

# CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



## *Proclamation*

### **National Invasive Species Awareness Week February 24 - 28, 2025**

**WHEREAS** invasive species threaten Charlottesville's tree canopy, which is essential for neighborhood health, safety, and resilience against climate change by providing shade, reducing the heat island effect, and sequestering carbon; and

**WHEREAS** invasive species disrupt ecosystems by displacing native plants and animals, altering natural processes and posing a significant threat to biodiversity; and

**WHEREAS** invasive species impose substantial economic burdens, costing the U.S. \$120 billion annually in prevention, control, and damages to agriculture, fisheries, forests, and infrastructure, while also impeding transportation, water systems, energy production, and outdoor recreation; and

**WHEREAS** the spread of invasive species is accelerating due to human development and disruption, making control efforts increasingly challenging.

**THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that we, the Charlottesville City Council, declare February 24–28, 2025, as **National Invasive Species Awareness Week** and encourage residents to participate in efforts to raise awareness and protect our community's urban tree canopy from invasive vines.

Signed and sealed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

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Juandiego Wade, Mayor

Attest:

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Kyna Thomas, Clerk