

2.10 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management

5 Points

10 Points

15 Points

Objective and Requirements

Inspire your community to support, sustain and restore species diversity in the municipality, and therefore maintain the health and resilience of the town's natural areas.

What to Do

The more you do, the more points you earn.

Municipal Management of Invasive Species (10 points)

All items must be completed to receive credit.

1. Examine your regulations to ensure that your municipality is not unintentionally supporting the use of non-native species. Eliminate all invasive species from lists of acceptable plants (include a review of subdivision guides' approved planting lists).

Submit: A description of your regulation review process, including which regulations you reviewed and amended and how you amended them.

2. Educate municipal staff and adapt management practices to reduce the presence of unintended invasive plant species through environmentally-sound methods (as opposed to widespread application of herbicides and pesticides).

Submit: A description of the education you provided municipal grounds keeping staff.

3. Engage in invasive species management practices on municipal properties.

Submit: A description of the invasive species management practices now being employed on your municipal properties. Include before and after photos (if possible), as well as detailed information about the area treated, when and how it was treated.

4. Embed invasive species management practices into your grounds maintenance practices.

Submit: Your community's plan for future invasive species treatments, and include a description of how you have embedded invasive species management (practices) into your grounds maintenance practices.

Residential Education (5 points)

All items must be completed to receive credit.

1. On your municipal website post invasive species education resources. Provide links to sources (may be external) outlining invasive species identification and removal techniques.

Submit: A link to the invasive species education resources on your municipal website.

2. Host or sponsor an educational workshop for residents about invasive species and removal processes. In addition to general education for all residents, you may enhance chances for adoption of new land stewardship practices by targeting specific groups, like gardening clubs.

Submit: Title and date of workshop.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from your public works, and parks and recreation departments could be helpful in implementing this action.

In addition, the following committees, community groups or agencies could help implement this action: conservation commission, local garden clubs, watershed organizations, etc.

Funding

For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the [Sustainable CT Grants Portal](#), which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the [Sustainable CT Resources for Certification](#) page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- [Invasive Plant Atlas of New England \(IPANE\)](#)
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "[Invasive Species](#)"
- US Department of Agriculture, "[Plants](#)"
- US Department of Agriculture, "[CT State Resources](#)"
- CT Audubon, "[Remove Invasive Plants](#)"
- US Fish & Wildlife Service, "[Frequently Asked Questions About Invasive Species](#)"
- Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, "[Invasive Plants in Your Backyard](#)"

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [CT Invasive Plant Work Group](#)
- [US Fish & Wildlife Services](#)
- [The Nature Conservancy CT](#)

Why This Matters

Invasive species are non-native plants, animals and other organisms that cause harm or are likely to cause harm in the ecosystem where they are introduced, by outcompeting or displacing native species. They oftentimes are fast growing and can spread quickly, so their management requires an all-hands-on-deck approach by municipal staff and residential property owners looking out for and removing invasive species wherever possible. Examples of invasive plants in Connecticut include Oriental Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose and Winged Euonymus/Burning Bush. Invasive aquatics include Zebra Mussels and Curly Leaf Pond Weed. Insects such as the Asian Long Horned Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer can also cause serious problems to name a few.

Public education and management of invasive species are equally critical elements of a comprehensive plan aimed at protecting native species and their habitats, leading to healthier, fully-functioning ecosystems. The dollar cost to not properly managing invasive species can be quite high, as invasive species may impact commercial fisheries, agricultural operations, and more.

Benefits

By inspiring the community to shift their land management plans, you will facilitate the establishment of small sanctuaries of native species.

Ultimately, this benefits everyone in the community by promoting cleaner air, clean and fully functioning waterways, etc.

Local CT Success Stories

- Mansfield, CT: [“Non-Invasive Species Policy”](#)

Credit for Past Action

- Regulation review must be done within 10 years prior to application submission. Removal components must be done within 12 months prior to application submission.
- Education must be done within 12 months prior to application submission.