

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Colonial National
Historical Park

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Colonial National Historical Park News Release

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For Immediate Release

Colonial National Historical Park to begin removal of invasive species to restore historic viewsheds and protect cultural and natural resources project

Yorktown, Va – Beginning the week of October 18, contractors for Colonial National Historical Park will remove approximately eight acres of invasive plant species in two areas within the park. Five acres will be cut along the slopes of the historic Tobacco Road trail located adjacent to the Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center. Roughly three acres will be cut at the eastern end of the American battle lines located adjacent to the Moore House subdivision.

With this project, Colonial National Historical Park is conforming to NPS Management Policies, 2006, Section 4.4.4, Management of Exotic Species and Executive Order #13112, 1999, Prevent, Detect, Control, and Monitor Exotic Species and Provide Restoration of Native Species and Habitats Condition. Non-native species are extremely invasive, quickly establishing and growing in natural areas and on the historic battlefield. They form dense areas of vegetation, competing with native plants, and degrading food resources and habitats for wildlife.

Invasive species to be removed include Golden Bamboo, Empress Tree, Chinese Privet, Wisteria, and English Ivy. An industrial forestry mulcher will be employed to shred plant materials to ground level. During active mulching operations, the park requests visitors and the general public comply with safety notices and barricades, as well as temporary area closures of the Tobacco Road trail and the pedestrian bridge connecting the Visitor Center with Yorktown. The pulverized material and remaining root structure will serve to prevent erosion until phase two of this project is completed in early summer 2024. Phase two will focus on application of an herbicide treatment to remove any invasive plant species regrowth in the previously cleared areas. Following the completion of phase two the hillside will be replanted with native grasses, trees and shrubs.

To learn more about Colonial National Historical Park, please visit:
<https://www.nps.gov/colo/index.htm>.

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