



2018 Indiana Invasives Initiative

In late 2017, the nonprofit Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) entered into a contribution agreement for the purpose of developing local **Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs)** throughout Indiana. Both SICIM and the NRCS have been working for many years to combat invasive plants and raise public awareness of the devastation being caused by these non-native pests, and both have come to the realization that we will not begin to make much headway until the problem is addressed at the local level by local people using local resources.

The primary goal is to hire staff across the state to develop local CISMAs.

Here are some of the project highlights:

- The agreement is for **5 years**.
- NRCS will provide **\$917,400**, with SICIM raising an equal amount of matching funds through grants, donations, and other contributions.
- Plans are to **work with SWCDs and other conservation organizations** in forming local 1-2 county CISMAs, and help them find the resources they need to manage invasives in their areas
- **4 regional specialists** are being hired around the state to help with this
- The project also aims to provide **free technical assistance to landowners**, including invasive species property surveys and management plans

Over the course of the project we hope to deliver:

- An organizational template and resources to help new CISMAs
- 60 public invasive species education events
- 400 private landowner invasive plant assessments
- One-on-one technical assistance to 600 small landowners
- Provide 20 professional trainings for Conservation Partnership staff

For more information, or to work with SICIM on this project, visit our website at www.sicim.info/cisma-project, or email us at sicim.info@gmail.com.