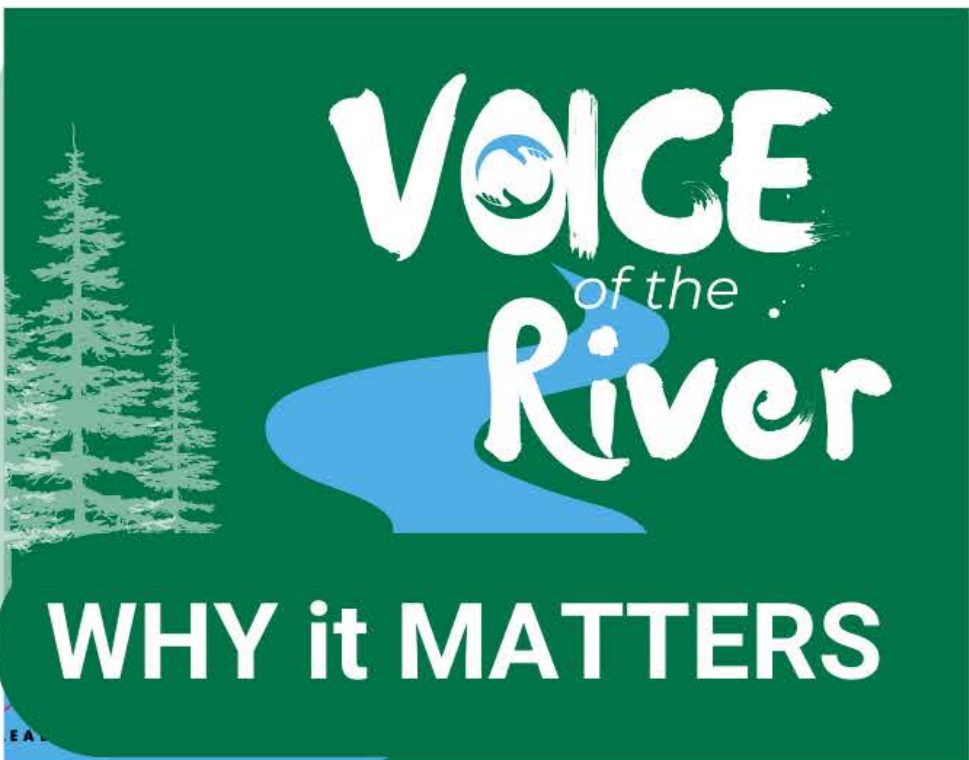


# BATTLE OF THE BOTANICALS

## Invasive vs. Non-Invasive Plants Along the James River



The James River is home to hundreds of native plant species, but invasive plants **threaten the balance**. Here's how to spot them and what you can do to protect the ecosystem.



Kudzu vine

## THE INVADERS

Invasive plants are non-native species that outcompete local flora, degrade habitats, and reduce biodiversity. And they **spread rapidly**.

COMMON CULPRITS

on the James River

- Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)
- Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)



Japanese Stiltgrass



English Ivy



Tree-of-Heaven



Hydrilla leaf

## THE DEFENDERS

COMMON GUARDIANS

These native plants support pollinators, stabilize riverbanks, and **keep our ecosystems strong**.

- Switchgrass
- Buttonbush
- Black Willow
- Eastern Redbud
- Virginia Bluebells
- River Birch
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- White Fringetree

IMPACT	Invasive Plants	Non-Invasive Plants
Biodiversity	▼ Decreases	▲ Increases
Erosion Control	✗ Poor	✓ Strong
Wildlife Support	✗ Limited	✓ Vital
Water Quality	✗ Harmful	✓ Protective

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Join local invasive plant removal events.
- Plant natives in your yard.
- Don't dump aquarium plants or yard waste.
- Learn to identify invasives plants and trees.

Be a VOICE FOR THE RIVER

