• Non-profit coalition of organizations, agencies, governments, and citizen groups

• Work to coordinate invasive species mgmt. in Southern Indiana
Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management Area
Purpose: The purpose of this grant is to initiate the start-up of local Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) within SICIM’s 35 county area in Southern Indiana (see map below). The grant provides funding in the amount of $1500 to be disbursed over a 3 year period ($500 per year), as well as guidance and support toward this purpose.
What is an invasive?

- An **invasive species** is a species that does not naturally occur in a specific area and whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

  *President’s Executive Order 13112, 1999*

- A **weed** is any plant that is growing where you don’t want it to grow.

- Most non-native plants **ARE NOT INVASIVE**

- Likewise, some “**weeds**” may be NATIVE
Get rid of them!

- Manual/Mechanical Options
  - Hand pulling
  - Digging, weed wrenching
  - Cutting

- Sometimes, herbicide is required
  - Use on perennial invasives to kill the roots
  - Apply concentrated herbicide to cut-stumps to keep woody plants from resprouting
  - If you have a LOT of biennials or annuals, herbicide may be easiest

- REMEMBER:
  - Don’t compost invasives
  - If moving off site, bag ANYTHING that could have seeds
  - CLEAN up afterwards to keep from spreading invasives
How do they get here?

- By weather – wind
- By natural disasters – floods
- By animals – birds/others
- By insects
- By growth
- By humans
Best Management Practices
The "Top Ten BMPs" List and Invasive Plant List
https://www.entm.purdue.edu/iisc/plant committee.php
1. Develop an Organizational Invasive Species Strategy:

- Tactics - Policies and Procedures
- Employee education & training
  - User education
  - Contracting & sourcing
  - Monitoring
  - Prevention
  - Control projects
- Schedule regular assessments - Measure and celebrate your success!
2. Create and maintain an IS knowledge base:

- Maps – Where are current infestations
- Reporting & mapping process for staff and users
- Documentation of control projects – exact location, treatment protocol, dates, herbicide concentrations, weather and soil conditions, etc. – and assessment of results initially and after additional growing seasons
3. Think ahead:

Pre-plan major land development or maintenance activities:
• Avoid disturbing heavily infested areas when possible
• Pre-treat areas that must be disturbed well in advance
• If possible, conduct such activities when seeds are not easily movable
• If possible use existing roads, trails, landings, staging areas, and designated equipment cleaning areas
4. Use native plants and seeds from “weed-free” sources:

- Use species that are appropriate to site and conditions
- Assure that species received are as specified
- Assure that new plants and seeds are not contaminated
- Use “trusted sources” whenever possible
- Use Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society Sources of Native Indiana Plants list
- Ask for guarantees or make-good provisions in sourcing contracts
5. Use uncontaminated construction/landscaping material (mulch, fill, gravel, straw, etc.):
   • Find certified or guaranteed sources when possible Indiana Certified Weed Free Program
   • Use trusted sources whenever possible
   • Ask for guarantees or make-good provisions in sourcing contracts
   • Look to create on site sources if possible
   • Monitor stock piles regularly
6. Keep tools, equipment, vehicles and clothing clean:

• Require contractors to bring clean vehicles and equipment to your site

• Designate contained areas for cleaning and disposal

• Educate and encourage users to inspect and clean clothing, equipment, pets, etc. before and after entry
7. Have a long-term plan for managing Invasives:

• Prioritize locations and species – taking into account severity of infestation, degree of invasiveness, feasibility of control, “value” of habitat at risk, etc.
• “Optimize” treatment timing and technique
• Evaluate, measure, and document success
8. Monitor disturbed locations and high risk areas:

• Monitor regularly and frequently

• Especially important following natural disasters and major development or maintenance projects
9. Require contractors to follow BMPs:

- Incorporate BMP requirements into RFPs and contracts
- Inspect and document infestations before and after contractor activity
- Ask for guarantees or make-good provisions
10. Educate users (and neighbors) on Invasive Species BMPs:

- Provide basic education when possible: What are invasive species? Why are they bad? How to identify key species
- Offer a mechanism for reporting invasives
- Provide cleaning stations at key entry and exit points
- Regulate entry of infested material when possible (campfire wood, hay, bait, etc.)
Indiana DNR-Division Of Fish And Wildlife

CORRIDORS Program

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C.O.R.R.I.D.O.R.S

What is it?

A program designed to provide grassland and pollinator habitats while leveraging partnerships to create connectivity of habitats and develop a synergy of conservation efforts.
CORRIDORS

Conservation On Rivers & Roadways
Intended to Develop Opportunities For
Resources and Species
Main Goal-Habitat Development

4 Objectives

1. Implement State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)-SWAP identified grassland habitat declines as the #1 habitat related threat to wildlife species in Indiana.

2. Employ Landscape Level Habitat Development Principles (large scale, linking habitat practices to more habitat practices).

3. Connectivity-Use existing geographic installation associated with habitat to create connectivity and corridors (Rivers, Roadways, ROW lines, etc.)

4. Address Wildlife Needs-All Wildlife need food, space, water, and shelter (if we can establish vegetative cover to address food and shelter, that in itself will provide space. Doing such work next to water ensures wildlife needs are addressed).
Those 4 main objectives determined the priority focal areas for CORRIDORS

Priority Focal Areas

- SWAP Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs)
- 100 Year Flood Plain
- Buffers Along All State, US, and Interstate Highways
- Buffers Around Each Water Body In Indiana
Roadways

Targeting all state, US highways ensures connectivity focus and facilitates partnership conservation efforts.
Partners Involvement

The program is designed to leverage partnerships to create a synergistic approach

**Partners**

- DFW
- INDOT
- PF/QF
- NRCS?
- Private Landowners
- ROW/Utility Agencies?
- Others?
Partner Roles

- **DFW**: Develop Program, Provide Technical Assistance, Promote Program, Develop Management Plans, Coordinate Efforts With Partners
- **INDOT**: Develop Native Plantings/Pollinators On Their ROW, Promote Program, Coordinate Their Efforts With Private Landowner Efforts
- **PF/QF**: Provide Technical Assistance, Promote Program, Develop Management Plans (role-Farm Bill Biologists)
- **NRCS**: Provide Technical Assistance, Provide Financial Assistance, Promote Program, Administer EQIP Program involvement
- **Private Landowners**: Participate In Program, Develop Habitat On Their Property, Promote Program Through Signage
- **ROW/Utility Agencies**: Assist With Connectivity, Establish Habitat Friendly To Wildlife/Pollinators On ROW, Promote Program
Reporting Invasive Species

*Report IN* is a fast and easy way for you to report invasive species in Indiana. There are two ways to report – by computer and by smartphone. All reports will go to the appropriate organization for verification. To report by computer, go to [www.EDDMapS.org/indiana](http://www.EDDMapS.org/indiana) and create a profile, then click Report Sightings and fill out the form.
Other Resources

• SICIM website: www.sicim.info
• Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society: www.inpaws.org
• Report Invasives: www.eddmaps.org/indiana/
• Midwest Invasive Plant Network (species and control information): www.mipn.org
• CORRIDORS Program Josh Griffin (317) 234-9737
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