



**Genesee Lapeer Livingston Shiawassee  
Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area**

KEEPING AN EYE ON INVASIVE SPECIES

## Strategic Management Plan

(updated December 2024)

### Mission Statement

The Genesee-Lapeer-Livingston-Shiawassee Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (GiLLS CISMA) serves to protect natural resources, the economy, and human health through collaborative outreach, education, community engagement, technical assistance, and management of invasive species.

### Geographic Scope

The service area of the GiLLS CISMA is defined as the four-county area of Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, and Shiawassee counties in southeast Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The combined population of this area is 756,790 (2020 census), covering 2,438.33 square miles. We aim to serve all members of our service area.

This area includes parts of the of the Flint, Shiawassee, and Huron River watersheds. The GiLLS area houses the urban landscape of Flint, abundant forested areas and parks systems, and acres of agricultural lands. The area has a diverse range of plants, wildlife, and habitats. Invasive species threaten to outcompete the diverse flora and fauna of our area, as well as impede recreational activities which can result in economic losses.

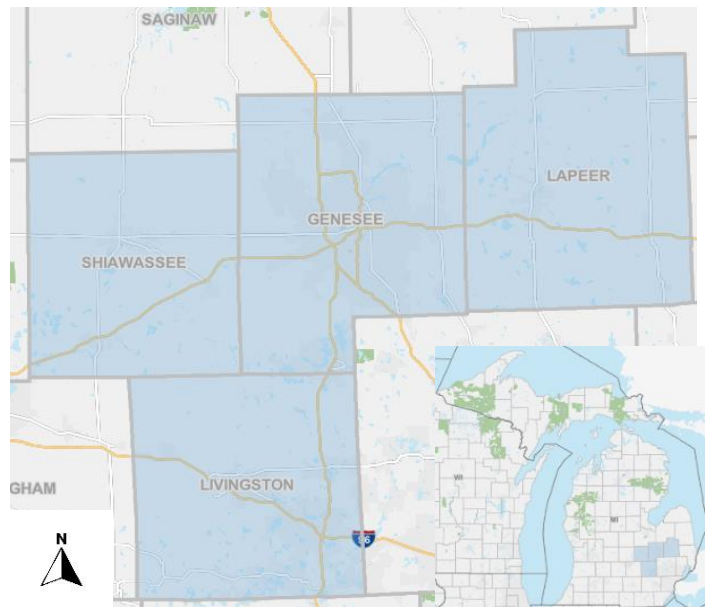


Figure 1. Map of the GiLLS CISMA service area

### Strategic Scope

The GiLLS CISMA works with partners to manage invasive species in the most efficient and effective manner. Our scope emphasizes education, outreach, management, and early detection and rapid response of invasive species. Place-based education, including identification of invasive species and how to report sightings, will be used to help encourage stewardship from our local communities and partners regarding invasive species management. We anticipate the

public to assist us in many aspects of invasive species management including reporting, surveying, and volunteering. We wish to form a mutually beneficial relationship with our collaborators, the public, and the environment in our efforts to manage invasive species. Our ultimate goal is to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in the GiLLS CISMA region by facilitating cooperative management among all willing stakeholders and landowners.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

*Coordinator* – The coordinator is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CISMA. Guided by the strategic plan and deliverables as required by grant funding, the coordinator is the face of the CISMA, connecting with the public and providing technical assistance and outreach.

*Fiduciary (Genesee Conservation District)* – Since GiLLS CISMA is not an independent entity but rather a collaborative, the fiduciary is responsible for housing and advising the coordinator, managing grants, and financial reporting, including administering the budget and providing reimbursements.

*Strike Team* – Under the primary direction of the coordinator and as funding/resources are available, a team will be assembled to assist in invasive species treatment/removal as guided by the goals of the strategic plan. Ideally, eradication of invasive species is the goal of the strike team, but opportunities for monitoring and research will also be valued.

*Leadership Team* - All counties are represented on the leadership team. The leadership team will meet quarterly to ensure quality progress is being made, deliverables are being met, and to discuss any new opportunities for the CISMA. Not responsible for day-to-day actions.

*Partners* – The success of the GiLLS CISMA relies on its collaboration with partners. Partners are agencies/individuals/businesses within the service area interested in collaborating for the control of invasive species. Partners allow us to expand our management practices, education, and advertising to different audiences and enable us to carry out our mission and objectives. Not responsible for day-to-day decisions.

## **Outcome Objectives and Strategies**

We will use the following strategies to achieve the desired outcomes aligned to our strategic scope and mission statement:

### *Objective 1: Promote and maintain the GiLLS CISMA*

- 1.1 Maintain CISMA webpage with up-to-date information
- 1.2 Develop social media campaigns
- 1.3 Coordinator will facilitate CISMA activities and organization
- 1.4 Hold leadership and partner meetings
- 1.5 Support partner capacity by leveraging their events to reach broader audiences
- 1.6 Provide administration and management of other CISMA or multi-CISMA projects

- 1.7 Create connections with partners and work to keep them engaged and supportive of the CISMA
- 1.8 Ensure that funding is available to carry out the mission of the CISMA

*Objective 2: Educate and inform the public*

- 2.1 Design educational materials and programs for the general public and classrooms
- 2.2 Hold outreach events including presentations, workshops, trainings, volunteer workdays, guided paddles, and boat launch landing blitzes throughout the community and in schools
- 2.3 Provide outreach through social and traditional media
- 2.4 Update or create new informational print materials (e.g., brochures, flyers, etc.)
- 2.5 Implement social media, webpage, and print materials for outreach and for partner use
- 2.6 Represent the CISMA via booths or displays at relevant events and conferences

*Objective 3: Support and implement invasive species management*

- 3.1 Provide site visits and management plans for landowners seeking assistance with invasive species
- 3.2 Support restoration efforts after invasive species removal (provide information about native species, best management practices, survey for invasive species etc.)
- 3.3 Collect and submit management data to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network
- 3.4 Assess and update management goals for CISMA priority species in area as needed
- 3.5 Prioritize surveys and management for specific species (Table 1) and priority areas including: high quality natural areas, multi-ecosystems, wetlands, open prairies, upland forest, protect properties, highly visible locations, high traffic areas, and areas with high cost-share potential.

*Objective 4: Serve as a regional hub for Go Beyond Beauty*

- 4.1 Promote the mission of Go Beyond Beauty
- 4.2 Recruit new businesses and individuals to join the program
- 4.3 Serve as a resource for businesses and individuals in the GiLLS service area

## **Performance Indicators**

Through grant funding, the GiLLS CISMA has an expected of a number of outreach efforts, acres surveyed/managed, events hosted, etc. Performance will be based on how those numbers are met, public interactions/perceptions, and partner engagement.

**Table 1. GiLLS CISMA Invasive Species Priority List**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Habitat</b>
<b>Tier 1: Early Detection and Rapid Response</b>		
Brazilian Elodea	<i>Egeria densa</i>	Aquatic
Cinnamon Vine	<i>Dioscorea polystacha</i>	Terrestrial
European Frogbit	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	Aquatic
Giant Hogweed*	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Terrestrial
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	Aquatic
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana var. lobate</i>	Terrestrial
Lyme Grass	<i>Leymus arinareus</i>	Terrestrial
Mile-a-minute Weed	<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	Terrestrial
Parrot Feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Aquatic
Red Swamp Crayfish*	<i>Procambus clarkii</i>	Aquatic
Spotted Lanternfly	<i>Lycorma delicatula</i>	Insect
Stiltgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Terrestrial
Water Hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Aquatic
Water Lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Aquatic
Yellow Floating Heart	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Aquatic
<b>Tier 2: Priority Species</b>		
Flowering Rush*	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Aquatic
Black and Pale Swallow-wort*	<i>Vinetoicum</i> spp.	Terrestrial
Knotweeds*	<i>Fallopia/Reynoutria/Polygonum</i> spp.	Terrestrial
Oak Wilt	<i>Ceratocytis fagacearum</i>	Terrestrial
Phragmites*	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Aquatic
Starry Stonewort*	<i>Nitellopis obtuse</i>	Aquatic
Tree of Heaven*	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Terrestrial
<b>Tier 3: Common for Landowner Education/Management</b>		
Autumn Olive*	<i>Elaeagnus</i> spp.	Terrestrial
Curly Pondweed*	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Aquatic
Eurasian Watermilfoil*	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Aquatic
Garlic Mustard*	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Terrestrial
Invasive Honeysuckles*	<i>Lonicera</i> spp.	Terrestrial
Invasive Buckthorns*	<i>Rhanmus</i> spp. and <i>Frangula</i> spp.	Terrestrial
Invasive Bittersweet*	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Terrestrial
Japanese Barberry*	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Terrestrial
Multiflora Rose*	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Terrestrial
Watercress*	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Aquatic
<b>Tier 4: Low Priority Education</b>		
Bittersweet Nightshade*	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Terrestrial
Bull Thistle*	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Terrestrial
Canada Thistle*	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Terrestrial
Cow Vetch*	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Terrestrial
Dame's Rocket*	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Terrestrial
Purple Loosestrife*	<i>Lythrum salicarium</i>	Aquatic
Spotted Knapweed*	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	Terrestrial

\*indicates presence in the GILLS CISMA area

## **Tier Justification**

*Tier 1:* Early Detection and Rapid Response Species. These species either have not been observed in the GILLS CISMA area or their observation has been limited to a few isolated occurrences.

*Tier 2:* These species are located in the GILLS CISMA area. They are a priority for our partners and are difficult for the general landowner to treat

*Tier 3:* These species are located in the GILLS CISMA. They are more of an education priority because they are abundant and the general landowner can treat them on their own.

*Tier 4:* These species are located in the GILLS CISMA.

## **List of Partners**

Clark's Greenhouse and Nursery

Friends of the Shiawassee River Trail

Genesee County Land Bank

Genesee County Parks

- Flint River Watershed Coalition
- For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum
- Keep Genesee County Beautiful

Livingston Land Conservancy

Livingston County Parks

Michigan State University Extension

Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy

Seven Ponds Nature Center

Sierra Club

*Interested in becoming a partner?* Email [molly.wozniak@macd.org](mailto:molly.wozniak@macd.org) with information about you/your organization and how it is impacted by invasive species.

## **Leadership Team**

Angela Warren, Genesee Conservation District

Patrick Scanlon, Genesee County Health Department

Katie Laur, Lapeer Conservation District

Sara Thomas, Livingston Land Conservancy

Barslund Judd, Michigan State University Extension

Melissa Higbee, Shiawassee Conservation District

The strategic plan is a living document and will be reviewed by the Coordinator and Leadership Team at least once a year or as needed.