

E&R 2012-06  
Resolution on Sale of Invasive Plants

1. WHEREAS, natural areas and forests in Fairfax County parkland and other public lands are being overwhelmed by exotic invasive plants, such as English ivy, Bradford pear, porcelainberry, oriental bittersweet, bamboo, and others;
2. WHEREAS, despite efforts of volunteers to remove them as part of the Invasive Management Area program, invasives are supplanting native plants, eliminating wildlife habitat, and destroying trees in our parkland;
3. WHEREAS, invasive plants (such as English ivy and buddleia) are being sold by vendors in farmers' markets sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA);
4. WHEREAS, widely accepted and used lists of plants that are invasive in our area have been compiled by experts and published by the National Fish and Wildlife Service (*Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas*, at [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/toc.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/toc.htm)) and by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (*Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia*, at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/invspdflist.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspdflist.shtml));
5. WHEREAS, despite the availability of such lists, unsuspecting farmers' market customers can be misled into buying plants that are highly invasive and damaging to our environment, thus unknowingly contributing to the spread of invasive plants;
6. WHEREAS, garden centers and other retail outlets sell many exotic invasive plants;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations requests that the Fairfax County Park Authority adopt a policy and develop a procedure to ensure that all vendors in FCPA-sponsored farmers' markets are prohibited from selling live plants listed as invasive by the most up-to-date versions of either list noted above, and that vendors' agreement not to sell exotic invasive plants should be a condition of participating in the farmers' markets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MVCCA requests the Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly to introduce and support legislation to prohibit sale of exotic invasive plants and the Board of Supervisors to include this proposal in their legislative program.