

# Urban Forestry BMPs for Invasive Species in Wisconsin Forests

## Overview

In 2004, the Wisconsin Council on Forestry (WCOF) identified invasive species as a critical forestry issue. A subcommittee of the WCOF, the Forestry Invasives Leadership Team (FILT), was charged with identifying and recommending policies and actions to protect Wisconsin's forests from invasive species. FILT proposed the development of a comprehensive set of voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Species. The BMPs will address invasive species that affect forests, including terrestrial plants, invertebrates, and diseases.

Wisconsin's forest resources (including urban forests) are extensive and variable in size, habitat, uses, and the demographics of ownership. Any comprehensive effort to address invasive species will require multiple strategies and will need to influence the behavior of a wide spectrum of professionals, user groups and citizens. Therefore, FILT created a multifaceted approach which includes the development of FOUR parallel BMP processes (Tracks), each of which is focused on a segment of the forest resource and associated user groups.

The four BMP Tracks for addressing Invasive Species in Wisconsin Forests are:

1. Forestry BMPs for Invasive Species
2. Recreational Forest User BMPs for Invasive Species
3. Urban Forestry BMPs for Invasive Species
4. Utility and Transportation Right of Way BMPs for Invasive Species

The Urban Forestry BMP team will be led by the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council who will convene representatives of all urban forestry interests in the state including arborists, urban foresters, nursery growers and retailers, landscape architects, landscape contractors, grounds managers, NGOs and private property owners.

## Goals

The overall goal of Urban Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species in Wisconsin Forests is a well developed and broadly accepted set of situation-specific voluntary BMP recommendations that will provide guidance incorporating invasive species considerations into routine urban forestry activities such as management planning, landscape design, species selection, planting, maintenance and removal practices, sanitation and debris handling, so as to limit the spread of invasive species.