

Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District
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Garlic Mustard Control in the Kaskaskia



↑ 2: Garlic Mustard removal —D Tecic, J Malacarne, J Rapp

Garlic Mustard is a rapidly spreading exotic weed of forests that is displacing native woodland wild flowers and negatively affecting the balance of the forest ecosystem. Garlic Mustard in the Kaskaskia Basin, located in Washington County, is of great concern because this area has rich, high diversity bottomland woods, is home to the neo-tropical songbirds and has some of the largest contiguous tracts of woods in the state. Since **2003** the Washington County SWCD has received **\$54,000** in **C-2000** grants to control and eradicate garlic mustard in the Kaskaskia. This concentrated area affects **60** landowners, many of them **volunteering countless hours** of pulling, bagging and removing garlic mustard from the site to help control this exotic weed. The control of garlic mustard in this project site will also be of benefit to the downstream and adjacent watersheds because of the reduction of the seed bank. The SWCD hired a private contractor to spray the basal rosettes of garlic mustard with the appropriate herbicide. While measurable results are unavailable due to the nature of the project, it is generally agreed that the effort to control garlic mustard has been a success. Areas that were once solid stands of garlic mustard are free of the invasive species. **Landowners within this corridor along with the SWCD share a common vision of stewardship and protection for this area.** This project will be a continuation of past and current efforts to control and eradicate garlic mustard from the Kaskaskia Basin.