

SPOT THE INVASIVES:

In Lowlands, the key invasive vines targeted are English ivy, wisteria, and mile-a-minute, but bittersweet must also be managed wherever you find it.



JAPANESE WISTERIA

◀ Beautiful hanging clusters of purple flowers made Japanese Wisteria a popular garden perennial on arbors. BUT this invasive vine will strangle the trees it grows on. Clip wisteria vine as it grows up the host tree just as you do English Ivy.



QUESTIONS:

Email: adoptaplot@bayridge.org
or visit www.bayridge.org

SPOT THE INVASIVES:



HONEYSUCKLE

◀ Honeysuckle twines around a bush or low tree and weighs it down. To remove it, cut close to the ground and pull off as much of the vine as you can without damaging the plant it's growing on.



BITTERSWEET



ENGLISH IVY

◀ To remove a single thin strand of vine, cut near the base of the tree and pick the strand off the tree. For a vine $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick or more, cut near the base of the tree and again about 2' up the trunk. Remove the piece if you can do so without pulling off the bark.

Distinguishing POISON IVY from ENGLISH IVY in winter:



ENGLISH IVY



POISON IVY

Simple Rule: Trace the vine with your eye. If you see leaves on the vine, cut it. If it there are no leaves, don't touch!

HOW TO PREPARE:

You will want to wear clothes that cover your body, with a long-sleeved shirt tucked into pants, pants tucked into socks, and sturdy shoes. A hat is a good idea. Gloves are essential.

Equipment should include clippers (secateurs), loppers if you have them, a flat-head screwdriver. The screwdriver is to aid in prying vines away from the tree to make just enough room for the cutting head of your tool. Simply cut a short section of the vine, minimizing damage to the bark. You may leave the clippings on the forest floor.

WHAT TO DO/WHAT NOT TO DO:

SAFETY FIRST! Use common sense. Keep an eye on children.

DON'T do anything you wouldn't do in managing your own property.

DON'T pull up any vine from the ground as this is not permitted by the County.

DO stay away from Poison Ivy: Poison Ivy is a noxious vine that grows on trees and along the ground throughout our woods and causes a rash and itching. Most people are allergic to it and some have serious reactions to even slight contact. Do not touch it! "Leaves of three, let it be."

DO dress for ticks, bugs, and other pests: Deer ticks are found throughout our woods and can carry lyme disease. The danger from ticks is lessened in cold weather. Protect yourself by wearing clothing that keeps ticks away from your body. **PLEASE VISIT** <http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/prev/>.

DON'T cut vines that are too thick to cut easily. Note this on your report form so someone from Forest Management can go take a look.

DON'T bring dogs into the woods.

WHEN SHOULD WE WORK?

To minimize exposure to ticks and avoid disturbing forest interior dwelling birds, woods work should take place between October 1 and April 30. It may be cool enough for proper clothing in late September, but please do not work in the woods after April 30.

THE FIELD GUIDE TO



Adopt A Plot

SECTION 4 - Interior Plots

"LOWLANDS"

Thank you for your commitment to the Bay Ridge Woods. You have chosen to be a part of something important—let's free the trees!

HOW TO SPOT YOUR PLOT:

You will not need a “Sherpa” to find your plot. Plots in the Lowlands are easy to locate using the map in this Field Guide that shows developed lots and even driveways as well as our network of roads. In the field, you will find Yellow-colored markers to locate Plot corners, as depicted in the photo below, but only where needed. You will also find yellow ribbons tied to tree limbs to demarcate Plot boundaries, but, again, only where needed. Blue ribbons denote the boundaries between Plots 100 and 103 and between Plots 101 and 102.

Lowlands plot boundaries that adjoin developed residential properties are not marked. These boundaries should be easily recognized (and respected). For the same reason, no Plot corners that adjoin residentially developed properties are marked in the field.

Below are various color indicators in the forest:



Painted Stakes*

Plot corners are marked by 1"x1"x8" painted wooden stakes mounted atop 3' poles. For plots that are adjacent to County roads, plot corner markers are within 5' of the road's asphalt edge.

*Lowlands plot corners are indicated with blue and yellow markers only.



Painted on trees

For interior plots, navigate in from the road using the color coded plot edges, and follow the ribbons to your plot using the colored map. Occasionally, in the woods interior, a fortuitously located tree serves as a plot corner (as shown).



Ribbons in trees

All boundaries between plots are marked with colored ribbons corresponding to the map in this Field Guide. You may find some more convenient foot paths in the forest, but until you know your way, let the ribbons in the trees guide you along plot edges.

Adopt A Plot

SECTION 4 - Interior Plots

"LOWLANDS"

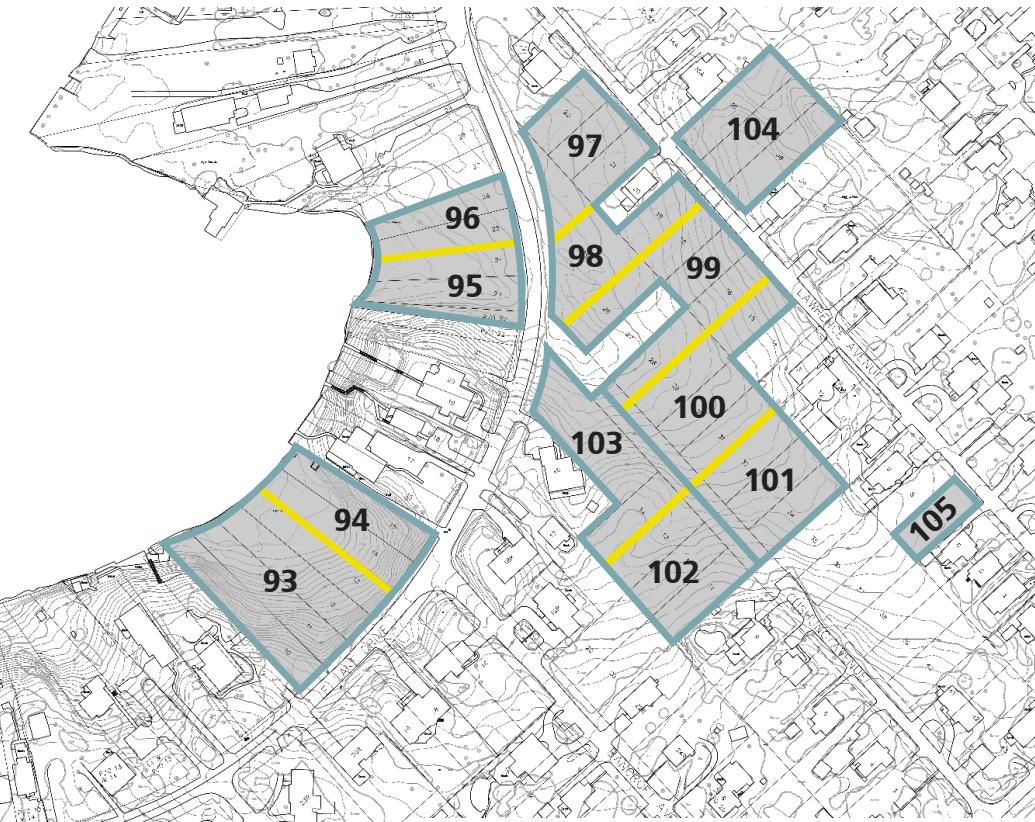
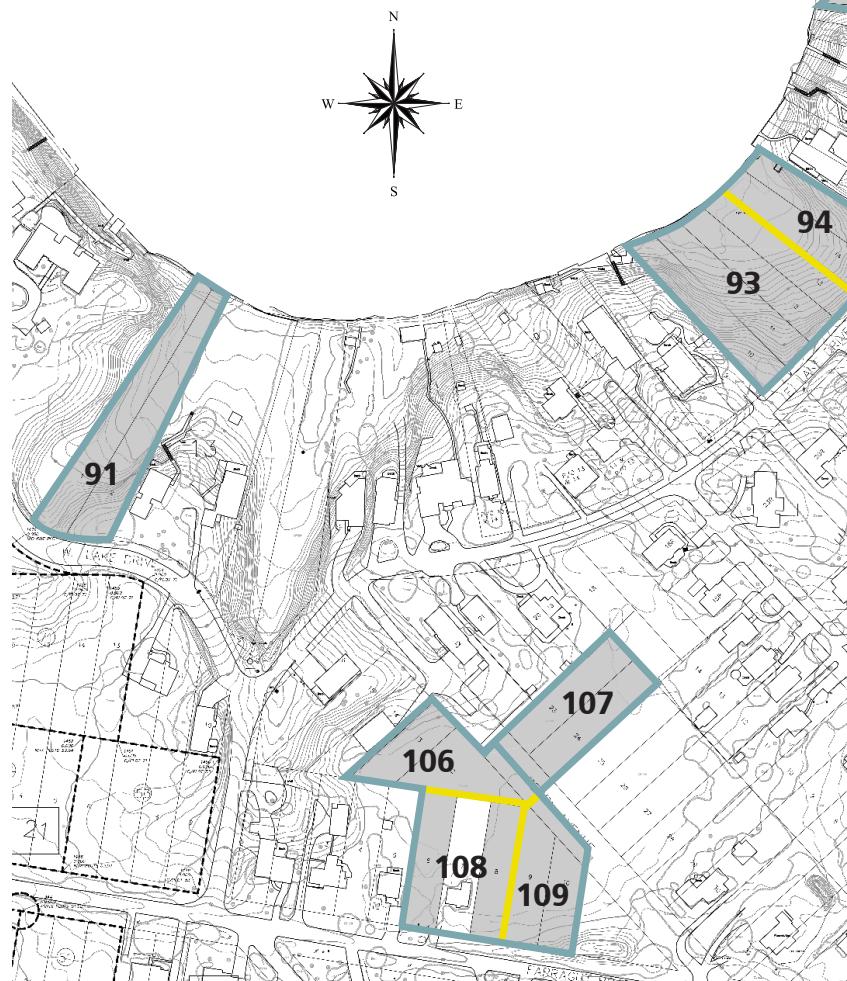
SECTION INFORMATION:

Lowland plots lie outside the contiguous woodlands and are scattered throughout the more developed parts of Bay Ridge. They arise from parcels that were never sold by Bay Ridge Properties, Inc. and so were conveyed with the rest of the wooded lands to BRCA in 2002.

Most Lowland plots are well populated with tulip poplar, sweetgum, and boxelder, with also sycamore and red mulberry, American holly, spicebush, and wineberry.

Some areas, in particular Plots numbered 98 through 101, are denser than others, making passage difficult.

Plots 92 through 96 require minimal work. Vines should be prevented from harming trees, but the County considers the first 100 feet from the water Habitat Protection Area, and no forest maintenance activities can be performed there unless approved by a special Buffer Management Plan (BMP) issued by the County. (See www.bay-ridge.org/adopt-a-plot for status of the BMP.)



TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS:

Why are they helpful?

The Adopt-A-Plot maps feature 1-foot topographic contours as this can be helpful in orienting yourself while in the woods. They also show that Plots 92–96 are largely marsh and otherwise steep sloped. Finally, the contours can also be of archeological interest.

Plot sizes vary somewhat, but all are less than 1 acre, some substantially less.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit www.bayridge.org or email: adoptaplot@bayridge.org