

## Lohbrunner Park Restoration Update 2025

In 2025, Park Natural Areas staff prioritized two invasive species to remove from Lohbrunner Park which include: Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) and Daphne (*Daphne laureola*).

Periwinkle is a ground cover species that propagates by sending runners. There are large patches throughout Lohbrunner Park. It is very challenging to remove the roots and is an aggressive ground cover species that kills native plant species, creating a monoculture. One of the best management practices for removing Periwinkle is tarping. Tarping is the process of using either landscape fabric, cardboard and mulch, or other materials to cover the invaded area. Tarping works by blocking the sunlight from reaching the plant, restricting it from photosynthesizing and depriving it of oxygen causing the plant to die. One of the advantages of tarping is it's a passive way of removing plants that have persistent roots.

Park staff located a 62m<sup>2</sup> area that was ideal for the tarping method. The patch is in the southeast corner of the park adjacent to the pond. The patch is ideal because it's a monoculture of Periwinkle and it is relatively flat.

To prepare the area, staff line trimmed the Periwinkle as low to the ground as possible. This is to flatten the area and send the plant into growth phase and into shock; this will help kill the plant. The staff then placed a 27ft x 14ft tarp over the Periwinkle patch.



The tarp was weighed down with woody debris and other materials. The tarp area did not cover the whole patch; therefore, cardboard and mulch was used to supplement the uncovered area.

The tarp will stay covering the Periwinkle patch for upwards of a year. The area will be monitored during the year to see if the method is working. After about a year the area will be replanted with native riparian species. If this method works, then it can be implemented in other areas of the park.

The second aspect of this year's restoration work was to remove Daphne. Daphne is located all throughout Lohbrunner Park. The two best management practices for removing Daphne are cutting below the root collar and pulling the roots out.

Staff removed 100lbs of Daphne from the eastern section of the park. Daphne will be monitored and removed continually in the future.



*Above: Periwinkle patch during weeding*

*Below: Periwinkle patch tarped*

