

Royal Lake IMA Site and VolunteerFest

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

The Royal Lake Park Invasive Management Area (IMA) site was invited for a second year by Fairfax County to participate in VolunteerFest, held on October 25th. This year, the site is in back of Claridge Ct., which is technically part of Pohick Stream Valley Park, but within the IMA permit's jurisdiction. Whereas I kept the [English ivy](#) off of the trees here, this day will be the first time IMA volunteers will attack the English ivy groundcover. It is not too badly entrenched, and with enough volunteers, we may complete the project in one or two large workdays. Poison ivy is also at this site, so be prepared; I will have some packets of neutralizing soap with me.

The work day is open to people in good health and 16+ years old. Volunteers aged 11-15 years must be accompanied by a parent. The work times are 7:30AM-10:30AM, rain or shine (canceled if lightning). An optional nature walk will begin at 10:30AM. Dress for the weather and working in woods. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirt or jacket and sturdy boots. Bring comfortable, heavy leather work gloves.

Once again, we will have a prize going to the person who can bring the most volunteers with them. If you can make it, please RSVP to me (greg@grsykes.com) by October 23rd with the number of people in your party. I will reply by e-mailing a map to you with the exact meeting location and suggested parking areas. Hope to see you there!

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