

Alternative Spring Break – Invasive Species Control Program

Program Details

The Reserve will provide the necessary tools for this project, on-island transportation, and basic foodstuffs during the week. What we will not be able to provide is your bedding (for those of you who have reserved space in the cottage) or your ferry tickets.

Please review the following information in preparation for program participation.

Clothing:

Please dress appropriately for this outdoor activity. Whether you are coming for the day or multiple days, please bear in mind that this activity will have you traipsing through some underbrush which may include briars. Bring layers and sturdy pants and shoes. There is a washing machine and dryer available but this is a shared resource so you will not likely be able to launder your clothing daily. We will be providing work gloves but you may want to bring light gloves to wear underneath the work gloves during cold weather, as well as hats, scarves, thermal underwear, etc.

Food:

We will be providing basic foodstuffs such as milk, juice, coffee, bread, lunch meats, pasta, cereal, snacks, etc. Also I have organized a number of locals to help out by bringing homemade meals so that you will have a greater variety of dinner choices. If you have specific dietary requirements or simply can't survive the day or week without a particular food item, I would strongly suggest that you bring that with you.

Cottage Living:

For those of you who have registered to stay overnight, you will be living in a dormitory style setting and will be sharing living space. You should come prepared to entertain yourself for at least a portion of the day. The scheduled work can be exhausting, so we won't stay in the field for more than 4-6 hours per day. There are some board games and a DVD player available. You may want to bring a movie or two to share as well as your own reading or study material. Maid service is not available so everyone will be expected to contribute to keeping this shared space clean.

Getting to the Island:

The Prudence Island Ferry leaves from the Church Street Wharf (at the intersection of Thames Street and Church Street) in Bristol, R.I. The ferry leaves Bristol daily at 8 a.m. and arrives at the Prudence Island ferry landing (Homestead) at 8:30 a.m. The ferry leaves Homestead daily at 4:00 p.m. and arrives in Bristol at 4:30 p.m. For directions using an on-line resource or GPS, use 160 Thames St as your go to address.

Volunteers who are coming to the island for individual work days can park on the street close by the ferry landing or in the municipal lot at the corner of Thames and Church St. (but not in the ferry parking lot). If you are leaving a vehicle overnight in Bristol for one or more nights you will need to park a greater distance away. Please pay particular attention to the parking restriction signs, as the Town of Bristol has been known to ticket

and tow cars for parking violations (although this is far more common in the summer months). Generally speaking, any distance of 3 blocks or greater from the ferry landing will allow unlimited on-street parking. Please allow extra time (20 – 30 minutes) to find parking and to walk back to the ferry landing.

Round-trip tickets to the island may be purchased at the small kiosk located on the wharf adjacent to the ferry access ramp (furthest end from the street). The cost of a round-trip passenger ticket is approximately \$7.80. Tickets should be purchased at least five minutes before the scheduled departure. Please buy a round-trip ticket in Bristol as ferry tickets may not be purchased at the Prudence Island ferry landing.

On-Island Transportation:

Scheduled workdays are Monday through Friday. If you have indicated that you will arrive on Sunday, I will meet you at the ferry landing on Prudence Island and bring you to the cottage to settle in. Sunday pick-up assumes that you will be arriving on the ferry which leaves Bristol at 3:30 p.m. Transportation to and from the Prudence Island ferry landing during the week will be available for individuals arriving on the 8 a.m. ferry from Bristol and returning on the 4 p.m. ferry from Prudence Island. For those of you who are coming to the island for multiple days, you may choose to arrive either in the afternoon (3:30 p.m. from Bristol) or in the morning (8 a.m. from Bristol). You can indicate which days you have selected to work as well as the nights you intend to stay in our cottage using the registration tool.

Daily Schedule:

Initially, upon arrival, individuals will be required to sign volunteer and waiver forms. The work crew will gather at the cottage at approximately 9 a.m. each morning to be transported to the worksite. We will stay in the field until noon and then break for lunch. At around 1 p.m. we will be back in the field and work until 3-3:30 p.m. NBNERR staff members will be joining the crew each day to assist in the work and provide transportation in the event that you need to return to the cottage during scheduled work periods. Work activities are of course subject to appropriate weather conditions.

*Please review the program overview for more general information about this invasive species control program and Prudence Island.