Price: \$82.00\*



\* SHIPPING AND PACKAGING ADDITIONAL . All prices and shipping rates effective April 1, 2004

**THE WEED WRENCH COMPANY**  
PO Box 512, Grants Pass, OR - 97528  
Phone: 1.541.471.2012 - Toll Free: 1.877.484.4177 - Fax: 1.541.471.4120  
E-mail: [info@weedwrench.com](mailto:info@weedwrench.com)

### **Will the Weed Wrench tool work for my job?**

Generally, Weed Wrench will uproot any plant if the jaws will fit around the stem, and the tensile strength of the stem is less than the anchoring strength of the roots. It will work on virtually all woody plants. Jaw placement is easiest on straight, vertical stems.

<http://www.weedwrench.com/PrinterFriendlyBrochure.htm>

11/9/2007

becomes trickier (but not impossible) on multi-stemmed plants or plants that lay flat against the ground. It will work on plants if the stem is fibrous and tough enough so the roots pull out before the stem breaks off. It will work on multi long as one stem or a bundle of stems can be gripped whose tensile strength exceeds root anchoring strength. It cut off plants when a stub of the original stem is accessible. It will pull wooden tree stakes for re-use. It will not work on plants. It will not work on plants which grow in a clump like pampas grass.

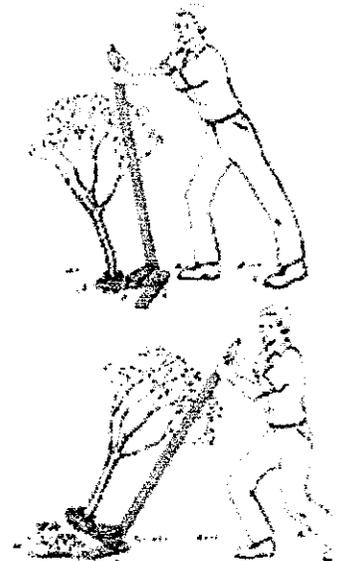
### The plants Weed Wrench has proven effective against include:

acacia · eucalyptus · tamarisk · French broom · privet  
buckthorn · multiflora rose · honeysuckle · Scotch broom  
Norway maple · gorse · conifers · manzanita · Russian olive  
willow · holly · Brazilian pepper, and much more...

Weed Wrench is best used on shrubs and trees where uprooting is a positive end to that plant. However, it can be helpful for a first-round root removal of plants like blackberry vine or poison oak. With such plants, keep in mind that it will take follow-up work to control underground root fragments that send up new growth.

### What size Weed Wrench tool should I choose?

Choose a Weed Wrench size with a jaw capacity that matches the maximum diameter of stem on your target plants. The weight of the tool is an important consideration, and it is usually best to choose a size *no larger* than is necessary to get your job done.



### There are some exceptions to the largest-stem-diameter rule:

- If you will be pulling multi-stemmed shrubs, a larger jaw capacity can be useful for gripping bundles of stems
- When most of the stems you need to grip will fit in a smaller tool's jaws and only the exceptional plant exceeds, prefer a lighter Weed Wrench and use some other removal method for the exceptions.
- You may like a tool that never takes "no" for an answer. Larger Weed Wrench models have more leverage the weight doesn't bother you, you may prefer using one that makes your average target plant jump out of

In our experience with volunteer teams:

The **Heavy** model is best for larger persons or at least persons with plenty of spunk.

The **Medium** model can be handled quite well by persons of medium strength and stature.

The **Light** model is easy and fun to use by anyone, including children, while still having an impressive capacity.

Of the four models, the larger three are operated from a standing position, and they include a jaw-catch feature that during placement around stems. The Mini model is operated from a bending, kneeling, or sitting position and has since it is easier to operate the jaw by hand. All Weed Wrench sizes have jaws that will close to zero, so they will from their maximum jaw capacity down to the smallest plant.

The strengths of the four Weed Wrench models have been designed and extensively field tested so each model can to its maximum jaw capacity without breaking.

**All materials and workmanship are guaranteed for normal usage.**