



Oak openings CWMA coordinator and a volunteer record the occurrence of an invasive species at Kitty Todd Preserve. Photo Credit: The Nature Conservancy

New Tool Aids Early Non-Native Species Detection

In 2022, through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Oak Openings Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) in northwest Ohio demonstrated the benefit of using a tool to quickly survey and map emerging terrestrial non-native invasive plant species as part of an early detection. This project assessed impacts of high priority non-native plants, developed best management practices for control of invasive species, and made information more accessible to partners. Partners developed best management practices for their control and make the data easily accessible to all partners. Partners surveyed over 2,200 acres and wrote 287 assessments, emphasizing on-the-ground control. This work resulted in the addition of 400 new invasive plant data points being uploaded into the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network, a regionwide partnership that shares easily accessible resources.

Share your thoughts on the Great Lakes and consider the following questions.

- 1 Do you know what non-native species have already infested your part of the Great Lakes?
- 2 Do you know who to contact if you discovered a non-native species while enjoying the Great Lakes region?
- 3 Is there a particular pathway for non-native species introduction into the Great Lakes that you can help stop?
- 4 What parts of the Great Lakes are you most concerned about when thinking about invasive species?

Preventing Invasive Species

Overview

The Great Lakes span jurisdictional boundaries among states, Tribal lands, municipalities and federal lands, as well as an international boundary with Canada. The U.S. Great Lakes shoreline is very large, about twice the length of the U.S. Atlantic coastline. Over time, approximately 190 non-native species have been found in the Great Lakes, entering through connecting canals and waterways; ballasted water in commercial ships; intentional or unintentional release of aquarium, bait or aquaculture; and recreational boating. About one-third of these non-native species have become invasive, causing socio-economic, ecological or human health impacts. Prevention of future introductions and containment of new introductions require the public and as many partners as possible across this region to have readily available access to the latest information on this issue.

A comprehensive tracking system, known as the Great Lakes Aquatic Non-indigenous Species Information System (GLANSIS), has been supported by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to provide updated information

on the presence and spread of aquatic non-native species. Great Lakes monitoring activities detect aquatic non-native species, supported and updated with fact sheets, threat assessments and maps designed to educate the public and inform prevention, management and control activities.

Partners using GLRI funding perform both specialized and routine non-native species surveillance across the Great Lakes that provides data on non-native species' presence and abundance. This sampling helps to inform State, Tribal and local partners that can contain non-native species following their initial occurrence. Targeted, geographic sampling is conducted annually across the Great Lakes at 27 locations to specifically investigate non-native fish and invertebrate distributions within the Great Lakes. GLRI funding supports additional State and Tribal work to prevent new non-native species introduction. Federal agencies intent to continue these activities in Action Plan IV.



For more information visit,
[GLRI.us/Action-Plan](https://glri.us/Action-Plan)
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