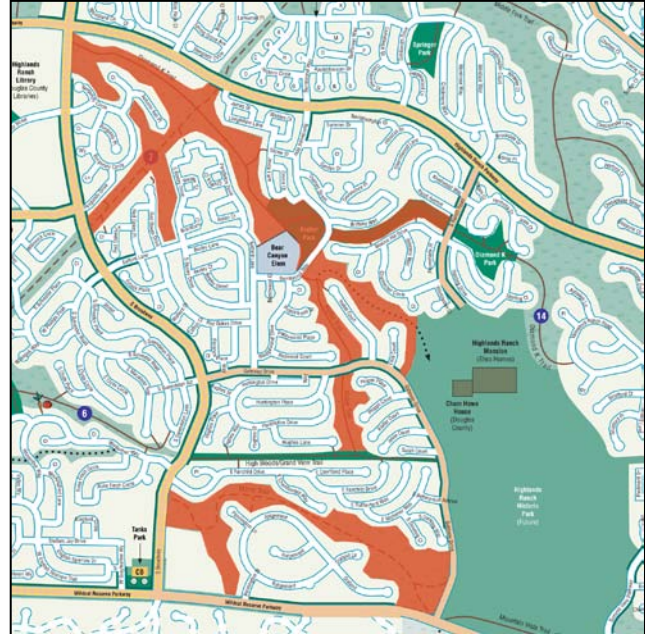


## Russian-olive Tree Removal

The Metro District is removing Russian-olive trees in the natural open space area near Highlands Ranch Parkway and Broadway throughout 2009. The Russian-olive tree is on the Colorado noxious weed list and is very invasive in drainage, or riparian areas. The trees compete with native plant species that provide habitat for birds and wildlife. Below is information about the Metro District's Russian-olive tree removal process.

### Why are Russian-olive trees being removed?

The Russian-olive tree (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) was introduced to North America in the late 1800s as an ornamental tree. Because of its adaptability to semi-arid environments, the Russian-olive tree was heavily used as privacy hedges and wind breaks. Unfortunately, the same adaptability that made these trees popular has resulted in this once sought-after plant being placed on the Colorado noxious weed list. It competes with native vegetation, disrupting the ecological balance in natural open space areas.



For a more detailed map, the page size can be increased by clicking the plus sign in the Adobe Reader toolbar.



Elizabeth J. Czarapata

### How will the trees be removed?

The Metro District's goal is to remove the Russian-olive trees from our properties in the least invasive manner possible. The primary method of control will be to cut the trees, then grind branches and trunks up to 12 inches in diameter through a wood chipper, when possible. Chipper mulch will be hauled away and properly disposed. Stumps will be cut to a safe level, and treated to prevent further spread of Russian-olive trees.

### How will the area be re-vegetated?

The Metro District open space and forestry staff will team up to plant native species in areas once over-populated with Russian-olive trees.

### Questions?

For more information about Russian-olive tree removal in Highlands Ranch, please contact Forestry Supervisor Dennis Donovan at 720-240-5915, or at [ddonovan@highlandsranch.org](mailto:ddonovan@highlandsranch.org).