



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20242

May 11, 2015

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Invasive Plant Management Plan / Environmental Assessment (IPMP/EA) for 15 parks within the National Capital Region. The parks include Antietam National Battlefield, Catoctin Mountain Park, Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Greenbelt Park, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Monocacy National Battlefield, National Capital Parks – East, National Mall and Memorial Parks, Piscataway Park, Prince William Forest Park, Rock Creek Park, White House / President's Park, and Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.

The NPS is developing the IPMP/EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to address the issues concerning the management of invasive plant species and implement a comprehensive management strategy to be used throughout the 15 parks. The primary focus of the IPMP/EA is to define parameters and establish procedures for the treatment, control, and containment of exotic invasive plants throughout a variety of landscapes, using a broad range of vegetation management techniques.

The purpose for the IPMP/EA is to decrease the impacts of invasive plants and promote the restoration of natural and cultural resources; identify and implement environmentally sound, cost effective invasive plant management strategies that pose the least possible risk to people and park resources; and to provide guidance regarding non-native invasive plant management that is useful both currently and in the long term. This plan is needed because invasive species are impacting cultural resources and disrupting ecological processes. The strategies in the IPMP/EA will enable parks to minimize invasive plant impacts and maximize park-specific integrated pest management successes.

At this time, the NPS is announcing the opening of a 30-day public scoping period to solicit public comments on preliminary alternatives for this proposal. The public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they might have with the proposed project so that the NPS can appropriately consider them in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment. A scoping brochure describing the project is available at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at [http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ncr\\_ipmpea](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ncr_ipmpea).

Comments may be provided electronically at the NPS PEPC website ([http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ncr\\_ipmpea](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ncr_ipmpea)) or submitted in writing to:

National Park Service  
National Capital Region  
c/o Mark Frey, Exotic Plant Management Team Liaison  
4598 MacArthur Blvd. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Please submit your comments on the scope of this proposal by June 10, 2015. Once the EA is developed, it will be made available for public review and comment for a 30-day period. The NPS anticipates that the Draft IPMP/EA will be published for public review in the fall of 2015.

For further information, please contact Mark Frey at 202-339-8317 or via email at [Mark\\_Frey@nps.gov](mailto:Mark_Frey@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Vogel", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Robert A. Vogel  
Regional Director