

JAC HUETTENMOSER – MONTPELIER PARKS & WATERSHED STEWARD



Jac Huettenmoser is serving at Montpelier Parks and Trees this year as a Montpelier Parks & Watershed Steward. She has had an interesting service year so far, being trained to use a chainsaw on her first day in order to properly manage trees within Montpelier and helping out with some eccentric events happening in the parks. Part of Jac's role in Montpelier Parks is about managing invasive species. In the warmer months she could be found at North Branch Park pulling invasive plant species from beside the North Branch River as well as leading different volunteers from True North Wilderness Program and Norwich University to pull invasive plants. A specific invasive plant that Jac has been attending to is a tree called Norway Maple. Norway Maples are similar to Sugar Maples in appearance, but in the fall, they can be distinguished by holding onto their leaves for much longer than sugar maples. Jac has been assisting in management of this tree population by identifying them and then girdling them, meaning stripping a ring of their bark in order to inhibit growth. Now that it is colder outside Jac has been spending some time in the office designing interpretive signs for the nature trail running through Hubbard Park for features such as a vernal pool within the loop. The signs will be printed and installed in the spring. Also, in the spring, Montpelier Parks is hoping to host a group of NCCC AmeriCorps members to help out with some stewardship such as pulling invasives and planting trees. Jac has been plugging away at an application to get these AmeriCorps members on her site. Jac is enjoying her experience in Montpelier and is excited for some more events coming up, such as Festival of Trees and Ice on Fire, happening in the beginning of the year. Additionally, at the SerVermont Conference this past week, Jac won a Moth story slam for a moving story she told about her service site and power tools. Way to go, Jac!