

Loudoun Invasive Species Removal Pilot Project Parameters

Invasive plants targeted for removal must be listed on the Virginia DCR Invasive Plant Species List or the Virginia Noxious Weeds List. The list of Virginia Invasive Species can be found at: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/document/nh-invasive-plant-list-2023.pdf> and noxious weeds list at <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title2/agency5/chapter317/section20/>. Priority will be given to species ranked high or medium by DCR for invasiveness in Virginia.

- If projects involve removal of concentrated areas of invasive species, plans for planting/replacement with natives should be included. Re-plantings shall consist of all Virginia native species. Please see the VA Atlas of Native for reference (<https://www.vaplantatlas.org/>).
- Removal techniques should reflect best practices from Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and Virginia Department of Forestry (VA DOF) for control/herbicide use.
- Clearing within the floodplain should be avoided to avoid water quality impacts. Any activity within the floodplain will meet Loudoun floodplain ordinance requirements for studies/permitting.
- Clearing of trees greater than 12" DBH shall be avoided in most cases. For trees of this size, involved parties will need to consult with urban forester to determine feasibility of removal and severity of potential erosion/resource concerns.
- Removal projects should aim to address invasive species while also maintaining appropriate vegetative cover to avoid soil erosion. Any wildlife nesting sites shall be avoided in removal project areas.
- A maintenance plan shall be included with all applications to address invasive control in the proposed project area beyond the initial removal or kill.
- Any herbicide work shall be conducted by certified applicators and shall be consistent with all local, state, and federal law and label requirements.
- Projects will be assessed for cost effectiveness as the least cost technically feasible solution to the invasive problem on the proposed project site by Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District and Virginia Cooperative Extension staff. Project components deemed unrelated to invasive removal and native reestablishment may not be reimbursed at the discretion of LSWCD technical staff.
- A budget/project proposal from contractor (or if done by volunteers a budget) including labor estimates and materials.
- Projects will be reviewed by technical staff from LSWCD, VCE, Blue Ridge PRISM, LIRA (Loudoun Invasive Removal Alliance) and approved by the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District Board.