



Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (OC CISMA) 2019 Annual Report

Executive Summary

In 2019, the Oakland County CISMA reached hundreds of thousands of Oakland County residents to educate them about invasive species through television interviews, Facebook posts, newspaper articles and at public events and workshops. The Steering Committee met every month and partners were educated about invasive species such as destructive knotweeds, the effect of *Phragmites* on property values, invasive forest pests, and natural resource management as practiced in the Oak Openings and by CISMA partners. We held the first joint Oakland County CISMA and Lake St. Clair CISMA meeting with invited speaker Dr. Janice Gilbert about mechanical control of *Phragmites* through the cut and drown method.

Oakland County CISMA staff surveyed 1779 acres and discovered 278 occurrences of priority species including knotweed, swallow-wort and *Phragmites* (as well as 1700 occurrences of non-priority invasive species). Oakland County CISMA staff conducted surveys of 130 sites for emerging invasive European frog-bit in the Novi area, and discovered seven new locations with frog-bit. In addition, CISMA staff supported the efforts of Michigan DNR Fisheries Division by checking traps and removing red swamp crayfish from retention ponds.

During 2019, Six Rivers Land Conservancy, on behalf of the Oakland County CISMA held four grants from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program—IS17-1106 funding the Director's position through June 2019, IS18-6006 funding the Director's position beginning in July 2019, and IS17-1209 funding Technician Emily Messick's position. In addition, the Oakland County and Lake St. Clair CISMAs received a joint Clean Boats Clean Waters grant to hold boat washes and a paddling event in partnership with the Clinton River Watershed Council. The Road Commission for Oakland County provided nearly \$50,000 for treatment of non-native *Phragmites* along county roads, with many municipalities matching their local costs as two contractors treated over 64 miles of right-of-ways.

Six Rivers Land Conservancy continues to serve as fiduciary for the Oakland County CISMA. In July 2019, Erica Clites was promoted to Oakland County CISMA Director. There were 44 CISMA member organizations and four active subcommittees at the end of 2019.

Steering Committee Meetings

Twelve Steering Committee meetings took place during 2019. Special guest speakers included:

- Dr. Janice Gilbert from the *Phragmites* Control Centre
- Margaret O'Connor and Lauren Royston from Consumers Energy



- Dr. Erik Nordmann from Grand Valley State University and Shaun Howard from The Nature Conservancy on the impact of *Phragmites* removal on property values
- Hannah Hudson of KnowKnotweed.org on destructive invasive knotweeds
- Ashlee Decker of The Nature Conservancy on protecting the Lakeplain Prairie Oak Openings
- Dr. Phyllis Higman from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory on moving beyond a shotgun approach to manage invasive species
- Dr. Marianna Szucs from Michigan State University on biological control for swallow-wort and knotweed
- James Wieferich from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on invasive forest pests

In addition, CISMA members presented education sessions on the Oakland Township Phragmites Outreach Program (Ben VanderWeide, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation), Small-scale restoration techniques at Oakland County Parks and Recreation (Kegan Schildberg, Oakland County Parks and Recreation) and Buckthorn removals at Rotary Park, Novi (Rick Meader, City of Novi).

Invasive Species Survey and Treatment

Oakland County CISMA staff and interns surveyed 680 miles (1650 acres) of RCOC ROWs including the entire southeastern part of the county (Lyon Township through Troy), Addison, Oxford and Rose townships as well as Rochester and Rochester Hills. This was the first survey of much of the southern portion of the county. OC CISMA Technician Emily Messick and intern Maddy Porter also completed 15 miles of priority invasive species surveys along the Paint Creek Trail and Clinton River Trail (18 acres) and 22 miles of surveys along the Polly Ann Trail (27 acres). Messick gave a formal presentation to the Polly Ann Trail board on survey results and suggestions for next steps. CISMA staff recorded survey data on the CISMA ArcGIS online survey layers.

Messick and Ryan Dividock added additional survey data to the ArcGIS online Survey_Pt layer including boat launch survey data collected by the Clinton River Watershed Council in 2018 and 2019, data from the 2018 CLMP lake surveys in Oakland County, and MISIN points for CISMA priority species from trusted sources or from public sources verified by CISMA staff. This was over 1000 total survey points, which is starting to give us a much better view of where invasive species are concentrated in Oakland County.

Invasive species treatment included continued right-of-way treatments for *Phragmites*, as well as demonstration projects funded by the Tier 2 project to treat swallow-wort, knotweed, *Phragmites* and European frog-bit. Six Rivers Land Conservancy (SRLC) staff renewed their county-wide Aquatic Nuisance Control Certificate of Coverage (ANC COC) and National Pollution Discharge



Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the term 2019 to 2020 from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (now Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, EGLE), with renewal possible for one subsequent year. Clites requested Cisma demonstration projects as well as some partner projects be added to our pesticide permit as needed prior to the start of work.

Clites held pre-treatment meetings with all treatment contractors, during which the delivery of treatment data via ArcGIS online and policies and procedures were discussed. Contractors were given a copy of the Oakland County Cisma/Six Rivers Land Conservancy policies for adverse incidents, spill response, etc. and signed their acknowledgement of these policies. The 2019 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) permits treatment reports were successfully submitted to EGLE before the November 30 deadline.

Phragmites treatment along county road rights-of-ways

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) provided \$50,000 for treatment of *Phragmites* in county road rights-of-way (ROW). Local cities, villages, and townships (CVTs) provided 50% match of RCOC funds whenever possible, bringing total potential treatment funding to \$69,127.35. Erica Clites managed the ROW contract on behalf of the Cisma. RCOC handled questions and complaints from county residents through their customer service department. OC Cisma posted a legal notice of the upcoming ROW treatment in the Oakland Press, as required. Many municipalities also included a notice about the road right-of-way treatments in their newsletters or on social media.

Clites solicited and received bids from current county contractors, contracts were reviewed and signed by Six Rivers, and fall treatments were completed along county ROWs across Oakland County. PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. performed ROW treatments in Addison, Brandon, Commerce, Groveland, Milford and Oakland townships, as well as in Walled Lake, Wixom and the villages of Leonard, Milford, and Ortonville. Orion Township had a separate contract in place with PLM and Six Rivers reimbursed 50% of their costs from RCOC money. Four days of treatment (9/25-9/27, 9/30) totaled 67 acres of *Phragmites* controlled along county primary, local and natural beauty road ways.

Cardno Inc. performed ROW treatments in Highland, Holly, Independence, Oxford, Rose, Waterford, West Bloomfield and White Lake townships as well as in Auburn Hills, Village of Holly, Lake Angelus, Orchard Lake Village, Pontiac, and Clarkston. Survey data revealed that *Phragmites* had been eliminated from Keego Harbor, the village of Oxford and Sylvan Lake and treatments were not performed there. Treatments are also not needed in the village of Ortonville or the village of Milford in future years. Seven days of treatment (10/3-10/4 and 10/7-10/11) totaled 126 acres of *Phragmites* controlled along road ways.



GEI Consultants performed ROW treatments in Bloomfield, Lyon and Springfield townships, as well as the cities of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Madison Heights, Novi, Rochester, Rochester Hills, South Lyon, Southfield and Troy as well as the villages of Beverly Hills and Franklin. Surveys revealed that *Phragmites* was not present on RCOC roads in the remainder of Oakland County communities. Five days of treatment (9/17-9/20, 10/1) totaled 25 acres of *Phragmites* controlled along road ways. Contractors delivered data as polygons in ArcGIS online, which will all be added the CISMA_ChemicalControl layer. Acre estimates provided here were derived from ArcGIS online layers.

Contractors treated over 64 linear miles of county road right-of-ways to control *Phragmites*. This represented 100% of *Phragmites* infestations currently mapped in county road right of ways.

Demonstration treatment projects

The Tier 2 MISGP grant funded treatment of CISMA priority species at demonstration projects at locations with high visibility or high quality natural areas. CISMA partners nominated six locations, and five of the projects were chosen for treatment. Erica Clites bid out the projects in two separate bid requests. PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. was chosen to complete the treatments. Clites conducted field visits with project partners and chosen contractors prior to each treatment. PLM treated swallow-wort at Lost Lake Preserve owned by Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and on a property managed by the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy. PLM treated knotweed in City of Novi-owned Rotary Park along a tributary of the Rouge River. PLM treated *Phragmites* at Orion Township's Friendship Park, as well as at Oakland University. Several other potential projects were identified but either the landowners were not currently interested or did not have a way to continue the work in future years.

Oakland County CISMA has contracted PLM to treat one site with European frog-bit across the road from Island Lake. Messick and intern Maddy Porter kayaked around Island Lake and did not find European frog-bit. In consultation with EGLE, Oakland County CISMA decided to do a chemical treatment of a retention pond on the Island Lake of Novi Community property in order to try to prevent the spread of European frog-bit to nearby Island Lake. Clites and Messick took monitoring photos before and after treatment so that treatment effectiveness could be measured using the model set-up by the Central Michigan University-led European Frog-bit Collaborative.

In total, Messick and interns surveyed 92 acres of trails for *Phragmites* and other priority species (knotweed, swallow-wort) and contractors treated 221.5 acres of *Phragmites* along with 2 acres of swallow-wort, 2 acres of knotweed (through partial funding from the City of Novi) and 0.5 acres of European frog-bit under the CISMA permit in 2019. This included private land projects in Groveland Township that Oakland County CISMA agreed to support. Oakland County CISMA also hosted a woody invasive species control workday for CISMA partners, which involved upland removals and treatment of autumn olive.



Public Education and Outreach

The Oakland County CISMA hosted six public events in 2019. These included:

- New Zealand mud snail lecture; co-hosted by Oakland Township Parks and Recreation; January 17; 14 attendees
- Spring Invasive Species Summit; March 23; 120 attendees; see paragraph below.
- Maceday Lake boat wash; co-hosted with CRWC and MSU boat wash crew; July 19; 5 contacts; 1 boat washed.
- Oak wilt lecture by Julie Stachecki and field trip; co-sponsored by Oakland County Parks and Recreation and Springfield Township; August 6; 12 attendees
- Lake Oakland boat wash; co-hosted with CRWC and MSU boat wash crew; August 10; 15 contacts; 7 boats washed
- Invasive Species Paddling event; co-hosted by the Clinton River Watershed Council and the Lake St. Clair CISMA; August 15; 25 attendees; 9 kayaks washed

The Oakland County CISMA held the Spring Invasive Species Summit on Saturday March 23 from 1-4pm at the Waterford Oaks Activity Center in Waterford. Over 120 people attended the event, which included talks by: Erica Clites, Lucas Nathan (DNR Fisheries Division), Tom Alwin (MDEQ), Phillip Kurzeja (American Arbor), Emily DuThinh (North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy), and Jared Aslakson (PlantWise). There were also vendor and partner tables available for people to ask their invasive species questions. Oakland County Parks and Recreation allowed the Summit to take place in their facility without charging the standard rental fee. Tier 2 funding provided food for the event. CISMA volunteers helped staff the event. Most of the people who attended the event were new to the CISMA and several Summit attendees came to subsequent CISMA events later in 2019.

Oakland County CISMA speakers also presented to the following groups (all presentations by Erica Clites unless otherwise indicated):

- Livonia Garden Club meeting; March 5; 25 attendees (Emily DuThinh presented)
- Trails, Water and Land Alliance meeting; April 25; Waterford; 24 attendees
- Lake Louise and Lake Huff Homeowner's Association; May 23; 22 attendees
- Waterford Lakes Association; presented with CRWC; May 28; Waterford; 18 attendees
- Troy City Council meeting; June 17; est. 30 attendees
- Auburn Hills City Council meeting; July 15; est. 30 attendees
- Invasive Species in Your Backyard; July 18; Novi; 5 attendees
- Rochester City Council meeting; July 22; 15 attendees
- SEMCOG University: Invasive Species July 24; Detroit; 27 attendees
- MI Paddle Stewards training; August 11; Mt. Clemens; 20 attendees
- Polly Ann Trail Board September 18; 15 attendees (Emily Messick presented)
- Cultivate Novi; October 12; 25 attendees



- Lake Orion Village Council meeting; October 14; est. 20 attendees

Outreach tabling was conducted at:

- Fiat Chrysler Earth Day event; April 17; Auburn Hills; est. 50 contacts
- Detroit Zoo GreenFest; April 27; Royal Oak; est. 15 contacts
- Clinton River Watershed Council Native Plant Sale; June 8; Rochester Hills; est. 10 contacts
- South Lyon Garden Festival; July 12; est. 10 contacts
- South Lyon Farmer's Market; July 27; est. 15 contacts
- Cultivate Novi; October 12; see statistics above.

Oakland County CISMA purchased additional outreach supplies including a CISMA logo-imprinted tablecloth to use at future events. Clites updated the Oakland County CISMA brochure several times as needed. Clites set-up a CISMA friends email list and distributed messages there about upcoming events.

Media coverage (video)

- WXYZ reporter Matthew Smith interviewed Erica Clites about the county road right-of-way *Phragmites* treatments. This story reached 45,000 households on TV, there were 17,000 WXYZ webpage views and 60,000 people were reached via WXYZ on Facebook.
- The Michigan Wildlife Council also arranged for a [video interview](#) with Clites at some of the Novi retention ponds with frog-bit.

Other outreach videos

- Oakland County CISMA interns Matt Pudlo and Sarah Kowalewski produced a [short video](#) about frog-bit survey work that was added to the CISMA YouTube page.
- A SEMCOG-produced [video](#) on *Phragmites* was released and shared via our Facebook page.
- The March Invasive Species Summit and a Steering Committee presentation by Marianna Szücs were recorded by local TV stations (Independence TV and the Walled Lake School District) and made available via links on the CISMA website.

Media coverage (newspaper)

All links to newspaper articles are found on the Oakland County CISMA website:

<https://oaklandinvasivespecies.org/news-and-events/>



Date	News outlet	Topic	Circulation
January 9	Rochester Media	New MISGP grant	Unknown
March 6	C & G Newspapers (Birmingham Bloomfield Eagle, Farmington Press, Madison Park News, Royal Oak Review, Shelby Utica News, Southfield Sun, Sterling Heights Sentry, Troy Times, West Bloomfield Beacon)	Spring Invasive Species Summit; impact of <i>Phragmites</i> on home values	293,049
July 29	West Bloomfield Beacon	Oakland County Commissioners Invasive Species Special Committee	27, 232
August 15	Spinal Column	Interview with Director Erica Clites	51,516
September 7	Detroit News	MISGP StoryMap	unknown
September 18	C & G Newspapers (Farmington Press, Southfield Sun, Troy Times); Rochester Post	<i>Phragmites</i> control along road ways	142,109
TOTAL			513,906

Clites wrote and sent out a press release about the discovery of European frog-bit in Oakland County with input from EGLE. Unfortunately, no news outlets picked up the story. We did discover one additional EFB infestation from someone who saw the email with the press release.

Partner statistics

In addition to these efforts, many CISMA partner organizations shared our Facebook posts, added invasive species content on their webpages, included invasive species content in their newsletters, got articles included in their local paper, led hikes with focus on invasive species, completed invasive species surveys, removal and control, distributed brochures from their offices and many other efforts! We appreciate everyone's dedication to spreading the message!

Oakland County CISMA website

In February 2019, a new CISMA webpage was added to the Six Rivers Land Conservancy webpage (<https://www.sixriversrlc.org/oakland-county-cisma>). Though it was only one page, it included



upcoming events, links to published articles and general information about the CISMA. 1,628 people viewed this webpage in 2019.

In October 2019, Oakland County CISMA launched a new standalone webpage (<https://oaklandinvasivespecies.org/>). Intern Maddy Porter did the initial design, with Clites and Emily Messick editing the pages and adding additional content. The Education and Outreach subcommittee created a survey that was shared with partners. Oakland County CISMA staff will continue to work on incorporating feedback received in 2020. 1,198 visitors viewed the webpage in 2019.

Oakland County CISMA Facebook page

In 2019, 104 Facebook posts reached 39,904 people! This is a large increase over 2018, when 24 posts reached 1,826 people. The posts with the highest number of impressions discussed: spring knotweed emergence (5,003), alert about European frog-bit (3,466), cow parsnip/giant hogweed ID (1,426), Japanese knotweed flowering (8,578), ROW Phragmites control video from WXYZ (2,096), Japanese knotweed and pokeweed ID (1,079), and Are these in your yard--4 priority species flyer (1,339). Most of the reach was through CISMA partners and others sharing our posts. In addition, ten event pages were created or shared on Facebook to promote CISMA activities. The event pages reached 22,590 people, or 17,790 if restricted to Oakland County CISMA created event pages only (Oakland County CISMA was a co-host of two city of Novi events). Most event postings reached at least 1000 people. The total reach from our Facebook page in 2019 was 57,694 impressions! The OC CISMA Facebook page had 258 followers as of 12/31/2019.

Planning took place for the Second Annual Spring Invasive Species Summit, which will be held again at the Waterford Oaks Activity Center in March 2020.

Early Detection and Response (EDR)

In 2019, the Oakland County CISMA expanded European frog-bit surveys in the Novi, MI area. Erica Clites spoke to the Three Shores CISMA (Nick Cassel) and West Michigan CISMA (Drew Rayner) coordinators, as well as having frequent meetings with Bill Keiper and Tom Alwin from EGLE. Using the identified water bodies near the known infestations, Oakland County CISMA designed and sent letters to private homeowners and business owners requesting permission to survey for frog-bit on their properties. In addition, follow-up phone calls and door knocking took place in priority areas where permission was not received. Two interns were hired from Oakland University (Sarah Kowalewski and Matt Pudlo) to assist with surveys. Oakland County CISMA staff and interns conducted surveys of 130 sites for European frog-bit in the Novi area, discovering seven new locations with frog-bit. This brings the total number of small water bodies with frog-bit to 16.



In partnership with Walled Lake School District, we tried to do some frog-bit monitoring using a drone. The drone was very efficient in terms of time, but the resolution on the video was not high enough for a positive identification. Oakland County CISMA also supported the European Frog-bit Collaborative, organized by Central Michigan University, by completing monthly phenology monitoring of selected frog-bit locations. Oakland County CISMA also followed up on reports received from the public through MISIN or by email reporting suspected frog-bit. All survey data was added to the ArcGIS online Survey_Pt layer.

In April 2019, Erica Clites and Emily Messick participated in a New Zealand mud snail training (including a field demonstration of sample collection). Later that year, samples were collected in Oakland County to check for mud snail eDNA. In May 2019, Erica Clites and Emily Messick participated in an invasive crayfish training session in Lansing. Over the summer and early fall, Oakland County CISMA assisted Michigan State University and Michigan DNR Fisheries Division with checking red swamp crayfish traps in retention ponds and removing the red swamp crayfish present. Oakland County CISMA staff follow-up on crayfish reports received from the public as well. In June 2019, Erica Clites and Emily Messick participated in Japanese stiltgrass training in Ann Arbor, MI where identification as well as different control and survey methods were discussed.

Staff and interns from the Clinton River Watershed Council re-surveyed all public boat launches in the Clinton River Watershed (37 acres) as part of their grant obligation for Tier 2, discovering five launches with priority invasive species including *Phragmites* and flowering rush (Cass Lake, Shoe Lake, Mace Day Lake and Orchard Lake) and knotweed (Prince Lake).

Erica Clites continues to receive and review MISIN and iNaturalist reports received from Oakland County and follow up on any reports that may be watch list species. We added a watch list minute feature to Steering Committee meetings to ensure partners can spot watch list species. Species covered in 2019 by Emily Messick included: red swamp crayfish, New Zealand mud snails and Chinese yam.

Funding / Revenue

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program

An extension request was received for the 2017 MISGP Tier 1 grant (IS17-1106 funding for the Coordinator's position), extending the deadline from April 30, 2019 to June 30, 2019. This grant was successfully closed out with all funds spent. We received the next grant for the Coordinator's position (IS18-6006) in early 2019 and began spending July 1, 2019. Generally, Oakland County CISMA, through SRLC, requests reimbursements from the state of Michigan every three to four months. Finally, it was announced in December 2019 that another grant for the Coordinator's position had been received (IS19-7008).



Spending on the 2017 MISGP Tier 2 grant (IS17-1209 for implementation of the Strategic Plan) grant increased after Emily Messick was hired in March 2019. We requested and received an extension through December 31, 2020 for this grant. The extension will allow another year of demonstration project treatment, as well as time to spend out the Technician's salary allotment.

The Oakland County and Lake St. Clair CISMAs submitted a joint request with the Clinton River Watershed Council for Clean Boats, Clean Waters funding through MISGP to support two additional boat washes and one paddling event. This grant was received (IS18-7002) and all events were successfully completed.

Additional Funding

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) provided just under \$50,000 for treatment of *Phragmites* in county road rights-of-way (ROW). Local cities, villages, and townships (CVTs) provided 50% match of RCOC whenever possible, bringing total treatment funding to \$69,127.35.

During the January 2019 Steering Committee meeting, OC Cisma members approved a voluntary Cisma membership contribution for 2019 of \$250 to support operating expenses not covered by the current MISGP grants. In 2019, \$3750 in operating contributions were received from 14 municipalities. These funds were used for speaker mileage and honorarium (Janice Gilbert, Hannah Hudson, Phillip Kurzeja). The funds also covered professional development for Erica Clites (attendance at Stewardship Network conference) and travel and supply expenses beginning in July 2019 after MISGP funds had been exhausted. Additional funds were received from Springfield Township and Oakland County Parks and Recreation to host another oak wilt lecture and field trip with Julie Stachecki (August 2019). Three contractors participated in the Spring Invasive Summit and provided \$100 each for the table.

Future funding

Additional funding continues to be sought from the Oakland County Commissioners to fund the Coordinator's salary, mileage, printing and other costs. This administrative base funding, if received, would allow us to use MISGP funding for the Oakland County Cisma Technician, making both positions permanent and full-time. It was also announced in December 2019 that the Oakland County Cisma's proposal with three local watershed councils (Friends of the Rouge, Huron River Watershed Council, Clinton River Watershed Council) to survey over 800 additional sites in southwestern Oakland County for European frog-bit was funded for \$145,200! This project will begin in 2020.

Organizational Structure and Function

Six Rivers Land Conservancy (SRLC) continued to serve as fiduciary for the Oakland County and Lake St. Clair CISMAs in order to advance their overall conservation mission. SRLC holds the MISGP grants on behalf of Oakland County Cisma, employs Cisma staff, holds required permits



and receives and pays out funds as appropriate. SRLC maintains a separate banking account for CISMA funding and maintains invoices and payment records in QuickBooks.

Erica Clites transitioned to Director of the Oakland County CISMA in July 2019. Emily Messick began as the part-time CISMA Technician (30 hours/week) March 13 2019.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation continued to generously offer the CISMA Coordinator and Technician housing at their administrative headquarters at 2800 Watkins Lake Road in Waterford Township. Providing offices for CISMA staff continues to be used as match funds for the IS17-1209 grant.



2019 CISMA Executive Committee Members

Executive Committee Chair: David Scott, Supervisor, Commerce Township

Executive Committee Vice Chair: Sarah Cook-Maylen, Natural Resources Coordinator, Oakland County Parks and Recreation; (Feb. – April) Ben VanderWeide, Natural Areas Stewardship Manager, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

Oakland County CISMA Secretary: Leslie Clark, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Keego Harbor

Executive Committee Member-at-Large: Amy Hillman, Assistant Supervisor, Holly Township

Executive Committee Member-at-Large: Emily DuThinh, Board President, North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy

Oakland County CISMA Data Management Subcommittee Members

Erica Clites, Oakland County CISMA; Chair

Ryan Dividock, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development

Erin Lavender, Oakland County Parks and Recreation

Emily Messick, Oakland County CISMA

Oakland County CISMA Education/Outreach Subcommittee Members

Amy Hillman, Holly Township; Chair

Erica Clites, Oakland County CISMA

Ryan Dividock, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development

Emily DuThinh, North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy

Alicia Digirolamo, Groveland Township

Oakland County CISMA Summit Planning Subcommittee Members

Erica Clites, Oakland County CISMA; co-Chair

Emily Messick, Oakland County CISMA; co-Chair

Eric Diesing, Clinton River Watershed Council

Ryan Dividock, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development

Ben VanderWeide, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation



Oakland County CISMA Members as of 12/31/2019

Addison Township
Village of Beverly Hills
Charter Township of Bloomfield
City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation
Charter Township of Brandon
City of Village of Clarkston
Township of Commerce
City of Farmington Hills
Township of Groveland
Township of Holly
Charter Township of Highland
Charter Township of Independence
City of Keego Harbor
Charter Township of Milford
Village of Milford
City of Novi
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission
Charter Township of Orion
Village of Ortonville
Charter Township of Oxford
City of Rochester
City of Rochester Hills
Rose Township
Charter Township of Springfield
Charter Township of Waterford
West Bloomfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission
Charter Township of White Lake
City of Wixom
Village of Wolverine Lake
Total Cities, Village and Townships (CVTs): 29

Oakland County Conservation District
Oakland County Economic Development and Community Affairs (EDCA)
Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission
Oakland County Water Resources Commission
Road Commission for Oakland County
Total Oakland County organizations: 5

Clinton River Watershed Council



Friends of the Rouge
Huron River Watershed Council
Michigan Nature Association
North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy
Oakland University
Royal Oak Nature Society
Six Rivers Land Conservancy, Highland Chapter
Six Rivers Land Conservancy
Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
Total Non-profit partners: 10

Total Oakland County CISMA partners: 44



2019 Oakland County CISMA projects list

Survey projects

- Surveyed 680 miles of RCOC right-of-ways to map priority species.
- Surveyed 22.3 miles of Polly Ann Trail for priority and other invasive species.
- Surveyed 15.6 miles of Paint Creek/Clinton River trails for invasive species.
- Met with Auburn Hills (twice), Holly Township, Pontiac, Rochester and Wolverine Lake officials to consult on invasive species control.
- Clinton River Watershed Council (a CISMA partner) conducted surveys of all public boat launches in the Clinton River watershed for invasive species.
- Surveyed 130 sites in the city of Novi and surrounding areas for emerging aquatic invasive European frog-bit.
- Surveyed 1.5 miles of the Clinton River for aquatic invasive European water clover.
- Attended training on watch-list and other emerging invasive species.

Manage invasive species treatment projects

- Awarded bid and managed contract to treat 64 miles of *Phragmites* along county ROWs.
- Awarded bid and managed demonstration treatment projects, including two swallow-wort sites, two *Phragmites* sites, 1 European frog-bit site and 1 knotweed site.
- Managed private land *Phragmites* treatments in Groveland Township.
- Coordinated permit requirements with contractors, partner landowners.
- Staff member became certified as Michigan Pesticide Applicator.
- Researched best management practices for invasive species, and attended training on new species.
- Assisted with red swamp crayfish removal.

Grant writing/management

- Received \$5200 for Clean Boats Clean Waters proposal (with Lake St. Clair CISMA).
- Wrote/coordinated two Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP) proposals, which will bring in \$205,200 to Oakland County in 2020-2021!
- Requested nominations of grant-funded treatment sites from CISMA partners.
- Submitted reimbursement requests to MISGP.
- Wrote and submitted progress reports to MISGP.
- Participated in webinars and training about invasive species funding sources.
- Managed internal CISMA communication including sending emails, providing progress reports, meeting with CISMA Executive Committee.



Outreach/education **Answer public inquiries:**

- Responded to at least 70 landowner/business owner inquiries about treatment of invasive species via phone, email or Facebook message.
- Conducted 21 site visits to private land at the request of landowners.
- Advised Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest on invasive species projects.

Create and share outreach materials:

- Composed and shared 104 posts on Facebook, reaching over 57,000 people!
- Launched and maintained a new CISMA website: <https://oaklandinvasivespecies.org/>
- Created and updated invasive species brochures and fact sheets.
- Installed/distributed CleanDrainDry signs and decontamination kits for boaters/paddlers.

Press: Interviewed for WXYZ story on roadside Phragmites treatment, reached 122,000 people!

- Articles were published in the Detroit News, Spinal Column (51k), Rochester Post (40k), Birmingham Bloomfield Eagle (33k), Farmington Press (2x; 38k), Madison Park News (19k), Royal Oak Review (32k), Southfield Sun (2x; 32k), Sterling Heights Sentry (48k), Troy Times (2x; 31k), and West Bloomfield Beacon (2x; 27k).

Provide presentations/training:

- Hosted First Annual Spring Invasive Species Summit, a free, half-day educational event with over 100 attendees! Planning is well underway for the 2020 Summit.
- An additional 100 people attended other CISMA events (boat washes, paddling events, oak wilt workshop, New Zealand mud snail lecture, woody invasive removal workshop).
- Presented about Oakland County CISMA/invasives to local groups including: Trails, Water and Land Alliance (TWLA), SEMCOG University, Polly Ann Trail board, MI Paddle Stewards training, Waterford Lakes Association, Lake Louise and Huff HOA; city of Novi residents (twice); Troy, Auburn Hills, Lake Orion and Rochester councils. Tabled at events at Detroit Zoo (Royal Oak), Fiat Chrysler (Auburn Hills), Clinton River Watershed Council (Rochester) and in Novi, South Lyon and Waterford Township (DNR launches).
- Organized professional development presentations to Oakland County CISMA partners:
 - Dr. Janice Gilbert, Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (Ontario)
 - Dr. Erik Nordmann (Grand Valley State University) and Shaun Howard (The Nature Conservancy, TNC) on impact of *Phragmites* removal on property values
 - Hannah Hudson of KnowKnotweed.org on destructive invasive knotweeds
 - Ashlee Decker (TNC) on protecting the Lakeplain Prairie Oak Openings
 - Dr. Phyllis Higman (Michigan Natural Features Inventory)
 - Dr. Marianna Szücs (Michigan State University) on invasive biological control
 - James Wieferich (MI Department of Natural Resources) on invasive forest pests



Regional coordination

- Managed external communication with appropriate agencies (MDNR, EGLE, SEMCOG, Michigan Invasive Species Coalition etc.).
- Met with MDOT/RCOC on invasive species survey, treatment and native seeding.
- Met with Oakland University professors on various invasive species issues.
- Ensured messaging campaigns such as Don't Move Firewood, Play Clean Go and RIPPLE are represented in Oakland County.
- Presented to the Invasive Species Prevention Special Committee.
- Recruited ten new CISMA partners. Helped orient and support new and existing partners.

Oakland County CISMA invasive species map (available in ArcGIS online)

- Provided training to partners on use of ArcGIS online map layers.
- Added 1000 points of invasive species data from other sources (Midwest Invasive Species Information Network-MISIN, Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program).
- Standardized survey and treatment data submitted. Shared data with MISIN.