



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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IMA Program Celebrates Third Year of Partnership With REI

On April 2, 2014, REI (Recreation Equipment, Inc.) employees from the Fairfax and Tysons stores will join Invasive Management Area (IMA) program site leaders at Nottoway Park from 10 a.m. to noon to remove invasive plant species and plant native ones in their place. A Take Back the Forest t-shirt, featuring a new logo designed by a Fairfax County student, will be presented to an REI representative during a brief ceremony at 10 a.m.

This celebratory workday marks the third year of a productive three-year partnership between REI and the Fairfax County Park Authority. The outdoor equipment retailer has been an ardent supporter of the agency’s Take Back the Forest program, an annual surge of volunteer manpower each spring aimed at restoring parkland to its natural state. Over the past three years REI has awarded IMA a total of \$35,000 in grants. A new \$10,000 grant from REI will help fund boot brush stations (kiosks where trail users can remove hitchhiking seeds from their shoes and socks before entering or leaving a trail) and volunteer outreach and appreciation programs.

The third annual Take Back the Forest event runs from April 1 until May 31. Several major environmental stewardship events occur during the Take Back the Forest campaign: Global Youth Service Days on April 5, 6, 12, and 13; Earth Week, April 19 to 26; and Virginia’s annual Invasive Plant Removal Day on May 3. T-shirts will be given to all Take Back the Forest volunteers as a token of appreciation. To learn more about IMA or to become a volunteer, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/ima.

Nottoway Park is located at 9537 Courthouse Road in Vienna, Va.

For information about the event, call IMA coordinator Erin Stocksclaeder at 703-324-8681.

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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.