

ARMN Park Stewards

The Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN) Park Stewards are volunteer leaders in local area parks working to help preserve, enhance, restore, and potentially expand the parks' natural areas, habitats, and ecosystems, in close coordination with park management and staff.

The role of a Park Steward is to:

- Lead or coordinate nature-focused volunteer activities in a specific local park. These activities include, e.g., ecological restoration, invasive plant removal, site monitoring, citizen science, education, and outreach.
- Serve as a point of contact to the relevant park manager, natural resources staff, the ARMN Service Committee, and other related volunteer organizations such as Tree Stewards, Master Gardeners, Virginia Native Plant Society, and Audubon at Home.
- Serve as “eyes on the ground” for emerging issues such as appearances of newly arrived invasive plants.
- Help to identify issues and opportunities for action by park staff or volunteers for the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas and the protection of native ecosystems and native wildlife.
- Promote citizen science activities within a park and support the creation and use of metrics to identify areas of concern and to document progress and successes in restoration and conservation efforts.
- Strengthen ties to local civic associations and neighbors by, e.g., facilitating or giving presentations at civic association meetings, informing civic associations and neighbors of nature-related volunteer efforts, and inviting participation at volunteer events.



*Invasive removal event at Brandywine Castle Park.
Photo courtesy of Jo Allen.*

The ARMN Park Stewards program is currently available to active, well-trained, and well-informed members of ARMN and the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria. To become a Park Steward, a volunteer leader must have some knowledge of local native plants, invasive species, best practices for restoration of natural resources, outreach to local communities, volunteer group facilitation and leadership, and risk management, or must be willing to participate in training to develop substantial knowledge in these areas.

Interested in contacting the Park Steward about a particular park or becoming a Park Steward yourself? Submit your inquiry to the program via the ["Contact Us" request form](#).