

While the majority of the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council Strategic Plan's action items are a priority to accomplish to meet the mission of the IIPSC, the subset of items below are the actions that are either being conducted currently or have the potential to be initiated at this time. Comments are provided for some of the tasks in brackets.

1. Assuring Adequate Funding:

Objective 1

Identify funding needs and potential sources of funds to meet those needs for achieving invasive plant management in Illinois.

Strategy 1.3 Identify all funding sources that might be available for invasive plant management.

Task 1.4.1: By the end of 2008, be able to more closely estimate expenditures of funds for invasive plants management in Illinois and list their sources.

2. Leadership, Cooperation, and Coordination:

Objective 2

Develop and implement a state approved plan that will lead to the effective coordination of invasive plant programs and efforts in Illinois.

Strategy 2.1

Identify the organizational structure needed within the state to successfully implement the invasive species goals and objectives, including identifying the roles, responsibilities, and lines of authority of state and federal agencies and other key partners.

Strategy 2.3 Prioritize the plan's goals, objectives, strategies, and tasks. Assign willing Council members who will be responsible to lead and participate in efforts toward meeting the plan's goals, objectives, strategies, and tasks. Council members leading particular efforts of the plan should provide the Council with a progress report.

3. Early Intervention – Prevention, Early Detection, and Rapid Response:

Objective 3

Establish an effective early intervention program that includes prevention, early detection, and rapid responses to invasive plants in Illinois.

Task 3.1.1: Identify the sources through which invasive plants enter Illinois.

Task 3.1.2: Estimate the economic and ecological cost and impact that invasive plant introductions could have in Illinois to illustrate the importance and cost effectiveness of prevention strategies. [a comprehensive, realistic cost estimate would be difficult to develop; however, an "at least" cost estimate may be doable by 2008.]

Task 3.2.1: Identify pathways through which invasive plants enter Illinois.

Task 3.2.2: Identify those who could effectively monitor invasion pathways and be able to detect situations that might allow invasive plants to enter Illinois.

Strategy 3.3 Develop a list of invasive plants that should trigger rapid responses and the actions needed to address those plants. [a first action step may be to initiate this task at a regional scale].

Task 3.3.1: Prepare and adopt a risk assessment tool for invasive plants that are in Illinois and invasive plants that have a possibility of introduction into the state.

Task 3.4.3: Evaluate the success of the early warning/rapid response pilot project in the Chicago region and determine how this project can be modified and expanded to cover the state.

Strategy 3.6

Review existing programs around the world that implement a performance bonding program and assess its feasibility in Illinois.

Strategy 3.7

Evaluate species that are going to be introduced into Illinois or proposed to be used in Illinois for biofuel use as to their potential to become invasive. [Added March 8, 2007; Amended June 13, 2007] [a first step may be to determine if there is a mechanism for disclosure of potential biofuels and if not, develop a way of determining which plants are being considered for biofuels]

Task 3.7.1: Prepare and adopt a risk assessment for invasiveness for plants that are going to be grown in Illinois or proposed to be grown in Illinois for biofuel use.

Task 3.7.2: Develop and implement strategies to prevent invasive biofuel plants from becoming established in Illinois.

Strategy 3.8

Adopt and implement a process that evaluates new plants in the nursery trade as to their risk of being invasive in Illinois. [Added March 8, 2007] [a first step for this may be to define risk for this strategy and in 3.7].

Task 3.8.1: Develop and implement strategies to prevent invasive horticultural plants from becoming established in Illinois.

4. Containment, Control and Restoration

Objective 4

Facilitate efforts to contain and control populations of established invasive plants that threaten ecologically important areas and restore ecosystems to a healthy state.

Task 4.1.1: By 2008, select ecologically important areas of the state for direct control efforts.

Strategy 4.4

Encourage control efforts in areas outside of the ecologically important areas such as roadsides, agriculture, and invasion pathways.

5. Reaching Important Audiences through Education:

Objective 5

Reach important audiences through education on the risks posed by invasive plants.

Strategy 5.1

Identify specific key audiences and create targeted communications tools to reach them. [The IIPSC could work on identifying the key audiences by 2008].

Task 5.1.1: Quantify the detrimental impact of invasive plants, including identifying and assessing the cost and impact of invasive plants to agriculture, landscaping, and conservation in Illinois. [a comprehensive, realistic estimate for this task would be difficult to develop but an “at least” estimate may be doable.]

Task 5.1.2: Prepare a list of noninvasive alternative plants that could be provided to the public. [In addition to what is going on in Illinois regarding this task, there is a lot of work on this topic going on throughout the US. The IIPSC could use what has already been developed and tailor it to Illinois]

Task 5.1.3: Identify present programs and outreach efforts that are addressing the invasive species issue.

Task 5.1.4: Identify those key audiences, including the General Assembly, that can be most influential in addressing invasive plant species policy and by the end of 2008 develop a full array of specific communication tools to reach each of them. [The IIPSC could work on identifying the key audiences by 2008]

6. Develop and Implement an Effective Training Program:

Objective 6

Develop and implement an effective training program that supports this plan’s strategies and tasks.

Strategy 6.2

Provide land managers and private landowners with training in plant identification and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control invasive plants

Task 6.2.1: Develop training curricula and training opportunities. [identifying existing BMPs in Illinois and neighboring states that have been developed and widely used may be a good first step toward this strategy]

7. Broadening Knowledge through Research, Technology Transfer, and Data Management:

Objective 7

Broaden knowledge through research, technology transfer, and data management.

Strategy 7.1

Identify existing research programs on invasive plants and research gaps and set priorities for further research needs.

Task 7.1.1: Encourage academic research toward those species and issues that either pose the highest risks or have already exacted a high economic or environmental price. The Council should do a regular collaborative review of ongoing or proposed research.

Strategy 7.3

Create and regularly update a statewide database and map that illustrates known and new or spreading invasions to track invasive plants in Illinois. [This database may be able to be created on a portion of the state by the end of 2008]

Strategy 7.4

Develop and maintain an IIPSC website that serves as a clearinghouse for invasive plant efforts in Illinois and supports implementation of the goals of this plan. Information on the website may include the invasive plant list, plant identification, risk assessment, ecology, and optimal management methods; early detection reporting mechanism and rapid response plans; research data; education and outreach tools; funding resources; a state-wide database and map for tracking invasive plants; and past and present control efforts.

Task 7.4.1: Catalog past and present control efforts for invasive plants (e.g. kudzu and autumn olive). Discuss strategies used for control and their effectiveness.

8. Creating an Adequate, Effective Legal Structure:

Objective 8

Create an adequate, reasonable, and effective regulatory structure to manage the threats of invasive plants in Illinois.

Task 8.1.1: Review Illinois' current invasive plant laws and change as necessary. [Reviewing the laws seems feasible by 2008].

Task 8.3.1: Review and update the emergency powers by the end of the 2007 legislative session. [Reviewing the current emergency powers seems feasible by 2008].

Strategy 8.6

Encourage proactive self-regulation of activities that could introduce and spread invasive plants (e.g. green industry, recreational activities, etc.).