

Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)

Origin: Introduced from northeastern Asia.

Status in Park: Abundant.

Characteristics: Shrubs to 15 feet tall, up to 4 inches in diameter; crowns broad, spreading, vase-shaped; bark light brown, with low, interconnecting ridges; flowers white, fragrant, 2-lipped, about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch across, May-June; fruits bright red berries, September.

Leaves: Opposite, simple. Blades 1-3 inches long, with a slender point and smooth edges; green, slightly downy above and beneath; at first glance, twigs look like pinnately compound leaves, but the “leaflets” are actually separate simple leaves.



Location of tagged shrub:



Notes: Amur Honeysuckle is perhaps the most serious of the invasive shrubs in the park. Left alone, it forms impenetrable thickets that spread quickly and take over the land, crowding out native shrubs and wildflowers. It has no natural enemies here. Right now there are very few large honeysuckles in the park because volunteers have spent many hours removing them. Many small ones have been removed also, but they remain abundant. They seed prolifically. Birds eat the berries and scatter seeds widely in their feces. Continued removal efforts are needed. Amur honeysuckle is the first shrub or tree to leaf out in spring and one of the last to drop its leaves in autumn.