



Shepherd Park Weed Warriors

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Shepherd Park Weed Warriors started in the fall of 2021 and is working with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to train folks on how to tackle the invasive plants at Shepherd Field to restore the hillside to a natural setting that is a supportive wildlife and pollinator habitat. In addition to DPR, the Shepherd Park Weed Warriors works closely with the Shepherd Park Citizens Association, District Department of Transportation Urban Forestry, and the Rock Creek Conservancy to create equitable change, engage the broader community, and improve the quality of the natural environment in Ward 4.



This group trains citizens to remove invasive plants while protecting and planting District native plants. Communities of color and older communities often are not involved in environmental programs for nonprofit organizations. Ward 4, home of the Weed Warriors, is racially diverse and skews older in terms of age. The Weed Warriors provide free training in how to preserve trees and to encourage the planting of native plants and vegetable gardens. These efforts can provide job training for those who want to create careers in environmentally sound landscaping.

Improving the environment decreases pesticide use, improves air and water quality, and enables residents to grow their own vegetables to improve dietary health where access to fresh vegetables may be limited by one's finances.

