



## City of Takoma Park, Maryland Mayoral Proclamation

### *Proclamation Recognizing the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) and Volunteers for Their Work Removing Invasive Vines and Protecting Trees in the City*

**WHEREAS,** the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) is a grassroots nonprofit organization based in Takoma Park and dedicated to fighting global warming in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.; and

**WHEREAS,** trees serve an important role in mitigating climate change, provide protective and heat-reducing shade, reduce stormwater runoff, provide wildlife habitat, and improve human health and wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS,** invasive vines threaten the health of trees and alter an ecosystem on a fundamental level, and climate change is contributing to increased spread of invasive vines and other plants; and

**WHEREAS,** CCAN commissioned a survey of trees in Takoma Park, and Takoma Park resident and native plant specialist Jesse Buff conducted the survey in February 2021; and

**WHEREAS,** the survey found that a total of 4,850 trees were infested with vines and could die within 5-7 years from being overwhelmed by the vines; and

**WHEREAS,** the majority of these trees were older than 20 years, with some more than 100 years old, and most could be saved with just 5-10 minutes using common garden tools; and

**WHEREAS,** volunteers organized by CCAN removed vines from more than 500 trees in the city in 2020 and over 2,000 trees so far in 2021 as part of a weekly Saturday morning program for volunteers to "adopt" between 10-100 trees per person for rescue; and

**WHEREAS,** these steps by CCAN and dedicated volunteers have helped save and will save many trees and serve as a model of action for other communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE STEWART, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND,** on behalf of the Council, residents, and staff, do hereby express appreciation to the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) and volunteers for their service to the community.

*Date this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2021*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Stewart", is written over a horizontal line.

**Kate Stewart  
Mayor**