

What is an Invasive Species?

Invasive species are **non-native** and **cause harm** to the environment, human health, and the economy.

Invasive species in an ecosystem disrupt the complex and critical relationships that our native species have with their environment and other organisms. They are responsible for degrading and destroying thousands of acres of Indiana's native plant communities.

What is a Native Species?

A native species is an organism that occurs in its natural range where it has life supporting relationships with other organisms. For example, the Monarch Butterfly can only use the Milkweed plant as its host. Native plants are critical parts of food webs for our wildlife and pollinators -- native plants are the backbone of our ecosystems.

How You Can Help

Volunteer

Weed Wrangles are where a group of people come together on public property to remove invasive species. They are held across Bartholomew County throughout the year. They are hosted by many different organizations, but are open to the public! Follow our Facebook page for upcoming Weed Wrangles

Remove Invasives

You can remove invasives in your own backyard! To get started, head to the Landowner Toolkit Page: sicim.info/landowner-toolkit

Plant Native

Making a conscious choice to choose native plants over foreign cultivars can make a big difference in our ecosystem. Invasive plants are not a valuable source of food for wildlife. Native plants provide much more food for insects, birds, and other wildlife.



About the Blazing Stars Cisma

The Blazing Stars Cisma was formed in 2021. It is made up of concerned citizens, property owners, local citizen groups, representatives from city and county parks, and local government organizations. This partnership pulls together citizens of Bartholomew County in the fight against invasive species.



83% of invasive plants that are harming Indiana's naturally occurring green-spaces come from our own home landscapes

Resources

- www.sicim.info
- www.mipn.org
- www.indiananativeplants.org
- www.weedwrangle.org

Who We Are

What is a CISMA?

CISMAs are Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas. They are formed to collectively combat the problem of invasive species spreading across the landscape.

CISMAs are usually comprised of representatives from various governmental agencies, non-profits, and concerned citizens/citizen groups.

Mission

To partner with and educate the community members to manage invasive species for the improvement of Bartholomew County's natural habitat.

Vision

Celebrate the natural beauty of Bartholomew County through the inspiration of the community and instill in its members a drive to better their surrounding natural habitat.

Our Motto:
Get outside, be
inspired,
enjoy nature,
& have fun!



Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

Bartholomew County



Volunteer Opportunities/ More Information

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