

Creating a Management Plan

Prioritizing invasive plant removal and creating a multi-year management plan for success

Stephanie Schuck, Executive Director

State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM)



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Indiana Invasive Initiative (III) Collaborative Invasive Species Management Across Indiana



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- Formed in 2008, SICIM's goal has been to support the formation of local CISMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) within original 35-county region
- In 2018, the **Indiana Invasives Initiative** was developed in partnership with the USDA-NRCS and other entities such as SWCDs, TNC, State Soil Board/Clean Water Indiana, and more, expanding our reach and covering the entire state



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What is a CISMA?

- CISMA =
Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area
- Sometimes called a CWMA
Cooperative Weed Management Area

- A CISMA is a partnership organization formed with the goal of managing invasive species across jurisdictional and landownership boundaries.



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Current Program

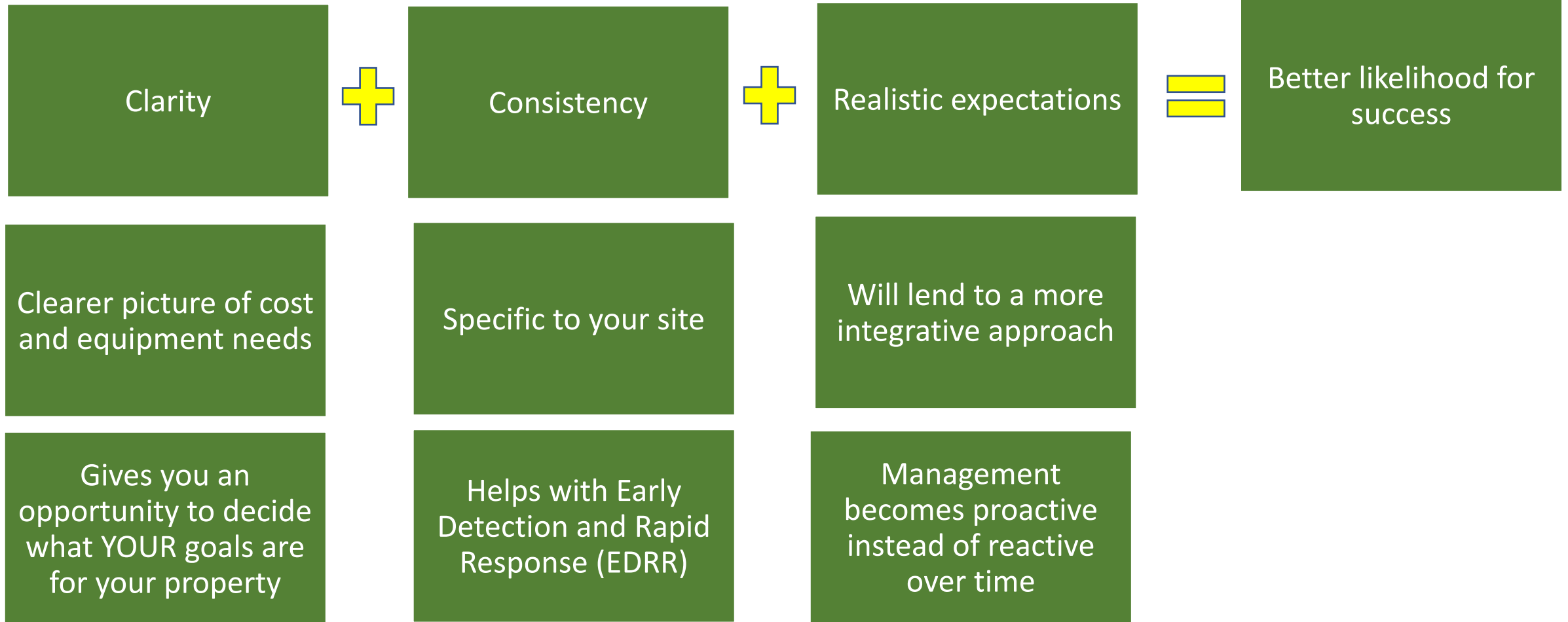
- 5 Regional Specialists
- 1 Project Coordinator
- 1 Executive Director
- SICIM Board
- Many Partners: CWI, SSCB, SWCD, Purdue Extension, IDNR, ISDA, Private entities, Conservation organizations, Consultants, Businesses, Land Trusts, Parks and Rec Dept and more



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Benefits of Creating and Following a Management Plan



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Things to consider when designing your plan:

1. This is most likely a multi-year plan that is revisited each year. Invasive management is a process and requires prioritization and adaptation.
2. Know species present
3. Who will be doing the work?
4. What does your schedule look like?
5. Plan ahead! My favorite time to create or revise a plan is in December/January/February. Give yourself time to prepare and be ready.



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Step One: Survey

- What invasive species do you have? How much of each one, and where?
- Other species such as natives?
- What borders the property? Invasives present?
- Type of current habitat/land use, and site location



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Step 2: Your Property Goals and Objectives

What are your goals for management?

- Restore to a more natural and functional habitat?
- Provide habitat for wildlife? Anything specific?
- Provide a natural area for your family to enjoy?
- Have flowering plants throughout the seasons?
- Create a rain garden with native plants to mitigate water issues?



Step 3: Species Prioritization

Okay, so you have bush honeysuckle, privet, wintercreeper, and oriental bittersweet. What do you tackle first?

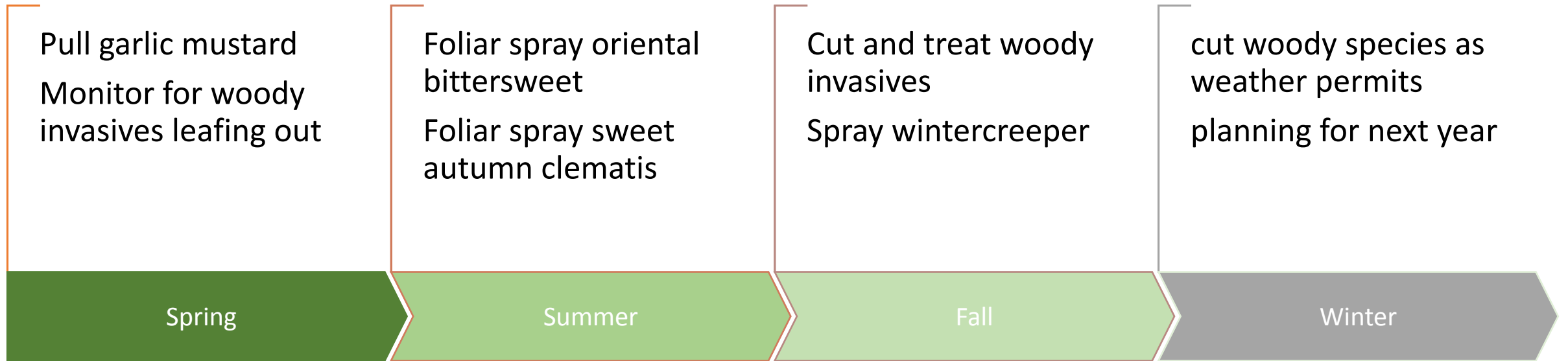
- General rule of thumb: the less you have, the higher the priority
- If you have several species to deal with, pick the top 2 or 3 to focus on the first year.



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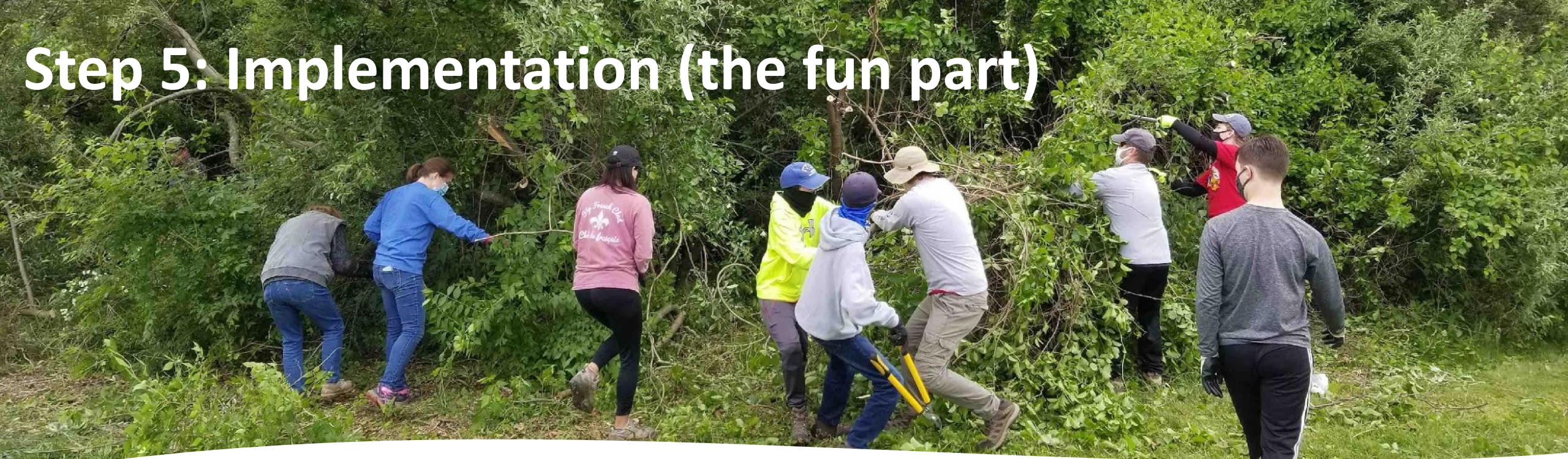
Management Calendar



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Step 5: Implementation (the fun part)



Get to it! This is what you've been working toward.

Tips during the process:

- Keep a journal
- Photo documentation
- Give yourself grace
- Share your progress!



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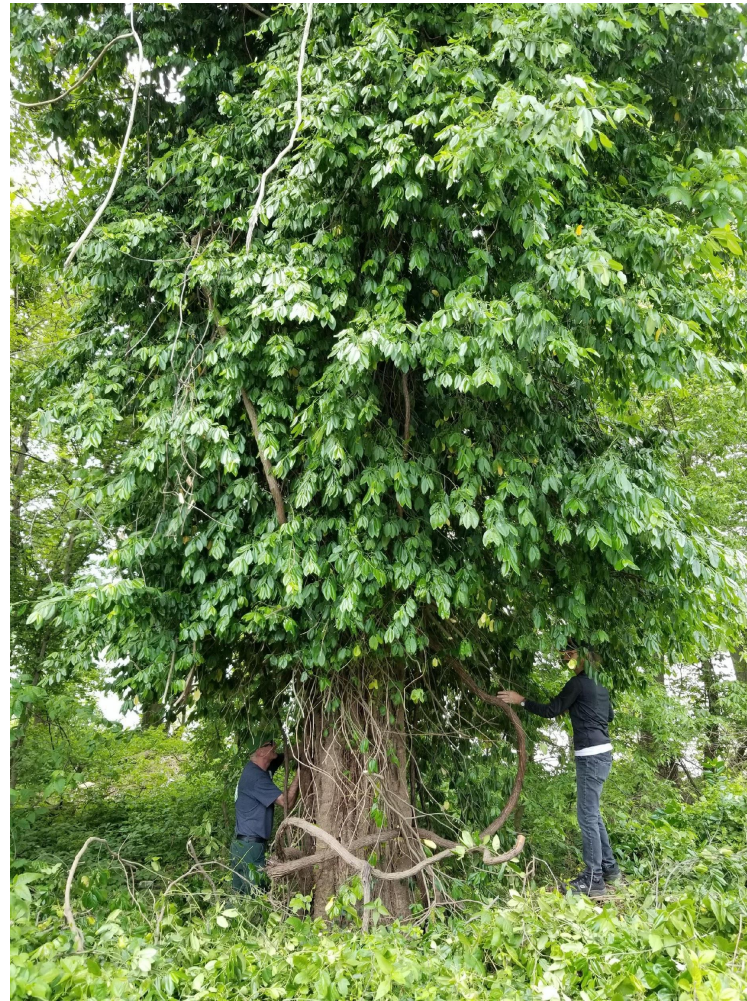




After the first year...

- Pat yourself on the back
- Revisit the plan, your notes – what worked, what didn't? Why?
- Adapt the plan accordingly
 - Goals changed?
 - Did you find new invasives?
 - Will you have the same amount of help next year?
 - What do you need to focus on next year? Same?

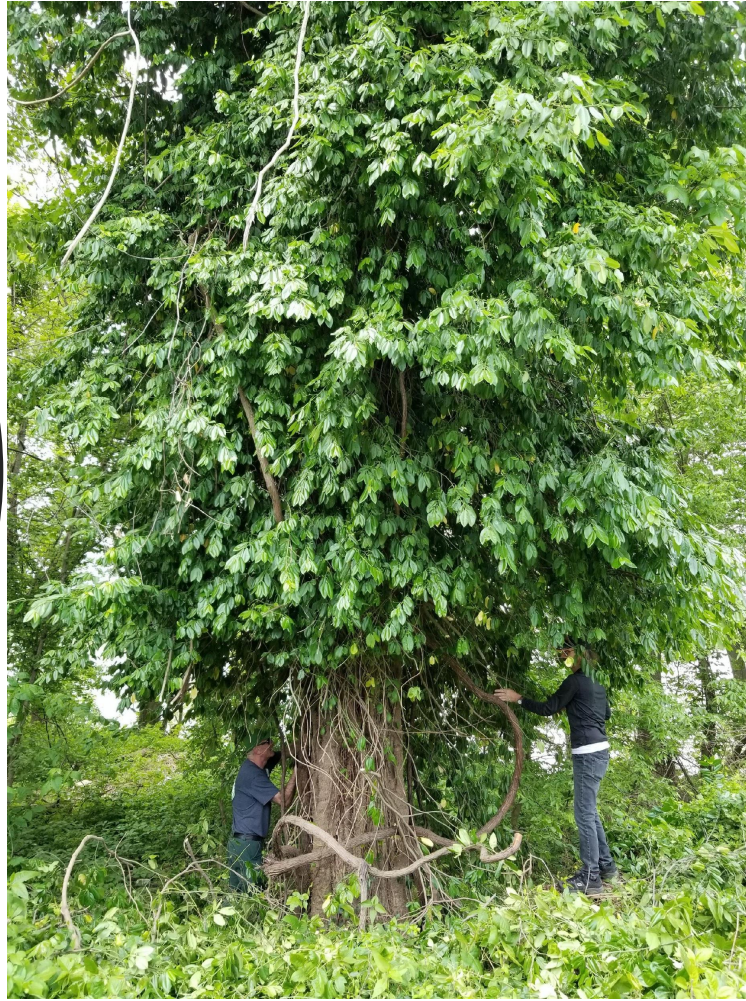
Important
things to
remember:
PLAN TO
REVISIT



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Important
things to
remember:
SEE WHAT
COMES
BACK



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Important
things to
remember:
**MAKE IT
FUN!**



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Resources and References

SICIM website: <https://www.sicim.info/>

Indiana Native Plant Society: <https://indiananativeplants.org/invasive-plants/prioritizing-invasive-plant-removal/>

Vermont Invasives: developing an invasive species plan:

<https://vtinvasives.org/sites/default/files/Tool%206%20Weed%20Management%20Plan%20Template.pdf>

Purdue Report Invasives: <https://ag.purdue.edu/reportinvasive/>

DNR Invasive Species: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/rules-and-regulations/invasive-species/>

Midwest Invasive Plant Control Network: <https://www.mipn.org/>

Woody Invasives of the Great Lakes Cooperative: <https://woodyinvasives.org/>

Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System: <https://www.eddmaps.org/>

USDA National Invasive Species Information Center: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>

North American Invasive Species Management: <https://naisma.org/>



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Grassroots efforts for a strong future.

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