

DPR and APS Coordination on Invasive Management

Forestry & Natural Resources Commission

February 27, 2025

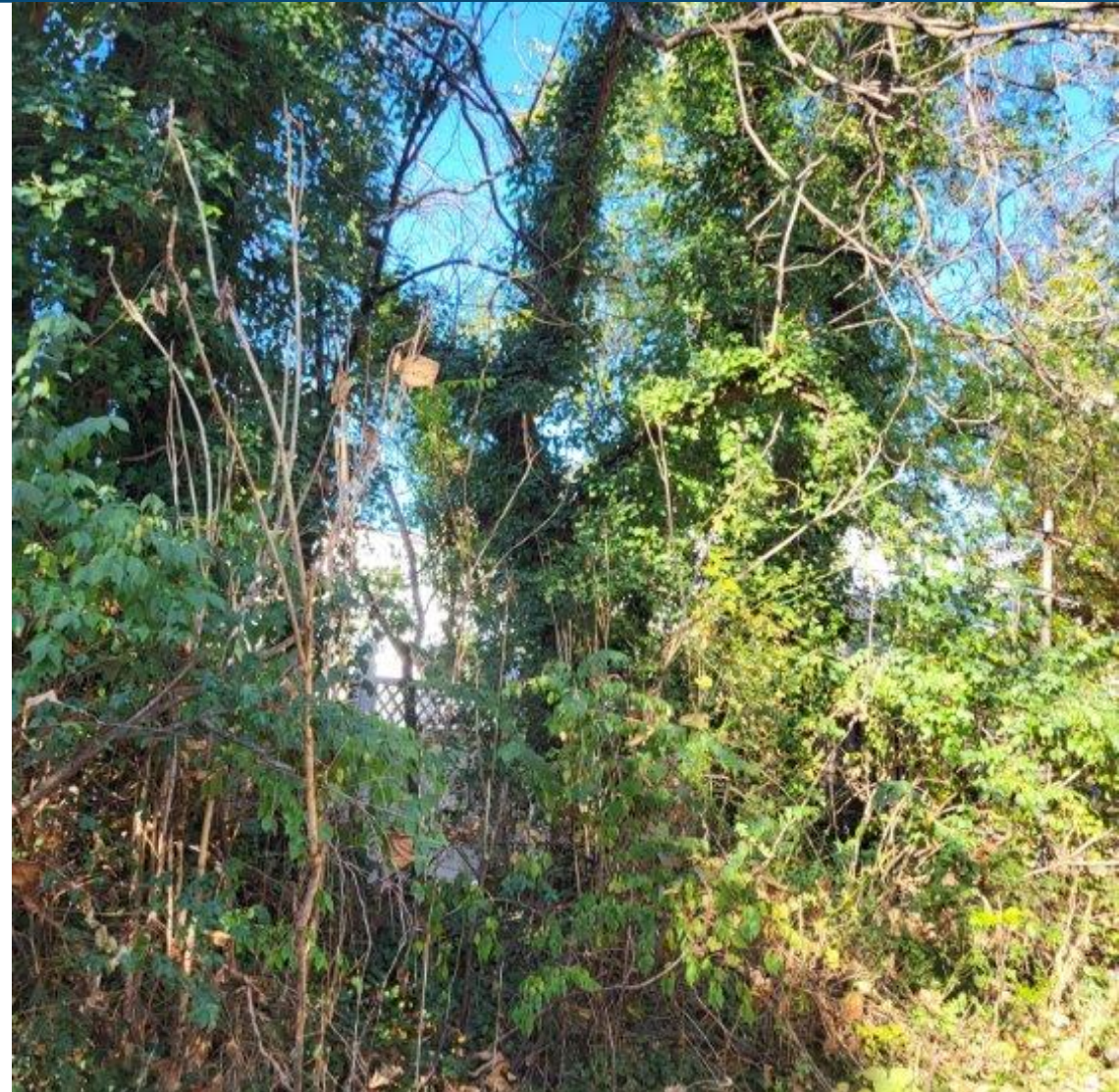
Jennifer Soles, DPR, PNR



What is an Invasive Species?

"An invasive species is a species that is not native to a specific region and that tends to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health."

-Arlington County Forestry and Natural Resources Plan 2024



Arlington County's Invasive Management

- The County has engaged in invasives control since 2002. Today, over 60% of our 543 acres of County-owned natural land is in management.
- The Natural Resources Unit follows an Invasive Plant Management Strategy
 - Save the Best First
 - Mechanical, Chemical and Biological controls
 - Public Engagement and Volunteer Support
 - Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR)
 - \$100,000 annual budget
- Other invasive work on county land occurs through PDD projects, DES projects, and ANP grants.



Natural Lands Also Occur on APS Property

School	Acreage of Natural Land
Claremont	8.5
Gunson, Oakridge	5.5
Randolph	2.5
Wakefield	2.5
Campbell	2
Williamsburg	1.5
Science Focus	1.5
Jamestown	1
Drew	1

“APS recognizes the importance of being active stewards in protecting our environment and promoting sustainability throughout our district.”

<https://www.apsva.us/aps-goes-green/>



Volunteering on APS Land

APS values volunteers managing invasives on APS properties

Staff from APS and NR have met several times, and clarified how volunteers can best work with APS

APS is drafting a letter of support that stewardship volunteers can share with Principals, PTA landscaping committees, etc.



Expanding Local and Regional Collaboration

The 2023 Forestry and Natural Resources Plan explicitly calls for increased collaboration between DPR and APS

3.2.2 Participate in partnerships for invasive species management.

1.1.7 Expand and formalize the relationship between APS and DPR to ensure school sites meet community objectives for tree canopy and natural spaces.



Prioritize APS Sites with Shared Natural Lands

- At all adjoining sites, DPR is funding invasive management and has an ARMN Park Steward leading volunteer work
- APS recently added a vendor who can do invasive management
- APS is planning to fund some invasive management at Jamestown and part of Claremont this year
- APS expects to fund follow up work next year, as resources allow

Park	Acres	Volunteers and Contractors?	School	Acres	Volunteers?
Barcroft	40	Y	Claremont	8.5	Y
Haley	5	Y	Gunston, Oakridge	5.5	
Doctor's Run	3.5	Y	Randolph	2.5	
Glencarlyn	99	Y	Campbell	2	
Jamestown	1	Y	Jamestown	1	Y

Land Conveyance

- FNRP 1.1.7 “Explore conveyance of existing contiguous forested areas on APS sites to DPR to encourage consistent management of Arlington’s public forests
- Land surrounding Zachary Taylor Elementary School was conveyed to DPR several years ago

