

Desiree Stanfield  
Chief – Marketing & Communications  
248-705-4108 | stanfieldd@oakgov.com

### **Spring Invasive Species Summit set for March 30**

*Event to feature line-up of local experts addressing various invasive species, restoration topics*

**WATERFORD, MI – March 22, 2024** – Seeking to reduce the risks that invasive species pose to the environment, Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), Oakland County Parks and their partners are hosting a Spring Invasive Species Summit from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 30 at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Rooms, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. The event is free.

“Locally, it can be difficult to know where to start to learn more about invasive species, so we are putting on this summit with our partners as both an entry point for the public to gain resources on what an invasive species is and what they can do about them, and for land managers to learn more about countywide priorities,” Patrick Canniff, Outreach Coordinator with Oakland County Parks and Oakland County CISMA, said. “Information will be presented on what work is being done on common invasives, new introductions and species that people can report before they can cause impacts.”

A panel of local professionals will speak on the following topics:

- “Alien Encounters: The Quest to Combat Invasive Species,” Laura Bourgeau-Chavez, Michigan Tech University
- “Backyard Battles: Confronting Invasive Species Close to Home,” Emily DuThinh, Blue Heron Headwaters Conservancy
- “Go Beyond Beauty & Horticultural Escapes,” Brooke Hiller, Friends of the St. Clair River
- “Don’t Be Our Guests: Uninviting Oakland’s Next Potential Invaders,” Patrick Canniff, Oakland County CISMA
- “Shoreline Saboteurs and Superheroes: Common Shoreline Invasives and What to Replace Them With,” Kaleigh Snoddy, Clinton River Watershed Council
- “A Homeowner’s Guide: Safely Using Pesticides for Invasive Species Management,” Amanda Ruffini, Lake St. Clair CISMA
- “Natural Area Management at Oakland County Parks: Plants, People and Place,” Kegan Schildberg and Eric Diesing, Oakland County Parks

The public is invited to the Spring Invasive Species Summit. For those seeking Master Gardener Education credits or MDARD Pesticide Applicator Renewal credits, multiple credits are available. An activity presented by Oakland County Parks nature educators will be provided for all ages and there will also be information about other nature resource topics, native plant gardening, conservation organizations and more. Tabling will also be completed with these community partners: Native plant grower Feral Flora and Michigan Nature Association.

“Invasive species cause millions of dollars in impacts each year. Oftentimes the public is more familiar with some of the larger regional invasives like invasive carp and buckthorn, but it’s easy to lose sight of the local species and their impacts. What people can do at home, and in their community, can make an impact,” Canniff said.

The summit is hosted by Oakland County CISMA and its community partners: Blue Heron Headwaters Conservancy, Clinton River Watershed Council, Friends of the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair CISMA, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Tech University, Oakland Conservation District, Oakland County Parks, Oakland Township, Six Rivers Land Conservancy and the Village of Milford.

Visit [OaklandInvasiveSpecies.org/Summit](https://OaklandInvasiveSpecies.org/Summit) to preregister online. For more information, contact Patrick Canniff at [canniffp@oakgov.com](mailto:canniffp@oakgov.com).

Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).