

Dear Franklin Park and Forest Neighbors,

We are fortunate to live in a uniquely beautiful Urban Forest - except for the entrance to Franklin Park from Old Dominion Drive! Not only is this area an eyesore, it is **a danger to drivers**, due to the weeds and invasive plants overrunning the strip of land between Vermont Avenue and Old Dominion Drive.

Wanting to 'address the mess' that this unmaintained VDOT area has become, two neighborhood groups -- the Urban Forest Alliance (UFA) and the Franklin Area Citizens Association (FACA)-- have partnered. And we are delighted to report that the **Virginia Department of Forestry** has awarded us a **matching grant** to restore a portion of this land.

We need your help today to raise \$5,200 to match the grant and cover additional anticipated costs.

We are excited about the ways this project will improve safety, improve water-quality in Little Pimmit Run, create a native plant pollinator garden, increase pride in the entryway that leads to our homes, and serve as an inspiration to others, demonstrating what communities can do when they work together: **Neighbors helping Neighbors in restore our world!** Our time-line follows:

- 1) **Fall 2022 through Spring 2023 - Raise funds to cover costs in grant area, prep soil, cut back invasive vines from areas not covered by the grant**
- 2) **Spring 2023 - begin targeted sprayings to kill off noxious invasives (research shows that spraying is the only way to eradicate Japanese knotweed, which is persistent and has taken over the area)**
- 3) **Summer 2023 and into the early fall - continue clearing and prepping soil, conduct second targeted spraying, purchase and plant shrubs, bushes, trees, etc.**
- 4) **Spring through fall 2023 -- enlist a cadre of volunteers to assist with planting and handle watering, along with additional weeding, as necessary.**

We need to begin **NOW** to raise the funds for this ambitious and ultimately wonderful project and hope that you will consider making a donation.

Donations can be made via GiveButter at this website:

<https://givebutter.com/ufo-faca>; or checks can be made out to FACA notating "Restoration" in the memo line and mailed or dropped off at 1912 Virginia Ave Mclean, VA 22101. Your gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or even more will help make our neighborhood more beautiful and our community healthier.

Take a look at the exciting plan is on the back of this letter and please give as generously as you can. We deeply appreciate your support.

Maureen O'Donnell, Co-founder
Urban Forest Alliance

P.S. You can learn more about the good work that we are doing on our website www.urbanforestalliance.org.