

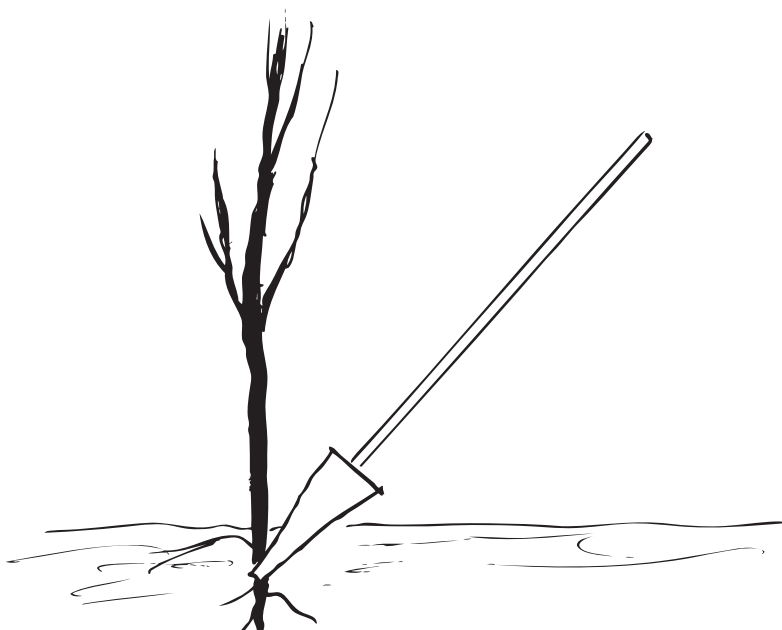
## Digging out

Most weeds are too strongly rooted to be pulled up by hand. The Friends of Escarpment Parks have helped to develop Root Blade© for just this job. Root Blade© is a strong long-handled shovel with a patented modified blade featuring a sharpened narrow concave mouth that is designed to be stamped down under a plant to cut its roots. With the mouth under the plant the handle of the Root Blade© is levered downwards, lifting the plant from the ground. Larger plants may require several stamps to cut all of the main roots.

The Root Blade© is designed to be used standing up, saving bending over or kneeling on the ground. It is also useful for resting on to recover your breath!

A problem with digging out large woody environmental weeds is that the debris lies on the ground, where it may take several years to rot away. This impedes movement through the area and weeds may grow up through the fallen material. Heavy loads of cut material may be stacked or windrowed to keep the area clearer.

Always wear gloves and safety goggles whilst digging out environmental weeds – your hands and eyes are more important than the weeds.



**Illustration 8** – Digging