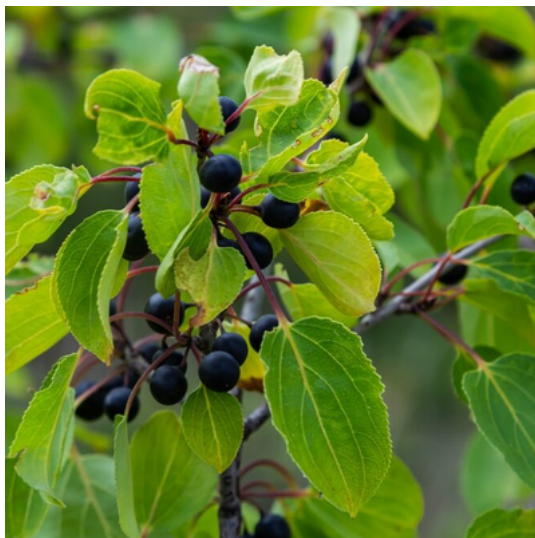




## Update on Grant Funding Received by the City of Billings June 2024

### City-wide Buckthorn Eradication Effort



The City of Billings Parks and Recreation Department and Code Enforcement are working together to help eradicate common buckthorn (pictured) from all areas around the City of Billings. The City received a \$25,000 grant from the Montana Department of Agriculture in September 2023. The project is now underway.

#### More About This Project

Common buckthorn is listed as a noxious weed in Montana and across the Midwest.

- Originally imported from Europe as a hedge plant, common buckthorn quickly invaded wooded areas, crowding out native plants and harboring pests such as soybean aphids.
- The female plants produce large numbers of seed-bearing berries. Birds eat the berries and later drop the undigested seeds. Buckthorn seeds can lie dormant for several years before sprouting.
- A \$25,000 noxious weeds grant from the Montana Department of Agriculture will help the City provide assistance to property owners to eradicate common buckthorn on their properties. Code Enforcement will manage the program, as the presence of noxious weeds such as common buckthorn is considered a violation of City code.
- Funds from the grant will be used to provide contracted buckthorn removal and revegetation (grass) services to property owners, and to provide resources for property owners who prefer to remove buckthorn themselves. Financial support will be available until grant funds are exhausted.
- All removed buckthorn requires annual inspection to ensure that eradication has been successful.
- Code Enforcement maintains a web page with general nuisance weed information [here](#).
- Code Enforcement will add a flyer specifically addressing common buckthorn removal on its [website](#).
- Contact Code Enforcement at [\(406\) 237-6146](tel:406-237-6146) to learn more.

#### More About This Funding Source

- Montana House Bill 821 (2023) allocated \$250,000 to fund grants to "local entities in Yellowstone, Musselshell, and Stillwater Counties for the purpose of managing and controlling existing infestations of saltcedar, Russian olive, and common buckthorn species".
- The project agreement with the Department includes an education campaign about common buckthorn, enforcement of City code in regard to noxious weeds, provision of resources for residents who need to manage buckthorn on their property, and monitoring of treated areas.
- While the Legislative funding for the grant program covers saltcedar, Russian olive, and common buckthorn, the Billings grant project scope is limited to common buckthorn eradication.

**To learn more about this grant-funded project, contact:**

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