

## INVASIVE HITCHHIKERS Fact Sheet # 11

# What Campers Need To Know!



Invasive species are taking over parks and natural areas throughout Pennsylvania, making camping difficult and damaging valuable habitat. Luckily campers can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasives.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants and animals that can cause harm to the economy, environment and human health.

Invasive plants tend to grow quickly and thickly, potentially

blocking trails. This makes it more difficult for people to camp and enjoy the outdoors.

Mile-a-minute, for example, is a vine that can grow up to a foot per day! It can quickly make trails impassable with its painful spines (*see photo below*).

Invasive species are also a concern to campers because they can ruin the beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and lower biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area).

We need biodiversity to maintain healthy habitats.

Plus it’s simply more interesting and exciting to camp in a landscape full of different shrubs, trees, flowers and grasses, rather than in a boring field of the same invasive plant. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears... all other species, including wildlife, may be chased out!



## Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small, easy steps you can take to keep invasives in check.

- Know how to identify some of the more common invasive species in your area, so you can avoid camping near them. To learn more, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm)
- Stick to designated trails and campsites instead of creating your own.
- Clean clothing, shoes, pets, and tents before entering a new area to remove hitchhiking seeds and plant parts (bag it and throw it in the trash).
- Do not move firewood! Buy it locally. This will help prevent dangerous insects like emerald ash borer from spreading further. Go to [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) for more details.
- Volunteer to help prevent and control invasive species. Contact your local state park or forest office, conservation district, watershed group or campground to get involved.



## INVASIVE HITCHHIKERS

Fact Sheet # 6

# What Boaters Need To Know!



Invasive species are taking over lakes, streams, and other natural areas throughout Pennsylvania, making boating, canoeing and kayaking difficult, and also damaging valuable habitat. Luckily boaters can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasive species.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants, animals and pathogens that can cause harm to the economy, environment and human health. Invasives can make it difficult and

dangerous for people to boat and enjoy other recreational opportunities.

For instance, invasive plants like *Hydrilla* tend to grow quickly and thickly, blocking waterways and access trails. Invasive animals like zebra mussels (*see photo below*) can build-up on boat hulls and clog motors, making them overheat.

Invasive species are also a concern to boaters because they can ruin the beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and

lower biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area). We need biodiversity to maintain healthy habitats.

Plus it's simply more interesting to boat in a water-body surrounded by different vegetation, rather than one with the same invasive plant everywhere. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears: all other species, including fish and waterfowl, may be chased out!



USGS, [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org)

## Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small steps you can take to keep invasive hitchhikers in check.

- Know how to identify some of the more common invasive plant species in your area, so you can avoid walking and boating through them. To learn more, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm)
- Don't transfer bilge water to other water-bodies.
- Remove any visible plant parts, mud, and animals from boats and equipment and leave them at the site.
- You can't always see aquatic invasives, but they might be there. And some can survive for days out of water. So always wash boats with a high-pressure spray or hot water, and dry them off, before going to a new water body.
- Don't dump leftover bait into or near the water. It might survive and take over.
- Volunteer to help prevent and control invasive species. Contact your local state park or forest office, conservation district, watershed group, or boating club to get involved.



## INVASIVE HITCHHIKERS

### Fact Sheet # 5

# What Birders Need To Know!



Invasive species are taking over parks and natural areas throughout Pennsylvania, making birding difficult and damaging valuable habitat. Luckily birders can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasives.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants, animals, and pathogens that can cause harm to the economy, environment, and human health.

Invasive plants tend to grow quickly and thickly, potentially blocking trails.

This makes it more difficult for people to bird watch and enjoy other recreational opportunities.

Mile-a-minute, for example, is a vine that can grow up to a foot per day! It can quickly make trails impassable with its painful spines (*see photo below*).

Invasive species are also a concern to birders because they can ruin the beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and lower biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area).

We need biodiversity to maintain healthy habitats. Plus it’s simply more interesting and exciting to bird watch in a landscape full of different shrubs, trees, flowers, and grasses, rather than through a boring field of the same invasive plant. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears... all other species, including birds and the insects they eat, may be chased out!



## Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small, easy steps you can take to keep invasives in check.

- Know how to identify some of the more common invasive species in your area, so you can avoid walking through them. To learn more, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm)
- Monitor nest boxes for invasive starlings and house sparrows.
- Stick to designated trails instead of blazing your own.
- Choose native plants to attract birds to your yard.
- Clean off clothing, shoes and equipment before going to a new area. Bag any dirt, seeds and other plant parts and dispose of this in the trash.
- Volunteer to help prevent and control invasive species. Contact your local state park or forest office, conservation district, watershed group or birding club to get involved.



## INVASIVE HITCHHIKERS

### Fact Sheet # 3

# What ATV Riders Need To Know!

Invasive species are taking over parks and natural areas throughout Pennsylvania, making ATV riding difficult and damaging valuable habitat. Luckily riders can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasives.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants and animals that can cause harm to the economy, environment and human health.

Invasive plants tend to grow quickly and thickly, potentially blocking trails. This makes it more difficult for people to ride ATVs and enjoy other

recreational opportunities.

Mile-a-minute, for example, is a vine that can grow up to a foot per day! It can quickly make trails impassable with its painful spines (*see photo below*).

Invasive species are also a concern to riders because they can ruin the beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and lower biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area).

We need biodiversity to maintain healthy habitats. Plus it's simply more interesting and exciting to ride through a



landscape full of different shrubs, trees, flowers, and grasses, rather than through a boring field of the same invasive plant. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears... all other species, including wildlife, may be chased out!



## Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small, easy steps you can take to keep invasives in check.

- Know how to identify some of the more common invasive species in your area, so you can avoid riding through them. Visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm) to learn more.
- To avoid disturbing soil, which can spread invasives, stick to designated trails.
- Clean off clothing, shoes, and vehicles before leaving an area. Bag any dirt, seeds, and other plant parts. Dispose of this in the trash.
- Volunteer to help prevent and control invasive species. Contact your local state park or forest office, conservation district or ATV club to get involved.



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## INVASIVE HITCHHIKERS Fact Sheet # 7

# What Fishermen Need To Know!



Invasive species are taking over rivers, lakes and other natural areas throughout Pennsylvania, making fishing and boating difficult and damaging valuable habitat. Luckily fishermen can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasives.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants, animals and pathogens that can cause harm to the economy, environment and human health.

Invasives can make it difficult for people to fish and enjoy

other recreational opportunities. For instance, invasive animals like the zebra mussel (*see photo below*) can consume most of the plankton that supports fish and other aquatic life. These mussels also absorb a lot of water-borne pollutants, so that if a person eats a fish that has eaten many zebra mussels, they are also consuming that pollution!

Invasive species are also a concern to fishermen because they can ruin the

beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and lower biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area). We need biodiversity to maintain healthy habitats.

Plus it’s simply more interesting to fish in a water body full of different plants and animals, rather than just a few. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears...all other species, including fish and the insects they eat, may be chased out!



USGS, [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org)

## Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small, easy steps you can take to keep invasives in check.

- Know how to identify some of the invasive plants in your area, so you can avoid walking and fishing near them. Visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm) to learn more.
- For more information on aquatic invasive species and how to prevent their spread: [www.protectyourwaters.net](http://www.protectyourwaters.net)
- Remove any visible plant and animal parts from fishing equipment and leave it on-site.
- You can’t always see aquatic invasives, but they might be there. And some can survive for days out of water. So always wash boats with a high-pressure spray or hot water, and dry it off, before going to a new water body.
- Don’t dump leftover bait into or near the water, or it might survive and take over.
- Volunteer to help prevent and control invasive species. Contact your local state park or forest office, watershed group or fishing club to get involved.



## INVASIVE HITCHHIKERS Fact Sheet # 2

# What Horseback Riders Need To Know!

Invasive species are taking over parks and natural areas throughout Pennsylvania, making horseback riding and the use of pack animals difficult, and also damaging valuable habitat. Luckily riders can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasives.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants, animals and pathogens that can cause harm to the economy, environment and human health.

Invasive plants tend to grow quickly and thickly, potentially

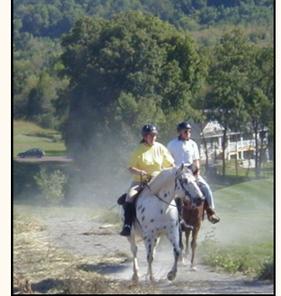
blocking trails. This makes it more difficult for people to horseback ride and enjoy the outdoors.

Mile-a-minute, for example, is a vine that can grow up to a foot per day! It can quickly make trails impassable with its painful spines (*see photo below*).

Invasive species are also a concern to riders because they can ruin the beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and lower biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area).

We need biodiversity to maintain healthy habitats.

Plus it's simply more interesting and exciting to ride through a landscape full of different shrubs, trees, flowers and grasses, rather than through a boring field of the same invasive plant. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears... all other species, including wildlife, may be chased out!



## Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small, easy steps you can take to keep invasives in check.

- Know how to identify some of the common invasives in your area, so you can avoid riding through them. Visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm) to learn more.
- Don't move firewood! Buy it locally. This will help prevent the spread of invasive insects like the emerald ash borer. For more details go to [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)
- Use proper mane and hoof grooming techniques to remove hitch-hiking seeds and plant parts before going to a new area. Also clean off clothing, shoes
- Stick to designated roads and trails instead of blazing your own.
- Volunteer to help prevent and control invasives. Contact your local state park or forest office to get involved.



## INVASIVE HITCHHIKERS Fact Sheet # 8

# What Hunters Need To Know!



Invasive species are taking over parks and natural areas throughout Pennsylvania, making hunting difficult and damaging valuable habitat. Luckily hunters can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasives.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants, animals and pathogens that can cause harm to the economy, environment and human health.

Invasive plants tend to grow quickly and thickly, potentially

blocking trails. This makes it more difficult for people to hunt and enjoy the outdoors.

Mile-a-minute, for example, is a vine that can grow up to a foot per day! It can quickly make trails impassable with its painful spines. (see photo below).

Invasive species are also a concern because they can ruin the beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and lower biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area).

We need biodiversity to maintain healthy habitats.

Plus it’s simply more interesting and exciting to hunt in a landscape full of different shrubs, trees, flowers and grasses, rather than in a boring field of the same invasive plant. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears...all other species, including wildlife, may be chased out!



## Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small, easy steps you can take to keep invasives in check.

- Know how to identify some of the common invasive species in your area. To learn more, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm)
- Clean off clothing, shoes and equipment before leaving an area. Bag any dirt and seeds and dispose of this in the trash.
- Don’t move firewood! Buy it locally. This will help prevent destructive invasive insects like the emerald ash borer from spreading. Go to [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) for more details.
- Volunteer to help prevent and control invasive species. Contact your local state park or forest office, conservation district, state game lands office or hunting club to get involved.



## INVASIVE HITCHHIKERS

Fact Sheet # 1

# What Hikers and Backpackers Need To Know!



Invasive species are taking over parks and natural areas throughout Pennsylvania, making hiking and backpacking difficult and damaging valuable habitat. Luckily hikers can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasives.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants and animals that can cause harm to the economy, environment and human health.

Invasive plants tend to grow quickly and thickly, potentially blocking trails. This makes it more difficult for people to hike and backpack.

Mile-a-minute, for example, is a vine that can grow up to a foot per day! It can quickly make trails impassable with its painful spines (*see photo below*).

Invasive species are also a concern to hikers and backpackers because they can ruin the beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and lower

biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area). We need biodiversity to maintain healthy habitats.

Plus it's simply more interesting and exciting to hike and backpack through a landscape full of different shrubs, trees, flowers and grasses, rather than through a boring field of the same invasive plant. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears... all other species, including wildlife, may be chased out!



## Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small, easy steps you can take to keep invasives in check.

- Know how to identify some of the more common invasive species in your area, so you can avoid hiking through them. Visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm> to learn more.
- Clean clothing, shoes, pets and backpacks before going to a new area to remove hitch-hiking seeds and plant parts (bag the dirt and seeds, place in the trash).
- Don't move firewood! Buy it locally. This will help prevent dangerous insects like emerald ash borer from spreading.
- Volunteer to help prevent and control invasive species. Contact your local state park or forest office, conservation district, watershed group or hiking club to get involved.



## INVASIVE HITCHHIKERS Fact Sheet # 4

# What Bikers Need To Know!



Invasive species are taking over parks and natural areas throughout Pennsylvania, making it more difficult to ride bikes, and damaging valuable habitat. Luckily bikers can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasives.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants, animals, and pathogens that can cause harm to the economy, environment, and human health.

Invasive plants tend to grow quickly and thickly, potentially

blocking trails. This create a challenge for those that maintain trails, and makes it difficult for people to ride bikes and enjoy the outdoors.

Mile-a-minute, for example, is a vine that can grow up to a foot per day It can quickly make trails impassable with its painful spines (*see photo below*).

Invasive species are also a concern to bikers because they can ruin the beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and lower biodiversity (the variety

of living things in an area).

We need biodiversity to maintain healthy habitats.

Plus it’s simply more interesting and exciting to ride through a landscape full of different shrubs, trees, flowers and grasses, rather than through a boring field of the same invasive plant. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears... all other species, including wildlife, may be chased out!



## Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small, easy steps you can take to keep invasives in check.

- Know how to identify some of the more common invasive species in your area, so you can avoid riding through them. To learn more, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm)
- Minimize stream crossings to prevent the erosion of stream banks.
- To avoid disturbing soil, which can spread invasives, stick to designated trails.
- Clean off bike tires, clothing, shoes and other equipment before going to a new area. Bag any dirt, seeds and other plant parts and properly dispose of this in the trash.
- Volunteer to help prevent and control invasive species. Contact your local state park or forest office, conservation district, watershed group or bike club to get involved.



# What Trail Maintainers Need To Know!

Invasive species are taking over parks and natural areas throughout Pennsylvania, making recreation difficult and damaging valuable habitat. Luckily trail maintainers can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasives.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants and animals that can cause harm to the economy, environment and human health.

Invasive plants tend to grow quickly and thickly, potentially blocking trails.

This makes it more difficult for people to enjoy recreational opportunities.

Mile-a-minute, for example, is a vine that can grow up to a foot per day! It can quickly make trails impassable with its painful spines. (*see photo below*).

Invasive species are also a concern because they can ruin the beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and lower biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area).



We need biodiversity to maintain healthy habitats. Plus it's more interesting to be in a landscape full of different plants, rather than in a boring field of the same invasive. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears... all other species may be chased out!



## Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small, easy steps you can take to keep invasives in check.

- Know how to identify and control some of the invasives in your area, so you can remove them while their population is small. Visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm> for more information.
- Don't create new trails through known or suspected infestations.
- Clean off clothing, shoes, equipment and vehicles before leaving an area. Bag any dirt, seeds and other plant parts and dispose in the trash.
- Use weed-free mulch like straw or wood chips, not hay, which can be full of weed seeds.
- Choose native plants for use along the trail.
- If you need volunteers to help with control projects, contact your local conservation district, scout troop or watershed group to get involved.



## INVASIVE HITCHHIKERS Fact Sheet # 9

# What Wildlife Watchers Need to Know!

Invasive species are taking over parks and natural areas throughout Pennsylvania, making wildlife watching difficult and damaging valuable habitat. Luckily wildlife watchers can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasives.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants, animals and pathogens that can cause harm to the economy, environment or human health.

Invasive plants tend to grow quickly and thickly, potentially blocking trails. This makes it

more difficult for people to watch wildlife and enjoy the outdoors.

Mile-a-minute, for example, is a vine that can grow up to a foot per day! It can quickly make trails impassable with its painful spines. (*see photo below*).

Invasive species are also a concern to wildlife watchers because they can ruin the beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and lower biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area). We need biodiversity to maintain healthy habitats.

Plus it's simply more interesting and exciting to watch wildlife in a landscape full of different shrubs, trees, flowers, and grasses, rather than in a boring field of the same invasive plant. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears... all other species may be chased out!



## Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small, easy steps you can take to keep invasives in check.

- Know how to identify some of the invasives in your area, so you can avoid walking through them. Visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm> to learn more.
- To attract wildlife to your yard, choose from a variety of native plants.
- To avoid disturbing soil, which can spread invasives, stick to designated trails instead of blazing your own.
- Clean off clothing, shoes, and equipment before leaving an area. Bag any dirt, seeds, and other plant parts and properly dispose of this in the trash.
- Volunteer to help prevent and control invasive species. Contact your local state park or forest office, conservation district, watershed group or wildlife club to get involved.

