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## **Invasive Species Treatment to Take Place in 2020/21**

Have you ever noticed ditches overflowing with plants, tall stems blocking your views at road stops, or your favorite forest trail being crowded out by bushes and trees? These issues are most often caused by invasive species. The Central Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CM-CISMA) has been an active cooperative for the past year and half; providing education and outreach to the public about invasive species awareness and management. CM-CISMA recently sought after additional funds to expand their efforts to include on-the-ground invasive species work, and was awarded a United States Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant (FS GLRI) of \$38,000.

The FS GLRI two-year grants were awarded to CISMAs proposing work that will impact the larger Great Lakes watershed; the CM-CISMAs main watershed of impact being the Saginaw Bay. The first year of grant work, scheduled to begin in September, will focus on surveying areas that CISMA partners have deemed a priority in the region and beneficial to the overall watershed. This project will cover sites found in Gladwin, Gratiot, and Midland Counties. Priority sites include places such as sections of the river, road right-of-ways, and public nature areas. Species being treated under this grant include: Phragmites, Japanese Knotweed, Garlic Mustard, Buckthorn and Autumn Olive, to name a few.

Active partners of the CM-CISMA involved in this grant including Chippewa Nature Center, Gladwin Conservation District, Gladwin County Road Commission, Midland County Road Commission (MCRC), and The Little Forks Conservancy, have indicated priority areas to be treated under this grant. These areas were picked due to safety concerns with visibility, clogged waterways, and native areas being lost to invasive species. “Due to devastating flooding, dam failures, and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, MCRC’s budget has been constricted resulting in cancellation of invasive spraying along road right-of-way this year,” said Ashley Rockefeller, GIS Technician, MCRC. “We are very appreciative the CM-CISMA has received funding through this grant because it allows much needed treatments in Midland County.”

The CM-CISMA is excited for this opportunity to advance its efforts to serve the region and will continue to search for more opportunities to expand in the future. “Education is an important part of invasive species management and has been the focus of this Cisma in its recent development,” said Megan Garrett, CM-CISMA Coordinator. “However, I am excited to expand our efforts and move forward with in the field work being done.”

For more information on this grant, visit [cmcisma.org](http://cmcisma.org) or contact CM-CISMA at 989-414-2237 or [coordinator@cmcisma.org](mailto:coordinator@cmcisma.org). Visit [cmcisma.org](http://cmcisma.org) and [facebook.com/cmcisma](https://facebook.com/cmcisma) to learn more about what we do and invasive species to lookout for in your area.

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The Central Michigan CISMA is a cooperative whose mission is to protect and improve the natural resources, economy, and human health in Central Michigan through collaborative outreach and management of invasive exotic species. We address questions and concerns from the public including plant ID and treatment options. The CM-CISMA coordinator is based at Chippewa Nature Center (400 S. Badour Rd, Midland, MI), and can be reached at 989-414-2237 or 989-631-0830 from 8 am - 5 pm Monday – Friday (hours subject to change). Learn more at [cmcisma.org](http://cmcisma.org). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.