

## Outdoor Recreation Plays Key Role In Spreading — and Stopping — Invasive Species

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Hikers, bikers, campers, hunters, dog walkers... Everyone can stop invasive species in their tracks! The Mid-Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) will be promoting PlayCleanGo Awareness Week, taking place June 1–8, 2019. There will be information and events occurring across North America to encourage outdoor enthusiasts to take action to avoid spreading invasive plants and pests, while enjoying the activities they love. PlayCleanGo Awareness Week is sponsored by PlayCleanGo, Don't Move Firewood, and Hungry Pests. You can join the fun on social media by using the campaign hashtag #PlayCleanGoWeek.



**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES  
IN YOUR TRACKS.**

[PlayCleanGo.org](http://PlayCleanGo.org)



**DONTMOVE  
FIREWOOD.org**

“Nearly 50% of endangered or threatened species are at risk due to invasive species, which people unintentionally spread with their boots, tires, boats, firewood, pets, horses, and more,” said PlayCleanGo Campaign Manager Belle Bergner. “The good news is, by taking a few easy steps while enjoying the great outdoors, you can be part of the solution, reducing the spread of invasive species.” PlayCleanGo Awareness Week is for hikers, campers, trail runners, cyclists, mountain bikers, gardeners, pet owners, birdwatchers, backpackers, paddlers, anglers, boaters, horseback riders, ATV / OTR riders, explorers — anyone who loves spending time outdoors.

Recreationists can take easy steps to protect the places they love, including these 10 Things You Can Do To Stop Invasive Species:

1. Clean your footwear with a boot brush
2. Remove invasive plants and dispose properly
3. Pick seeds and burrs off of clothes and gear
4. Clean mud and seeds from your dog
5. Don't move firewood: buy it where you burn it
6. Hose your bike or ATV with water or compressed air
7. Boaters: clean, drain, dry, dispose
8. Feed your horse weed-free certified hay
9. Clean your horse's hooves, mane, and tail
10. Take the PlayCleanGo Pledge at [www.playcleango.org/pledge](http://www.playcleango.org/pledge)

June 1–8 was chosen for PlayCleanGo Awareness Week in part to coincide with National Trails Day (June 1), World Environment Day (June 5), and National Get Outdoors Day (June 7). Campaign materials for the public and the media are at [www.PlayCleanCo.org/awareness-week](http://www.PlayCleanCo.org/awareness-week).