

NIIPP

NORTHEAST ILLINOIS INVASIVE PLANT PARTNERSHIP
A COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA



Lake Plain Strike Team Treating Lyme Grass at Illinois Beach State Park

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Executive Summary

During our first year the Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP) met many milestones and has made much progress towards its mission of minimizing adverse impacts of invasive plants on native habitats and biodiversity.

- **Staff:** Coordinator, six person Steering Committee, three person Executive Committee representing diverse organizations.
- **Working Relationships** with multiple partners as a result of over 37 meeting with potential partners.
- **Memorandum of Understanding** sent out for signatures February 14, 2011. Currently we have 42 signatory partners and 4 non-signatory partners.
- **Grants through USFS, IL-IN Sea Grant, and Donnelley Foundation** have yielded funding for the coordinator salary for two years (2010-2012) and have allowed NIIPP to distribute small grants for on-the-ground control work involving three partner organizations.
- **28 Workshops, presentations, and training courses** focused on introductory information about NIIPP, New Invaders Watch Program, Invasive Ornamental Plants, Regional Established Invaders, and Clean Boats, Clean Waters.
- **25 newspaper articles, bulletins, and radio interviews** promoted partner and public awareness of NIIPP activities.
- **Clean Boats, Clean Waters** outreach and education in four locations in Indiana and ten locations in Illinois (total of 7 weekends).
- **Collaborations** with USDA Forest Service, IL-IN Sea Grant, Illinois Department of Transportation District 1, Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake County Health Department, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, ComEd, Union Pacific Railroad, Canadian National Railroad, and Burlington North Santa Fe Railway.
- **Participation** in the Alliance for the Great Lakes Habitat Assessment Advisory Group and Lake County Conservation@Home program (Libertyville Prairie Conservancy),
- **Establishing an identity and providing information access:** unique name and acronym, unique logo, website, information brochures for the general public, gardeners, and scientists

Background and Mission

The Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership formally began in 2010 with the hiring of Cathy McGlynn, NIIPP Coordinator, and the signing of the partnership's memorandum of understanding. The partnership has expanded to over 40 organizations in just one year and has accomplished a variety of outreach efforts, on the ground control projects, expansion of the regional early detection program, and increased partner communication about invasive plants in the region.

The Mission of NIIPP is as follows:

NIIPP intends to work toward the prevention and control of new plant invasions, control and manage current invasions, support informed management decisions, and raise public awareness concerning the threat posed by invasive plants. Our goal is to minimize the adverse impacts invasive plants have on our open lands and water in northeast Illinois, especially on native habitats and their native plants and wildlife.

Staff

Executive Committee:

Chair, Debbie Maurer, Lake County Forest Preserve District

Co-Chair, Jeff Mengler, Cardno-Entrix

Co-Chair, Eric Ulaszek, USFS Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Steering Committee

Becky Schillo, Field Museum

Dan Larkin, Chicago Botanic Garden

Dan Spencer, Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Kathy Paap, Lake County Health Department

Kurt Dreisilker, Morton Arboretum

Rebecca Grill, Park District of Highland Park

Coordinator

Cathy McGlynn

Partner Recruitment/Meetings with Potential Partners

September 3, 2010 Meeting with Chicago Botanic Garden staff (Kay Havens, Bob Kirschner, and Joan O'Shaughnessy)

September 7, 2010 Meeting with IL-IN Sea Grant (Pat Charlebois and Kristin TePas)

September 8, 2010 IDOT Workshop on herbicides (CPS)

September 8, 2010 Meeting with Dan Larkin, Chicago Botanic Garden

September 9, 2010 Meeting with Rebecca Grill (Park District of Highland Park), Aimee Collins (Open Lands), and Ryan London (Lake Forest Openlands)

September 9, 2010 Meeting with Lydia Scott, Village of Lincolnshire

September 13, 2010 Meeting with Angela Larsen, Alliance for the Great Lakes

September 13, 2010 Meeting with City of Chicago DOE (Aaron Durnbaugh and Lyndon Valicenti), Chicago Park District (Adam Schwerner), Zach Taylor (Greencorps-Chicago-Calumet), Judy Pollock (Audubon Chicago)

September 15, 2010 Meeting with Michelle Uting, Chicago Wilderness

September 16, 2010 Meeting at Fermi Lab: DuPage County FPD (Cindy Hedges and Herman Jensen), Ryan Campbell (Fermi Lab Natural Areas), Drew Ullberg (FPD Kane County), Kurt Dreisilker (Morton Arboretum), Maggie Cole (IDNR),

September 17, 2010 Meeting with Emily Minor, Professor at UIC

September 20, 2010 Meeting with USACE

September 21, 2010 AM Meeting with Dan Kirk (IDNR) and Juanita Armstrong (FPD Will County)

September 21, 2010 PM Meeting with USFS Eric Ulaszek, Renee Thakali (Ecological Restoration Team Leader), and Wade A. Spang (Prairie Supervisor)

September 22, 2010 Meeting with Wayne Vanderploeg and Dan Spencer, FPDCC

September 23, 2010 Attend Natural Resources Team meeting (Chicago Wilderness) and provide brief introduction about new CWMA

September 29, 2010 Attended Volunteer Steward Meeting and gave brief talk

September 30, 2010 Meeting with Tom Dilley (State and Private Forestry) and Justin Pepper (Audubon Chicago)

October 3-5, 2010 Attended Grassland Restoration Network (McHenry County Conservation District)

October 6, 2010 Meeting with Charlotte Adelman-Schwartz (Mola Prairie)

October 12, 2010 Meeting with Becky Schillo (Field Museum) at Beaubian Woods

October 14, 2010 Meeting with McHenry County partners: Linda Masters (McHenry County Land Conservancy), Ed Weskerna (McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District), and Randy Morin (McHenry County DOT)

October 20, 2010 Meeting with Chicago Wilderness Executive Council

October 21, 2010 Meeting with Rick McAndless (North Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District)

October 25, 2010 Meeting with Chicago Wilderness Aquatic Task Force

October 28, 2010 Meeting with the Kishwaukee Ecosystem Partnership (KREP): Boone County CD, DeKalb County FPD, Northern Illinois U, IDNR

November 17, 2010 Meeting Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP)

November 18, 2010 Attended Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium meeting

December 1, 2010 Attended meeting with Mayoral Council on Wildlife and Nature?

December 1, 2010 Meeting with Friends of the Forest Preserves

December 8, 2010 Attended Plants of Concern meeting at Chicago Botanic Garden

December 9, 2010 Meeting with Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council

December 10, 2010 Phone meeting with U of I Extension (Ellen Philips, Michelle Weisbrook)

February 2, 2011 Chicago Wilderness Natural Resource Management Team meeting

February 8, 2011 Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council meeting

March 3, 2011 Chicago Wilderness Natural Resource Management Team meeting

April 12, 2011 Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshop at WI Lakes Convention

April 14, 2011 Chicago Wilderness Wildlife Task Force meeting

May 13-14, 2011 Attended Invasive Species in a Globalized World, U of Chicago

Memorandum of Understanding

Signatory Partners:

1. Algonquin Township Road District
2. Alliance for the Great Lakes
3. Boone County Conservation District
4. Campton Township
5. Cardno Entrix
6. Chicago Botanic Garden
7. Chicago Park District
8. Chicago Wilderness
9. City of Chicago DOE
10. Fermilab Natural Areas
11. Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
12. Forest Preserve District of Will County
13. Frankfort Square FPD
14. Friends of the Forest Preserve
15. Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies, Markham, IL
16. Hey & Associates
17. Illinois Department of Natural Resources
18. Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
19. Integrated Lakes Management
20. Joliet Park District
21. Kendall County FPD
22. Lake County Health Department
23. Lake County DOT
24. Lake County FPD
25. Land Conservancy of McHenry County
26. McHenry County Conservation District
27. McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District
28. Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
29. Midwest Groundcovers, LLC
30. Morton Arboretum
31. Openlands
32. Park District of Highland Park
33. Pizzo and Associates
34. Tallgrass Restoration
35. The Field Museum
36. The Nature Conservancy -Illinois
37. Upland Design

38. USFS-Midewin
39. Village of Algonquin
40. Village of Glenview
41. Village of Lincolnshire
42. Winnebago County FPD

Non-signatory Partners:

1. Bradburne, Briller & Johnson Environmental Consultants and Engineers
2. GRAEF
3. North Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District
4. Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium

Grant Archive

Funded:

1. USFS GLRI Grant August 2010 – September 2011 \$96,240.60
2. USFS GLRI Grant additional funds September 2011-2012 \$50,000
3. Donnelley Foundation Grant (collaboration with MIPN, CBG, DOE, TNC) “Outreach on Invasive Plants in Horticulture” 2011-2013 \$56,000
4. USFWS GLRI Grant to IDNR Aquatic Nuisance Species Program (percentage of funds used for collaboration for Clean Boats, Clean Waters and the statewide *Hydrilla* Management Plan) 2011-2012 \$1,000,000

Not funded:

1. Pulling Together Initiative Grant Pre-proposal 2011 “Invasive Plants near Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie”
2. Pulling Together Initiative Grant Proposal 2010 “Chicagoland CWMA Early Detection and Rapid Response Project”
3. State and Private Forestry Competitive Grant Proposal 2011 “Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership: Prevention, Control, and Management of Regional Forest Invasive Plant Species”
4. North Central Region Integrated Pest Management Grant Proposal 2011 “A Pre-emptive *Hydrilla* Management Plan in the State of Illinois”

Small Grants Distributed

- \$3000.00 Chicago Park District, Montrose Beach Dunes
- \$1045.00 Plainfield Park District, Mather Woods Volunteer Day
- \$1000.00 Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) Control at Lone Grove Forest Preserve-Kaneville, IL

Presentations, Trainings and Workshops

November 4, 2010, Poster Presentation, Chicago Wilderness Congress, Chicago, IL

November 9, 2011 Brief Oral Presentation, MN-WI Invasive Species Conference, St. Paul, MN

December 2, 2011 New Invaders Watch Program Training for Greencorps Chicago-Calumet

January 19, 2011 Introductory presentation about NIIPP, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership

January 20, 2011 Brief presentation at Algonquin Highway Commissioners meeting

February 1, 2011 New Invaders Watch Program “Train the Trainer” Workshop, FPDCC

February 19, 2011 Oral presentation, Prairie Invaders, Garfield Farm and Inn Museum, Natural Area Management Seminar

February 22, 2011 NIWP Training, by FPDCC

March 1, 2011 NIWP Training, by FPDCC

March 3, 2011 Report to the NRM Team and request for support of collaboration on Donnelley Foundation Grant

March 4, 2011 Oral presentation, NIIPP Introduction, Illinois Lakes Management Association, Peoria, IL

March 8, 2011 NIWP Training, by FPDCC

March 22, 2011 NIWP Training, by FPDCC

April, 3, 2011 Oral presentation, New Invaders (abridged version), Plants of Concern Workshop, Wheaton, IL

April 18, 2011 Oral presentation, Buyer Beware: A Cautionary Tale about Ornamental Plants, Gardeners of America Club, Elgin, IL

April 19, 2011 Oral presentation, NIIPP Introduction, Highway Commissioners Meeting, Aurora, IL

April, 30, 2011 Oral presentation, New Invaders (abridged version), Plants of Concern Workshop, Glencoe, IL

May 6, 2011 Oral presentation, NIIPP Introduction, Lake County Conservation Science Meeting, Lake Forest, IL

May 6, 2011 Oral presentation, Buyer Beware: A Cautionary Tale about Ornamental Plants Workshop to Help Gardeners Make Good Choices and Avoid Introduction of Invasive Plants, Lake County Central Planning Facility, IL.

June 4, 2011 Exhibit Table: World Environment Day, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL

June 10, 2011 Workshop, New Invaders Watch Program Training, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Interns, Bartlett, IL

June 11, 2011 Exhibit Table, Lake Festival, Oakwoods Hills, McHenry County and brief presentation on invasive plants

June 22, 2011 Workshop, New and Old Invaders, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership, Lake Barrington, IL

July 19, 2011 Oral Presentation, NIIPP Introduction, Volunteer Stewards, Lake County Forest Preserve District, Libertyville, IL

September 21, 2011, Workshop, New and Old Invaders, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership, St. Charles Park District

September 28, 2011, Oral Presentation, Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program in Illinois and Indiana. State of Lake Michigan Conference, Michigan City, IN

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Outreach and Education

Education and outreach conducted in Illinois at Winthrop Harbor, Bangs Lake, Sterling Lake, Waukegan Harbor, Little and Big Bear Lake, Round Lake, Gages Lake, West Loon Lake, Diamond Lake, and Deep Lake. Education and outreach in Indiana at Cedar Lake, Hammond Marina, East Chicago Marina, and Iliana Yacht Club (Wolf Lake).

Media and General Outreach

November 2010, "Chicago Wilderness Launches Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership," Plants Out of Place, Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin, Issue 30

January 11, 2011 “Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREPP) Meeting and Program in Elgin” TribLocal

Winter 2011 “Lake Issues: Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP)” Cattail Chronicles

Winter 2011 “Help Protect Your Lake From Invasion!” Cattail Chronicles

February 2011 “New Invaders Watch Program (NIWP) Training” Chicago Wilderness Membership Bulletin

February 13, 2011 Interview on Mike Nowak Radio Show about Garfield Farm and Museum, Natural Area Management Seminar

April 2011 “Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership Awards Grants in Support of Invasive Plant Control Work” Chicago Wilderness Member Bulletin

April 2011 “NIIPP Garlic Mustard Challenge,” Chicago Wilderness Member Bulletin

April 17, 2011 Interview on Mike Nowak Radio Show about Garlic Mustard Challenge

April 2011 “Workshop to Help Gardeners Make Good Choices, Avoid Invasive Plants” TribLocal

April 28, 2011 “Garlic Mustard Threatens Habitats Across the Country. One response? Weed It and Eat It!” Chicago Reader

April 28, 2011 “Cocktail Challenge: Sable’s Mike Ryan tackles Garlic Mustard Chicago Reader”

April 28, 2011 “What Iliana Regan Can Do With Garlic Mustard Greens.” Chicago Reader

April 28, 2011 “Garlic Mustard Challenge throughout Northeast Illinois.” TribLocal

May 2011 “Invasive Species Awareness Month - Garlic Mustard Challenge,” Chicago Wilderness Member Bulletin

May 27, 2011 “New Partnership to Fight Invasive Plants,” News Release, DuPageForest, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

June 2011 New “Clean Boats, Clean Waters” looking for volunteers. IL-IN Sea Grant, Helm Newsletter

June 6, 2011 “Conservation Plainfield to Host Environmental Enhancement Project at Plainfield Park District’s Mather Woods,” TribLocal

June 12, 2011 “Enhancement Project,” Herald News

July 1, 2011 “Garlic Mustard Challenge a Success!” TribLocal

July 1, 2011 “Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program Comes to Illinois!” TribLocal

July 15, 2011 “Help Protect Local Lakes and Waterways!” TribLocal

July 2011 “Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP) Garlic Mustard Challenge Ends Successfully!” Chicago Wilderness Member Bulletin

July 2011 “Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program launched in Illinois and Indiana!” Chicago Wilderness Member Bulletin

July 12, 2011 “Invasive species info coming to a marina near you.” IL-IN Sea Grant News

Collaborations

- Worked with **USFS** to promote and coordinate regional Garlic Mustard Challenge involving 18 participating organizations and over 30 events. More than 50,000 lbs of garlic mustard were pulled.
- NIIPP and **IL-IN Sea Grant**, Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program for IL and IN. Pilot program in Lake County, IL and Lake County, IN. Volunteer Manual completed. First season of outreach and education completed.
- NIIPP is continuing to work with **Bob Kirschner (CBG)**, **Mike Adam (LCHD)**, **Pat Charlebois (IL-IN Sea Grant)**, **Steve Shults/Kevin Irons (IDNR)**, and **Chicago Wilderness Aquatic Task Force** on a statewide pre-emptive *Hydrilla* Management Plan
- NIIPP and partners work with **Illinois Department of Transportation District 1** to coordinate chemical weed control along its rights of way bordering natural areas.
- NIIPP is working with **Union Pacific Railroad**, **Canadian National Railroad**, and **Burlington North Santa Fe Railway** to report and eradicate invasive plants on railroad rights of way.
- NIIPP has connected **ComEd** with two partners (Will County and Cook County FPDs) for future collaborative restoration work at nature preserves.
- NIIPP has connected **Burlington North Santa Fe Railway** and **Kane County FPD** to coordinate their control of Poison Hemlock in Burlington Prairie.
- NIIPP has asked **CN Railroad**, **IDOT District 1**, **Will County FPD**, and **USFS** to work together to control the Blue Globe Thistle problem in Will County.

Community Service

- November 29, 2010 Coordinated Greencorps Chicago-Calumet GPS unit training with Chicago Botanic Garden and FPDCC
- Drafted *Hydrilla* Management Plan for state of Illinois (in collaboration with Bob Kirschner, CBG and Mike Adam, LCHD)

- May 14, 2011 Chicago River Day, Glenview, IL- Garlic Mustard Pull
- Member, Alliance for the Great Lakes Habitat Assessment Technical Advisory Group
- Participant, Sustainable Landscaping Program meeting (Conservation@Home) for Libertyville Prairie Conservancy
- August 19, 2011 Workshop on resumes and job searches, Greencorps Chicago-Calumet

Information Access

- Creation of name and acronym for CWMA
- Design and development of website
- Creation of unique logo for NIIPP
- Creation of NIIPP brochures for general public, gardeners, and science audiences

Year	Source	Grant Amount	% funds for coordinator position, travel, equipment, etc. funded	% funding on-the-ground projects	Projects funded
2010/2011	USFS GLRI grant	\$96,240.60	89% (salary, fringe benefits, indirect, travel, laptop, back up hard drives, camera, projector)	11%	Small grants for on-the-ground control work; website design and execution; printing New Invaders Watch Program cards
2010/2012	IL-IN Sea Grant	\$127,576	22% (coordinator salary, fringe benefits and some travel)	78% - outreach only	Clean Boats, Clean Waters
2011/2012	USFS GLRI grant	\$50,000	50% funds coordinator salary, fringe benefits, and some travel	50%	Education and outreach; grants for on-the-ground control work
2011/2012	IDNR GLRI grant	\$110,000 (estimate)	13% (coordinator salary and fringe benefits)	55% -funds for planning, education and outreach	Statewide <i>Hydrilla</i> Management Plant
2011/12	Donnelley Foundation Grant (MIPN)	\$56,000	29.4% funds coordinator salary + travel	63% - outreach only	Green industry education and outreach