

So Now What? A CWMA Four Years After Its Inception



Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area

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How we got started
It did not happen overnight

2003 – Local partners received funding from Chicago Wilderness (CW) to develop and implement a regional Early Detection and Rapid Response Program [New Invaders Watch Program (NIWP)] and to establish a pilot Cooperative Weed Management Area in Lake and McHenry Counties.

2008 – Chicago Wilderness Natural Resource Management Team expresses interest in establishing a CWMA in the Chicago region. In partnership with the Midwest Invasive Plant Network, local partners and CW host a workshop for over 65 organizations and agencies in the Chicago area to learn about CWMA's and discuss the merit of forming a regional CWMA in the Chicago Region.

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, Grundy County, IL



The saga continues . . .

2008/2009 – An ad hoc committee is formed to develop a model of how a CWMA in the Chicago region might be organized. Partners develop a long term work plan for the CWMA based on partner needs expressed in the workshop.

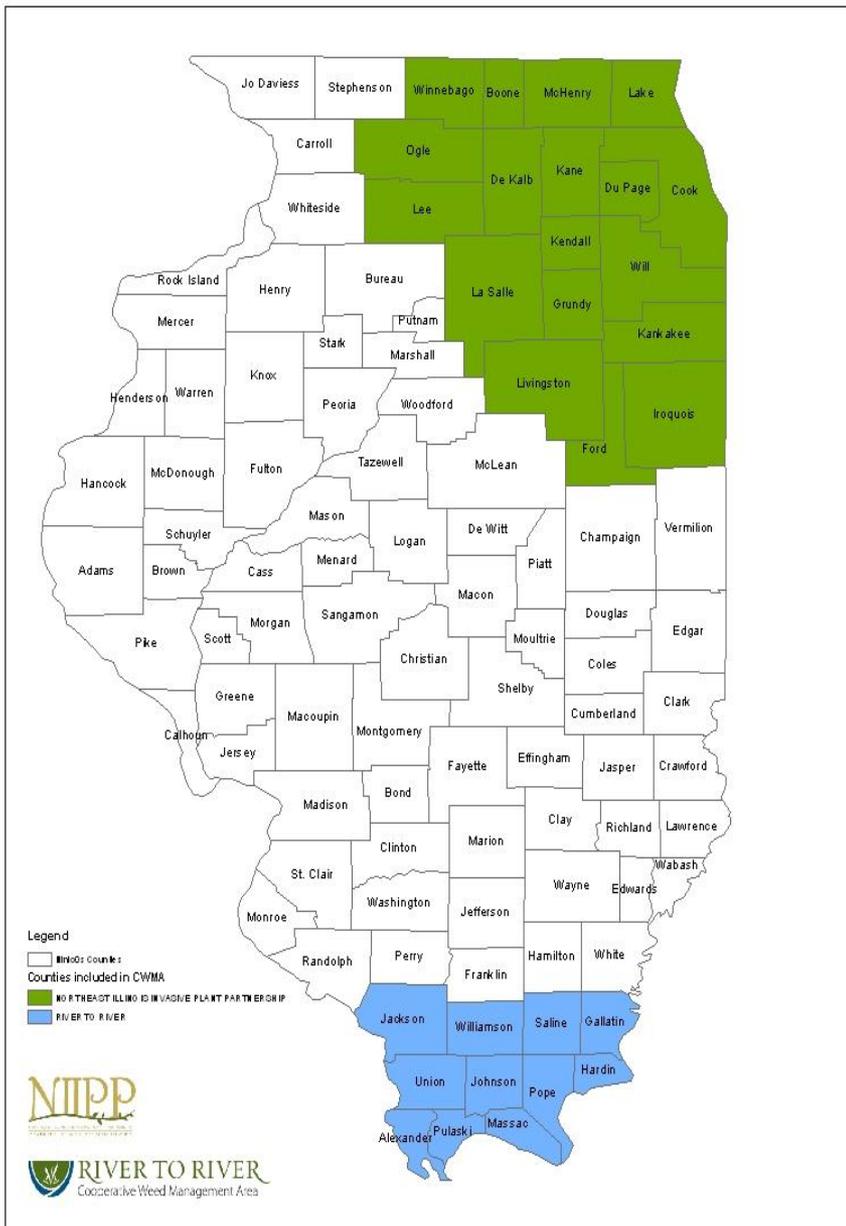
2010 – Chicago Wilderness receives \$96,000 of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funds from the US Forest Service to start up a CWMA in northeast Illinois, which includes the Lake Michigan watershed. Partners hire a regional Invasive Plant Management Coordinator and “NIIPP” is born.



Lake in the Hills Prairie, McHenry County, IL

Area covered by NIIPP

- 18 counties in northeast Illinois
- Also work with River to River CWMA, Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium and Indiana Coastal CWMA



Implementing the Forest Campaign Plan Using Cooperative Weed Management Areas

CWMA Geographic Coverage



Our Focus

Education and Outreach

- Prevention
- Early Detection and Rapid Response

Control

Regulation



Education and Outreach

Prevention:

- Green Industry Education and Outreach
- Clean Boats Crew

Early Detection/Rapid Response:

- Illinois Hydrilla Task Force
- New Invaders Watch Program



Prevention: Green Industry Education and Outreach

- Invasive Ornamental Plant Symposium 2013 (with MIPN)
- Collaboration with MIPN - Survey, Smartphone app, video
- Workshops and presentations for Garden Clubs, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists
- Tables at iLandscape and Chicago Flower & Garden Show



Prevention: Green Industry Education and Outreach



New Target Audience:

- Hispanic Community in Waukegan, IL
(45% of the population)
- bilingual educational materials

Funding: Audubon Toyota
TogetherGreen Fellowship

Future:

- Reach homeowners and gardeners throughout multiple counties
- Provide workshops for landscapers and garden centers



Prevention: Clean Boats Crew

- Collaboration with IL-IN Sea Grant
- Multiple counties in Illinois and Indiana



2011: 874 exposures

2012: 2,546 exposures

2013: 1,925 exposures

2014: 3,519 exposures

Funding: IDNR - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Convergence

Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act - Effective January 1, 2013

- Prohibits transport of aquatic plants and animals on recreational water vehicles and equipment
- Enforced by IDNR
- Fines involved



New Invaders Watch Program



www.newinvaders.org

- Website now linked with EDDMapS
- Provides list of priority populations and their control status (updated)
- List of target species updated twice

Illinois Hydrilla Hunt!

ILLINOIS' LEAST WANTED!

Hydrilla is a highly invasive aquatic plant that threatens the health of Illinois lakes and rivers as well as fishing, boating, and swimming. It's very easily confused with American elodea (a desirable native aquatic plant), as well as Brazilian elodea (another invasive aquatic plant). If you think you've seen hydrilla or Brazilian elodea, please take a picture and let us know right away—see the reverse side for contact information.

Hydrilla Hunt!
NIIPP.NET
Join the Search!

INVASIVE	NATIVE
 <p>HYDRILLA <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> INVASIVE</p> <p>a. whorls of more than 3 leaves b. leaves often have visibly toothed edges c. leaf vein often has small visible spines</p>	 <p>BRAZILIAN ELODEA <i>Elodea densa</i> INVASIVE</p> <p>a. whorls of more than 3 leaves b. leaves do not have visibly toothed edges c. leaf vein is smooth underneath</p>
 <p>AMERICAN ELODEA <i>Elodea canadensis</i> NATIVE</p> <p>a. whorls of exactly 3 leaves b. leaves do not have visibly toothed edges c. leaf vein is smooth underneath</p>	

UNWANTED! Hydrilla Hunt!

HYDRILLA COULD IMPACT YOU

Hydrilla is an invasive aquatic "superweed" that's been found recently in Indiana and Wisconsin. Our enjoyment of fishing, swimming, and boating will be dramatically affected if it gets into Illinois' lakes and rivers.

Hydrilla can grow an inch a day and produce a dense mat of stems on the water surface. Early detection of hydrilla could save Illinois millions of dollars in control costs.

 www.niipp.net/hydrilla

TAKE A HYDRILLA HUNT CARD!

Hydrilla is an invasive aquatic "superweed" that's been found recently in Indiana and Wisconsin. Our enjoyment of fishing, swimming, and boating will be dramatically affected if it gets into Illinois' lakes and rivers.

IDENTIFICATION
HYDRILLA VERTICILLATA

a. whorls of **more than 3** leaves
b. leaves often have **visibly toothed edges**
c. leaf vein often has **small visible spines**

Check the toothed edges of hydrilla leaves, as well as the shape of their stem-like leaves.

Take a Hydrilla Hunt! card and keep it handy as you enjoy Illinois' waterways. If you think you've found hydrilla, please let us know right away!

HydrillaHunt@niipp.net

UNWANTED:
Hydrilla

An invasive aquatic plant recently found in neighboring states, hydrilla could be very detrimental to Illinois fishing, boating and swimming along with waterfront property values. Early detection of hydrilla in Illinois could save millions of dollars in control costs.

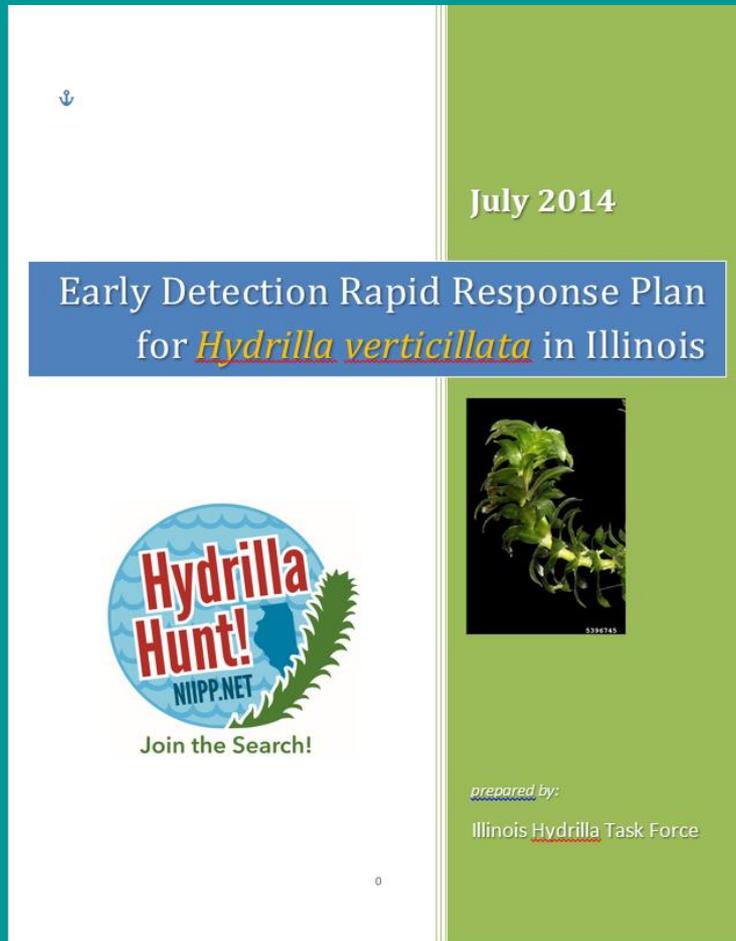
HELP IDENTIFY THIS PLANT EARLY ON WHEN POPULATIONS ARE STILL SMALL ENOUGH TO ERADICATE AND MANAGE.

Keep this card handy in your boat or tackle box and let us know right away if you think you've found hydrilla. To learn more about hydrilla and the Hydrilla Hunt! program, visit www.niipp.net/hydrilla

Hydrilla Hunt!
NIIPP.NET

- Statewide program with test run in NE Illinois
- Education and Outreach Materials
- Website and email reporting
- Collaboration: Public, nonprofit, and private sector
- Co-coordinators: Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake County Health Department, and NIIPP

Illinois *Hydrilla* Task Force: EDRR



- State wide Early Detection/Rapid Response Plan
- Memorandum of Understanding for Rapid Response Team
- Additional 12 Aquatic Invasive Plant fact sheets
- Collaboration: Public, nonprofit, and private sector
- Funding: GLRI (through IL DNR)

Small Grants



Flowering Rush control site (DuPage County, IL)

- Invasive plants treated throughout 731 acres
- **Species** – flowering rush, Callery pear, Asian bittersweet, brown knapweed, Amur cork tree, Giant hogweed, buckthorn, Amur honeysuckle
- **Habitats**- Wetlands, Woodlands, ROWs

Control: Strike Teams

- Continued control of stiltgrass in Will County
- Collaboration with Lake County Forest Preserve District for Lake Michigan Early Detection Strike Team
- 18 New Invaders in more than 400 populations across 5,400 acres
- Additional funding for other projects



Communities and Strike Teams

Japanese knotweed in the Village of Downers Grove

- 21 homeowners
- Village of Downers Grove
- Downers Grove Park District
- DuPage County FPD
- Downers Grove Sanitary District



Regulation



Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council

- Risk assessment and species proposal for regulation

Forming invasive ornamental plants subcommittee within steering committee

Have we made a difference?



Summary 2010-2014

- Workshops, presentations, exhibit tables: 136 reaching > 6,000 people
- Clean Boats Crew: > 8,964 exposures
- IL Hydrilla Hunt!: > 5,890 cards, 40 posters, 390 ID sheets; 9 negative reports
- Published articles, interviews, etc.: 107 with potential to reach more than 1 million people
- Control efforts by partners (yearly): > 5,000 acres

Thank you!

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