

TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

INDICATORS: Number of DNR land management units mapped for terrestrial invasive plants; acres of control efforts

WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Invasive species are nonnative plants or animals that can naturalize, threatening natural resources and their use. They are considered the second most significant threat to biodiversity protection in the United States, affecting about half of all rare species. Some invasive species are classified as prohibited noxious weeds and must be controlled as required by Minnesota statute.

About 20 percent of plants in Minnesota are introduced species. DNR has identified invasive species as one of the greatest land and water challenges facing the state. Many DNR units, such as Ecological and Water Resources, Parks and Trails, Fish and Wildlife, and Forestry are investing substantial time and effort in eradicating small infestations, keeping larger infestations in check, and preventing new infestations.

WHAT IS DNR DOING?

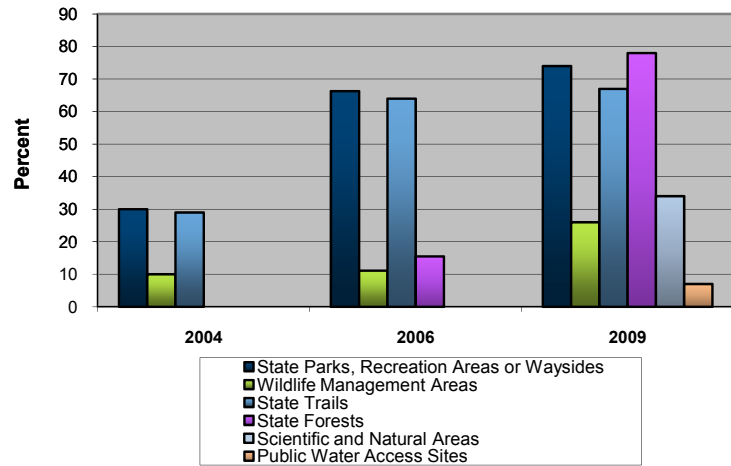
In 2004, DNR began mapping terrestrial invasive species on DNR-administered lands. The goal of this effort is to give land managers a better idea of the scope of the problem. As of 2009, mapping has been conducted on over 734 units. To date, these mapping efforts have identified nearly 50,000 infestations of terrestrial invasive plants on DNR administered lands.

Beginning in 2005 DNR offered grants to assist DNR land managers with invasive species management. In fiscal year 2009, \$610,807 of grants were awarded to complete 47 management grant projects. Many projects targeted the control of woody invasive species such as buckthorn, exotic honeysuckles, and Siberian elm. Other projects targeted species that typically grow in open areas such as common tansy, leafy spurge, and spotted knapweed.

TARGET: Continue to map and control aggressive terrestrial invasive plant species on DNR-administered lands.

DNR has two long-term goals for this indicator. The first is to document the location and abundance of priority invasive plants in state parks, state trails, Scientific and Natural Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, and state forest lands. The second is to reduce the amount and impact of terrestrial invasive species on DNR managed lands.

Percent of DNR Land Management Units Mapped for Terrestrial Invasive Plants



Targeted chemical spraying of invasive plants is an important management strategy for eradicating small infestations of invasive plants.

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- Terrestrial invasive plant species identification, issues, and control at: www.mndnr.gov/invasives/terrestrialplants