



City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Mayoral Proclamation

Proclamation Declaring Invasive Species Awareness Week

February 28 - March 4, 2022

WHEREAS, invasive aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial species influence the productivity, value, and management of a broad range of land and water resources in our community and nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the costs nationwide to prevent, monitor, and control invasive species, combined with the damage to crops, fisheries, forests, and other resources, are estimated at \$120 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, invasive species threaten the survival of native plants and animals, interfere with ecosystem functions by changing natural processes, and are a significant threat to almost half of all native species currently listed as federally endangered; and

WHEREAS, invasive species impede industry and energy production, threaten agriculture, obstruct outdoor recreation, endanger human health, and are becoming increasingly harder to control; and

WHEREAS, native trees in our community 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 can alter an ecosystem on a fundamental level, and our rapidly changing climate is contributing to increased spread of invasive vines and other plants; and

WHEREAS, a recent survey of trees in Takoma Park by Chesapeake Climate Action Network found that a total of 4,850 trees, the majority over 20 years old, were infested with vines and could die within 5-7 years from being overwhelmed by the vines.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kate Stewart, Mayor of the City of Takoma Park, do hereby proclaim February 28 through March 4, 2022 as Invasive Species Awareness Week and hereby encourage residents to promote knowledge and understanding of the threats posed by invasive species.

Proclaimed this 23rd day of February, 2022.

Kate Stewart
Mayor