

What are invasive Species?

Invasive species are any plant or animal that are not native to an area and aggressively grow and spread in an uncontrolled manner. Since they have no natural enemies in their new habitat, they are able to reproduce without any of the natural checks on their growth that the natives must contend with. This is why they are able to out-compete and quickly replace the native species wherever they have the opportunity to establish themselves. For a 1-page printable handout of a few common invasive plants, click **here**. For more comprehensive information about these species, visit the “Invasives” page of the SUASCO Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Web site - <http://www.cisma-suasco.org/invasives/overview>.

Why do we care?

- As non-native invasive plants take over and crowd out native plants, many insects and other wildlife become deprived of their normal food source
- Therefore, like human development of open land, widespread infestations of invasive plants can seriously compromise wildlife habitat

What are we doing about invasive plants in Carlisle?

Carlisle is a partner in the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord River Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (SUASCO CISMA). This organization, founded in 2009, is a group of federal, state, municipal, and private trusts that land own conservation land and are committed to controlling invasive species on those lands to preserve their integrity as quality habitat for plants and animals. The CISMA partners collaborate to share knowledge, expertise and resources as well as to coordinate invasive species management projects within the watershed.

Invasive Plant Control Projects in Carlisle

Ben’s Woods – Carlisle Conservation Foundation – West Street

- Reclaimed field and uncovered bounding stone walls - Targeted porcelain berry, oriental bittersweet, and multiflora rose that had overtaken the field across from the Benfield Farm house at 967 West Street
- Targeted winged euonymus (burning bush) that had crowded out the native blueberries and taken over the understory in the surrounding woods

This project was funded by the Carlisle Conservation Foundation as well as a 2012 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the SUASCO Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area



Field at Ben's Woods - Before



Field at Ben's Woods - After



Burning Bush in the woods - before

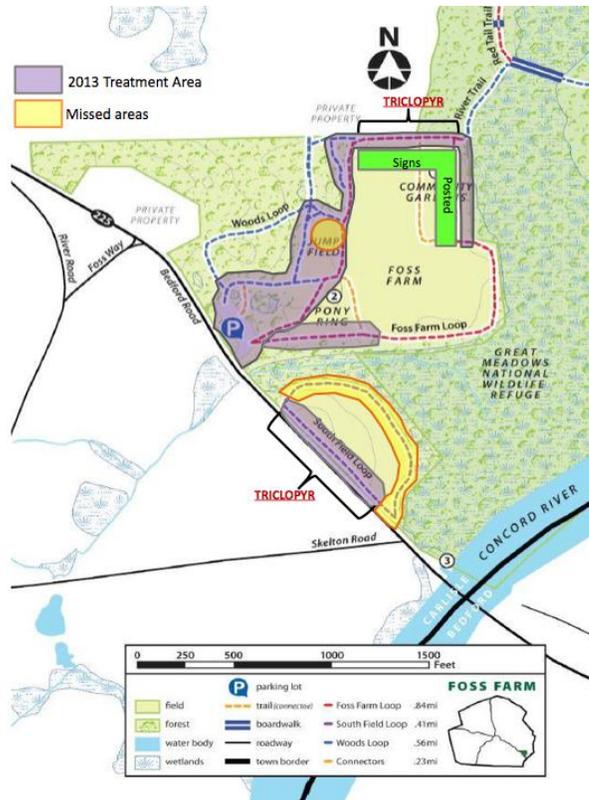


Burning bush in the woods - after

Foss Farm

- Reclaimed field edges that had been lost to large infestations of glossy buckthorn, oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose, and autumn olive shrubs
- Also focused buckthorn spreading in the open grassy areas

This project was funded by the town of Carlisle as well as a 2012 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the SUASCO Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area



Areas treated



Large buckthorn thicket - before



Large buckthorn thicket - after



South field edge along 225 - before



South field edge along 225 – after



South field along Concord River edge - before



South field along Concord River edge - after



South field edge being cleared of invasives along Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge boundary

Towle Field

- Targeted buckthorn and poison ivy in a portion of the hay field

This project was funded by a 2012 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the SUASCO Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area. Future site work is being planned by the Carlisle Conservation Commission.

Other Volunteer Projects

- Eagle Scout Project – Buckthorn seedling removal along main trail from Maple Street to Greenough Pond – (Spring 2013)
- Gold Award Scout Project – purple loosestrife mapping and beetle release as a biocontrol measure around Greenough Pond – (2011-2012)
- Black swallow-wort control at Malcolm Meadows Preserve – hand pulling of infestation
- Garlic Mustard at Stearn Street entrance to Two Rod Road – hand pulling of infestation
- Japanese stiltgrass at Greenough – hand pulling of infestation
- Boy Scout troop buckthorn removal community service project on Elliott Preserve and the Towle Conservation Land’s west field edge

Resources for more information

- Bringing Nature Home – A Case for Native Gardening: <http://bringingnaturehome.net/>
- SUASCO Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area: <http://www.cisma-suasco.org/>
- Invasive Plant Atlas of New England: <http://www.eddmaps.org/ipane/index.html>

- Brochure with general information on invasive plants and control methods
http://www.thetrustees.org/assets/documents/what-we-care-about/WISP_Invasives_Management.pdf
- New England Wildflower Society (On this site, Go Botany is a great tool for identifying plants):
<http://www.newenglandwild.org/>
- Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (at University of Connecticut):
<http://www.cipwg.uconn.edu/>
- US Fish and Wildlife Service: <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/index.html>
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (another great tool for plant identification and information): <http://www.wildflower.org/>
- US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services – Plants Database:
<http://plants.usda.gov>