

Ohio Invasive Plants Council: Purpose and History

The Ohio Invasive Plants Council is the name chosen to recognize a coalition of organizations and individuals throughout Ohio who have a mutual interest in Ohio's natural ecosystems and the effects of invasive plants and other organisms on their biological diversity. This is the latest step in an ongoing statewide effort to bring together professionals and citizens concerned with the introduction, spread, and control of invasive, non-native plant pests in Ohio's natural areas.

Statewide coordination began in 1998 through 2000 with the development and presentation of two workshop series to raise general public awareness of invasive plants, and to share technical information for land management professionals. Since 2001, an informal statewide network, called the Ohio Invasive Plants Working Group, has met periodically to discuss and cooperate on various topics, including education and outreach about invasive plants, management and removal issues, coordination with similar statewide groups, and the design and hosting of a conference in March 2004 on research and management of invasive plants. In the spring of 2004, a steering committee was formed to lay the groundwork and make recommendations for the formal incorporation of a statewide invasive plants council. In early 2005, the first board of directors was elected. The group incorporated with 501c(3) nonprofit status with corporate regulations and Articles of Incorporation as the Ohio Invasive Plants Council.

The Council's mission and purpose (below) is similar to those of other state or regional invasive plant councils, often called Exotic Pest Plant Councils (EPPC). There is also a National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils, and it is anticipated that Ohio will be a participant in that association. All of the councils are concerned with promoting awareness and information exchange about invasive species issues, sharing technical information, encouraging research, and detecting or preventing new invasions into natural ecosystems.

The mission for the Ohio Invasive Plants Council is:

The Ohio Invasive Plants Council participates in statewide efforts to address the threats of invasive species to Ohio's ecosystems and economy by providing leadership and promoting stewardship, education, research, and information exchange.

The purpose of the Ohio Invasive Plants Council is to:

- a) To raise public awareness about the spread and impact of invasive species, such as effects on the integrity of plant communities and ecosystem services;
- b) To facilitate the exchange of information concerning management, control, inventory, and monitoring of invasive species;
- c) To provide forums for all interested parties to discuss issues relating to invasive species;

- d) To serve as an educational, advisory and technical support council for all aspects of invasive plant species;
- e) To coordinate activities and information exchange with other invasive species groups;
- f) To develop, maintain and publish a council-reviewed list of invasive plant species and their cultivars;
- g) To develop, maintain, and publish a council-reviewed list of non-invasive alternative plant species;
- h) To promote actions to prevent future introductions of new invasive plant species; and
- i) To carry on any and all additional activities, incident, related, or appropriate to the furtherance of the above purposes.

Ohio Invasive Plants Council Board of Directors Application

The Nominating Committee of the Ohio Invasive Plants Council is seeking applications for its Board of Directors. This is a volunteer position on a board composed of no fewer than 10 and no more than 25 Directors. Currently the Board is made up of twelve members.

Position Description: Director

Qualifications: Members of the Board of Directors should have proven abilities of volunteer program management, interdisciplinary awareness and experience, and sound judgment, as well as some understanding or appreciation of invasive species issues. Members should be articulate, proven leaders who demonstrate personal skills such as integrity, enthusiasm, critical thinking, decision-making, and follow-through. Members of the Board of Directors represent six categories and all regions of Ohio. These categories include: state and federal government (land management agencies), the green industry, local government (county park districts), interested public, academia/educational institutions, and non-profit conservation organizations.

Duties: Members of the Board of Directors are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Ohio Invasive Plants Council, as well as hands-on implementation of board approved actions. Board Members will prepare for and attend regular board meetings, oversee all aspects of the organization, and further the mission. This includes ensuring effective organizational planning, management of resources, creating and monitoring programs, enhancing public image, and communicating with the members of the Ohio Invasive Plants Council.

Directors should be able to travel occasionally throughout the state, be available for meetings during normal business hours, and ideally should have the support of their organizations to serve on the board of the Ohio Invasive Plants Council.

Meetings: The board meets quarterly as a whole, or as needed, with working sub-committees meeting during the off-months. Directors must be able to travel throughout Ohio to represent the Council on official business.

Election and term of Office: The Nominating Committee will recommend a slate of candidates to the Board of Directors, chosen from the applications received by **November 30th**. The Directors shall be elected by the Council at the Annual Meeting in February from a slate of candidates approved by the Board of Directors. The term of office shall be three years, with approximately one third of the terms expiring each year. No director shall serve more than two consecutive full terms. A Director also serving as an Officer of the Corporation shall be allowed to serve as a Director until the end of their term as Officer. A Director who has served for two consecutive full terms is eligible to become a Director again after one year has elapsed.

The Nominating Committee has prepared recommendations and organized documents for the Board of Directors to review. To apply or for more information, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee:

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