

Fairfax County Park Authority Invasive Management Area sites in need of donations

The funds donated to the Invasive Management Area (IMA) Sites will be used to complement the work done by volunteers by hiring a contractor to treat the vines that take aggressively take over trees. Contact [Patricia Greenberg](#) if you can help.

Churchill Road Park - McLean

Churchill Road Park is approximately 11 acres with about 7-8 acres being kept as natural areas. Cooper Intermediate School is located on one side and Churchill Road Elementary school on another side. The park has mature trees around sections of perimeter of the park backing up to private homes, with open fields near the schools and a creek that runs through the middle, which is lined with some mature trees. On the public map, the section of the park by the middle school is called Cooper Intermediate School Site Park. The IMA Volunteer Site Leader has worked to remove vines from trees, has planted many seedlings and continues to struggle to have enough workdays to keep the vines from taking over the parkland. Every year the IMA site leader hosts an educational invasive removal day for Churchill Elementary School's Eco-Week. Department of Public Work and Environmental Services (DPWES) has installed plantings called "seed islands", which are fenced areas that include groundcovers, shrubs and trees in an area that was once a mowed field near the middle school. Invasive vines include, porcelainberry, periwinkle, and English ivy. Churchill Road Park needs funding for invasive vine removal from the mature tree canopy around the perimeter of the park, for the fenced plantings installed by volunteers and DPWES, as well as for removing vines from trees along the stream that flows through the park.

Westgrove Park - Alexandria

Westgrove Park is a 20-acre park that serves the community with a busy dog park. The surrounding natural area, which is approximately 15 acres, is dominated by mature trees covered in vines along the forest edge and threatening the interior sections of the small forest patch. The volunteers in collaboration with [Operation Stream Shield \(OSS\)](#) have installed tree and shrub seedlings on a 8,500 square foot strip of land bound by the dog park on one side and the access road on the other. The seedlings would easily be dominated by invasive vines due to the enormous seed source in and around this strip of land. Westgrove Park is currently a retired IMA Site. Invasive vines include porcelainberry, kudzu and English ivy. This site was recently retired and is in the process of training a new IMA Site Leader. Funds would be used to protect the seedlings and initiate control of the aggressive vines on the forest edge in the natural area of the park.

Justice Park - Falls Church

Justice Park, an 11-acre park, is located adjacent to Justice High School and has a rich history of being owned by African American families of Falls Church. The site was also known to have been the location of an ornamental plant nursery. There is a recreational facility in the middle of the park including ballfields, a basketball court and a playground. IMA Site Leaders have conducted multiple plantings in newly cleared areas around the school's outdoor learning amphitheater. The site has received some support to treat the stumps of large invasive bushes and primarily near or on steep slopes on the perimeter to prevent erosion that may be caused by mechanical removal. Justice Park interior forest

holds healthy mature tree and a relatively diverse understory. A natural spring was recently found in the park, which is being threatened by aggressive patches of bamboo. The forest edge is dominated by invasive vines that are challenging to control. Invasive vines include, porcelainberry, English ivy, wintercreeper and invasive honeysuckle. Funds would be used to manage these invasive vines and if collaboration is granted by homeowners, bamboo removal and treatment.

Mason District Park - Annandale

Mason District Park's IMA site is approximately 24.5 acres and is currently retired with no volunteer IMA Site Leader to manage and plan volunteer workdays to remove invasive plants. This site is a grassland field with mature trees and young seedlings around the perimeter. Many native plants were installed by Park Authority staff and volunteers. This site has a high-quality woodland nearby, as well as a massive invasive seed source coming from the unkept perimeter of the park. The aggressive vines continue to cause a problem for the mature trees and seedlings in the area. Mason District Park's entrance is dominated by invasive vines taking over mature trees. Invasive vines include porcelainberry, English ivy, Oriental bittersweet, mile-a-minute and wintercreeper. The park would benefit from funds to manage invasive vine control at the retired IMA Site, as well as along the park access road at the entrance of the park.

Nottoway - Vienna

The Nottoway Park IMA Site, one of the original IMA Sites in the Park Authority is approximately 74 acres large. It has benefited from the dedication of many volunteers throughout the years. Many seedlings have been installed over the years to restore habitat. The park would benefit from funds to manage invasive vines and control stiltgrass that threaten the establishment of seedlings at the IMA Site. This park also has vines along the perimeter taking over mature trees that are located outside of the IMA site. Invasive vines include English ivy, porcelainberry, ground ivy, mile-a-minute and invasive honeysuckle. Funds would support the IMA site and would also go towards protecting mature trees along the wood edge of the park.

Mount Eagle - Alexandria (size)

This park is a longtime IMA Site that has pockets of healthy land where volunteers have cleared invasives. The surrounding forest is dominated by invasive vines, covering much of the mature canopy. This forest pocket is a haven for birds traveling through the urbanized area. The large HOA bordering east of the park has started to manage the invasive vines that border the parkland. The donated funds would be used to manage the aggressive vines that are taking over the mature trees throughout the parkland, including kudzu, English ivy, periwinkle, invasive wisteria and invasive honeysuckle vine.

Lake Accotink Park - Springfield

The Lake Accotink Park IMA Site started in the area behind the carousel located near the beach at Lake Accotink and has expanded to a 60-acre area. This park serves the public with various picnicking amenities, boat rentals and multiple trails. Volunteers have established many native plants in the stream valley along Flag Run. The IMA Site has since expanded to new areas along the trail system that lead up to the train tracks where vines are taking over mature trees. Volunteers have removed invasive plants from the understory and continue to remove vines and plant seedlings and spread a native seed mix. The invasive seed source is coming from the privately owned train tracks, which will continuously feed invasive vines into the parkland, including porcelainberry, invasive honeysuckle vine, oriental

bittersweet, winter creeper, periwinkle, English ivy and invasive wisteria. The funds will be used to keep invasive plants from taking over seedlings and mature trees on parkland.

Hollin Meadows - Alexandria

Hollin Meadows is a 5.4-acre park adjacent to Hollin Meadows Elementary School and surrounded by homes on all other park borders. The park is inundated by well-established invasive species, including a large stand of bamboo, English ivy, porcelainberry and many other aggressive species. The IMA Site Leader has worked with volunteers to plant various seedlings in cleared areas. The OSS teams have also participated in the efforts to control invasive species in this park. The mature trees that are found throughout the park struggle under the weight of invasive vines and encroachment of bamboo. Vines include English ivy, porcelainberry and winter creeper. The funds would be used to support volunteers and remove the invasives that are challenging to control by mechanical means.

Giles Run - Lorton

Giles Run is a 52-acre section of Laurel Hill Park on the north or Lorton Road that serves as a disk golf course. The IMA Site Leaders (there are currently two) work to maintain the disk golf course by clearing the invasive vines that take over the trees bordering the playing areas. The IMA Site Leaders are interested in installing native meadows and planting native species but there is a large population of *Ailanthus altissima*, also known as Tree of Heaven and invasive vines taking over mature trees and invasive shrubs. The un-mowed sections of Giles Run include some mature native species that are threatened by invasive vine such as porcelainberry and oriental bittersweet. The funds donated to this site would be used to manage the *Ailanthus altissima* and the invasive vines to protect native trees and provide space for native grassland and wildflower meadows. Invasive vines include kudzu, porcelainberry, oriental bittersweet, invasive honeysuckle vine and English ivy.

Laurel Hill Park - Lorton

Laurel Hill Park is a 190-acre park south of Lorton Road that serves as an Equestrian Park, mountain biking and hiking trails. The park has a large population of the invasive tree *Ailanthus altissima*, also known as Tree of Heaven, multiples species of invasive vines and shrubs. Volunteers work to cut the invasive vines to protect the young and mature trees growing in the park. Volunteers also work to keep trails accessible for users. This is a large park, and the volunteers are not able to keep up with the extensive quantity of vines or remove *Ailanthus altissima*. Funds donated to this park would go towards managing the invasive trees and vines. Invasive vines include kudzu, porcelainberry, oriental bittersweet, invasive honeysuckle vine and English ivy.

Blake Lane - Oakton

Blake Lane Park is 10-acre park that serves the community with a dog park and mowed playing fields. The park is inundated by the invasive tree, *Ailanthus altissima*, invasive shrubs and vines that are taking over mature trees and open un-mowed areas. The Park Authority is working in partnership with Department of Public Works Urban Forest Management to remove *Ailanthus* from the park. The perimeter of the park has mature native trees covered in invasive vines. Invasive vines include porcelainberry and mile-a-minute. Volunteers are working to remove invasive vines from trees, clearing areas of invasive brambles and planting native seedlings and spreading native seed mixtures. Funds donated to this park would go towards managing the invasive vines that take over the mature trees and new plantings.