

# Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

## Legislation Signed by the Governor Provides \$1 Million in Funding

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### LB 1038

On April 18<sup>th</sup> 2016, Governor Ricketts signed LB1038 and LB1038A into law. Local weed control authorities, weed management entities, and natural resource districts will have access to \$1 million in state funding to help control phragmites and other invasive species in waterways under LB1038. In 2007, the Legislature appropriated \$4 million to control invasive vegetation and additional grant funds were provided through the Nebraska Environmental Trust

and other partners. These funds were leveraged into over \$18 million spent on riparian weed management in 2007-2014. This funding was instrumental in treating invasive species and increasing flow conveyance, wildlife habitat, and water available for human consumption. The funding in LB1038 will help to continue that work. The bill reinstates the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force to help oversee the process. Other provisions of the bill address a water rights agreement between

the Nebraska Public Power District and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission regarding the Spencer Dam and revises procedures for the Niobrara Council. This was a 14 month process that had its share of ups and downs, positives and negatives, supporters and nay-sayers, as well as some constructive debates. In the end, a great bill was signed into Law, shaping the future of invasive plant management along ALL waterways in the State.

## Bright Orange Signs are Warning Weed Abatement Violators



Warning Sign Notifying of Weed Abatement Violation

The 2016 growing season marks a change in the way the Weed Authority is notifying violators of the City of Lincoln Weed Abatement Ordinance. Our inspectors are posting bright orange signs warning the occupant of the violation and explaining what needs to be done to get in compliance. The decision was made after reevaluating our

notification process. Previously, all violators were notified by sending a letter via the U.S. Postal Service. This worked great, until the USPS changed its delivery method and routed all of Lincoln's mail through Omaha. We've found it now takes a minimum of 4 days to get a letter across town. That doesn't work when the ordinance requires vegetation to be cut in

only 5 days. By posting the properties we hope to gain quicker compliance by the resident, as well as a way to notify the neighbors the weed department has made the initial inspection and the process to clean up the property is underway. The first couple weeks we've tested the process has shown positive results in getting the properties controlled.

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We're on the Web!

[www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds)

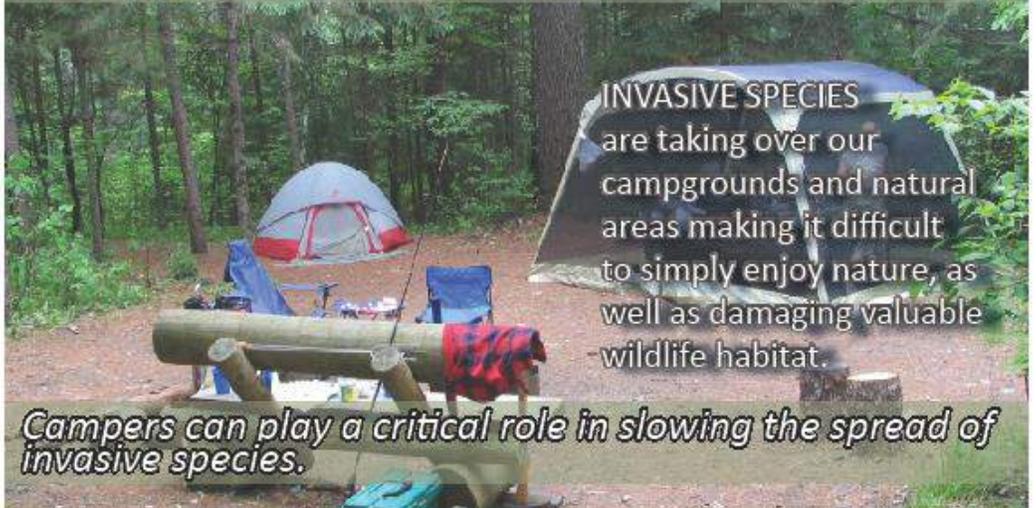


STOP INVASIVE SPECIES  
IN YOUR TRACKS.

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

Good Neighbors –  
Control Invasive Weeds !!!

## Campgrounds at Risk from Invasive Species



### WHAT CAMPERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INVASIVES

- Invasive species are nonnative plants, animals, and diseases that can cause harm to the economy, environment, and human health.
- Invasive plants tend to reproduce and grow quickly making trails impassable.
- They harm wildlife and replace wildflowers.
- Invasive insects and diseases can kill trees.

### WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH CAMPERS?

- Invasive plant seeds, insects, and diseases can be moved on equipment, such as mud on tires or seeds with burs on clothes and shoes.
- Concerns about spreading invasive species may endanger access to lands and campgrounds in the future.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Learn to recognize invasive species.
- Wear clothing and footwear that do not attract seeds.
- Clean yourself and your equipment before and after use.
- Clean your animals and their equipment before and after use.
- Properly dispose of soil, seeds, or plant parts from cleaning.
- Minimize soil disturbance; stay on designated trails.
- Avoid areas that are infested with invasive species; "When in doubt, stay out!"
- Do not transport firewood that originates more than 25 miles away from the campground or from outside of Wisconsin.
- Follow guidelines for bringing domestic animals into forested recreation areas.
- Educate others how to limit the spread of invasive species.
- Volunteer to help control invasive species.

For more information on this and other recreational user groups (Anglers, Animal-Based, Bicyclists, Hikers, Hunters), visit the Recreation Best Management Practices at: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/>