



# City of Takoma Park, Maryland

## Mayoral Proclamation

### Proclamation for Declaring National 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 costs to crop damage, 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 that February 28 through March 4, 2022 is declared to be National Invasive Species Awareness Week and hereby encourage residents to participate in National Invasive Species Awareness Week to promote knowledge and understanding of the threats posed by invasive species.

Proclaimed this 23rd day of February, 2022.

---

Kate Stewart  
Mayor