

# CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



## *Proclamation*

### **Invasive Species Awareness Week** **February 23 - 27, 2026**

**WHEREAS** Charlottesville's tree canopy is a vital resource for neighborhood health, safety, and resilience against climate change by providing shade, purifying air, managing stormwater, reducing the heat island effect, and sequestering carbon; and

**WHEREAS** invasive vines and other invasive species jeopardize the health of our urban tree canopy by outcompeting native species, restricting the flow of nutrients, and causing breakage or leading to trees falling; and

**WHEREAS** Charlottesville's commitments as a Biophilic City, Bee City, and Tree City seek to promote awareness and education as well as foster a culture of stewardship and a sense of belonging in the natural world in which community members feel responsible for the health of our urban forest and the natural world; and

**WHEREAS** the nature of this work relies on the ongoing support and collaboration among local organizations such as the Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards, Rivanna Master Naturalists, ReLeaf C'ville, Piedmont Master Gardeners, the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, the Virginia Native Plant Society, Rivanna Conservation Alliance, Blue Ridge PRISM, the City Tree Commission, and various City departments;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that we, the Charlottesville City Council, declare February 23 - 27, 2026, as Invasive Species Awareness Week and encourage residents to participate in upcoming events hosted by the Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership and other Virginia Invasive Species Week affiliates to raise awareness and learn skills for protecting our community's urban tree canopy from invasive vines.

Signed and sealed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

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Juandiego Wade, Mayor

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Kyna Thomas, Clerk