

# Outdoor classroom gets a trim

Powell High School ecology students exercised their green thumbs last Thursday.

In a hands-on project through the school's ecology classes, students removed privet from the nearly-completed outdoor classroom on campus. Privet is a nonnative shrub that chokes out native species and reduces habitat for animals.

Knox County Adopt-A-Watershed coordinator Ruth Anne Hanahan led the project with

**Shannon  
Carey**

CAC AmeriCorps team members.

Daniel Horne of Knox

County Soil Conservation was scheduled to hang birdboxes in the outdoor classroom the same day. Dr. Bob Collier selected the box designs to attract four species of birds. He also oversaw their construction.

Hallsdale-Powell Utility District provided lumber for the birdboxes.

When completed, the outdoor classroom will offer a four-acre parklike space for interdisciplinary use.

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Bailey Gabbard and Chariti Hale of Rosemary Calvert's ecology class help remove privet from the school's outdoor classroom site. Privet is a nonnative pest plant that overtakes areas and reduces habitat for native plants and animals.

(Photo by S. Carey)