

Crooked Creek Park – IMA Recruitment

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

With the recent tree and shrub plantings at Crooked Creek Park, the stream restoration project is pretty much completed. Besides the annual rye grass to stabilize the soil, the contractors will allow ferns and forbs to naturally recolonize the area. However, the immense soil disturbance made the conditions prime for non-native invasive species to move in, too! Monitoring the area and pulling weeds before they become established is far easier than removing them after they are already entrenched. Would you like to become an Invasive Management Area (IMA) site leader for Crooked Creek Park, or at least the newly restored zone and surrounding areas? If so, please contact Erin Stocksclaeder at Erin.Stocksclaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov. Here is the address to the official IMA website <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/invasive-management-area>. Over the years, I have led some workdays and patrols in this area and am happy to work with you. If would like to talk to me more about IMA or join a workday, feel free to contact me.

Please also spread the word asking people to respect property lines and not to encroach onto the park including dumping yard debris, especially after the county has invested so much in restoring this area. More on encroachment is at this link: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/maps/avoid-park-encroachment>.

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