

LEAST WANTED



INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Image by Duke Forest, 2020

The fig buttercup, or lesser celadine (*Ficaria verna*) is an introduced, aggressive species that is rapidly colonizing our area, particularly along streams. We need your help to understand where it has spread so we can treat it effectively. And we have to move fast; the plants flower in March-April and are gone by June.

Identification: lush, often large clumps of rubbery, heart-shaped, dark-green leaves on stalks; netted veins on leaf undersides. Attractive, glossy multi petaled yellow flowers in March and April.

DO NOT REMOVE! The plant reproduces with bulblets that multiply rapidly with disturbance. Fig buttercup needs professional removal and/or treatment by natural resources staff.

Instead:

1. If you have your phone, take several pictures. Note how many clumps you see and the approximate area covered by the clump.
2. Report to parks staff: Visitor's center, call, or email. Include your photos and location information.

Better yet, go one step farther and become a Citizen Scientist! Help us map it using iNaturalist. Here's how:

1. Find and download the app and/or set up a free online account.
2. Upload your photos with the species name, *Ficaria verna*.
3. Take many photos and document as many clumps as you can!