



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 • Fairfax, VA 22035-1118
703-324-8700 • Fax: 703-324-3974 • www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

For Immediate Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO

E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

Inquiries: 703-324-8662

March 30, 2016

IR-037

Park Authority Hosts Annual Spring Focus on Invasives

The Fairfax County Park Authority's national award-winning Invasive Management Area (IMA) program will hold its annual Take Back the Forest promotion again this spring. IMA and its multiple volunteers are dedicated to battling non-native invasive plants in Fairfax County parks and replacing them with native flora.

The hugely successful stewardship effort has drawn 13,441 volunteers to parks through 2015. They have donated 43,442 hours to remove 8,706 large bags of invasive plants from 68 park sites. REI, Inc. has donated \$55,000 in grants through the Fairfax County Park Foundation over the past four years to support IMA and the Take Back the Forest initiative.

Take Back the Forest emphasizes volunteering in the spring when invasive species are readily attacked without having to fight through summer forest growth. It annually coincides with national volunteer days such as Earth Day, National Volunteer Week, Potomac River Watershed Cleanup Day, and Arbor Day. County residents who volunteer for IMA during the April 15 to May 15 promotion receive a free T-shirt courtesy of REI.

Take Back the Forest will run from April 15 to May 15 this year. More information about volunteer opportunities during that time span and becoming an IMA volunteer is on the Park Authority's website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/ima/>. Information also is available by emailing IMA Coordinator Leslie Gerhard at leslie.gerhard@fairfaxcounty.gov or by calling her at 703-324-8681.

###



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.