

What is CISMA?

A Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) is a partnership organization formed with the goal of managing invasive species across jurisdictional and landownership boundaries.

Why CCHIRP?

In April 2020, the Indiana Terrestrial Plant Rule, which bans anyone from selling, gifting, exchanging, distributing, transporting or introducing any of the 44 species listed in the rule without a permit, went into effect. Prior to, the Clark County SWCD, had identified invasive species as a critical area of natural resource concern in the County. With the institution of the Rule, the SWCD felt it was time to move forward with forming a CISMA to manage invasive species. Thus, "CCHIRP" (Clark County Harmful Invasives Removal Project) was born.

Can I be a part of CCHIRP?

Sure! We welcome all with an interest in our cause. CCHIRP meets on the first Monday of each month (holidays excluded) at 6 p.m. , on the Clark County 4-H Fairgrounds. Please contact the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office for meeting details and more information on CCHIRP:

(812) 256-2330, ext. 3
9608 Highway 62
Charlestown, IN 47111
www.clarkswcd.org
Find us on Facebook:
"Clark County Harmful Invasives Removal Project"



Natural Resources Conservation Service



Garlic Mustard

Burning Bush

Asian Bush Honeysuckle

Clark County Harmful Invasives Removal Project

Protecting Clark County's lands and waters by educating the public to identify, prevent, and control invasive species while promoting native species.



Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)

Native and Invasive plants— what's the difference?

A **native species** is a plant or animal that has evolved in a given place over a period of time sufficient to develop complex and essential relationships with the physical environment and other organisms in a given ecological community.

An **invasive plant** is any plant that is not native and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive plants decrease biodiversity, harm wildlife and reduce habitat for pollinators. (Pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, move pollen from flower to flower which results in successful seed and fruit production for plants.)

Why should I care about invasive plants?

Invasive species hurt wildlife by crowding out the native plants that our native animals need for food and cover. This reduces the number and variety of forest wildlife available for hunting and recreation. It can also make a nice stroll through fields and forests painful through a tangled thorny mess in areas invaded with certain types of invasive plants.

Most invasive shrubs and trees are little used by native insects. This reduces the habitat available for beneficial pollinators and predatory insects, as well as reducing the amount of food available for birds to feed their nestlings.

Invasive plants can become weedy in a home garden, crowding out other landscaping.

How did they get here?

Most of the invasive plants in Clark County were brought from Asia for landscaping purposes (think—the vibrant red Burning Bush, or the beautiful white flowers of the Callery (Bradford) Pear. They have since escaped cultivation from our yards and have spread into our forests and byways.

How can I help?

Provide better habitat for pollinators and wildlife by replacing invasive plants in your landscaping with native plants. It's that simple!

What is CCHIRP doing about it?

CCHIRP is providing resources to Clark County landowners to help them identify and manage invasive plants on their properties by:

- Offering a Tool Share Program
- Hosting invasive ID trainings and workshops to educate about invasives
- Providing FREE invasive plant surveys for all county landowners

We also conduct invasive control workdays annually at Charlestown State Park for the general public to participate in.