



Contact: Claire Lane
Urban Conservationist
Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
317-773-2181
claire.lane@hamilltoncounty.in.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOOT BRUSH STATION LAUNCHED AS PART OF FIRST EVER HAMILTON COUNTY INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK

CARMEL, IN – A local group is working to make invasive species management as easy as a walk in the park. The Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) launched the first of what will be dozens of boot brush stations across the county. The stations include educational signage and an easy to use boot brush that is intended for use as you enter and exit walking paths on local trails.

Invasive species are those that are not native to this area and cause damage to the environment, economy, or human health. Many invasive species were introduced as ornamental plantings via the landscape industry and have since spread and taken over roadsides, parks, and natural areas. Invasive species seeds are often spread by birds, but they can also be transported on our shoes or our pet's paws. The Hamilton County Invasives Partnership is working to install boot brush stations at trailheads throughout the county where trail users can learn about invasive species and wipe their boots before entering the trail and at the end of their walk. This action to limit the spread of invasive species can keep quality natural areas invasive free and limit introduction of new invasive species between parks. At the launch of the program, Chris Stice, Director of the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department, shared that Hamilton County Parks has spent "tens of thousands of hours fighting invasives within our department." Claire Lane, Urban Conservationist for the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District and HIP coordinator, added that "these stations are a great way for trail users to take a small personal action that can have a big impact."

The boot brush launch was held in celebration of the first ever Hamilton County Invasive Species Awareness Week being held May 15th-22nd. The awareness week will include "Weed Wrangle" volunteer invasive species workdays, an educational webinar on Tuesday May 18th at 7pm, and a variety of educational resources available on HIP social media channels. More information on invasive species, boot brush stations, and awareness week activities can be found at www.hcinvasives.org

The boot brush station can be found at Cool Creek Park at the trailhead near the nature center parking area.

If you would like more information on this topic, please contact Claire Lane at 317-773-2181 or claire.lane@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.



(L to R) Brenda Myers (Hamilton County Tourism, Inc. President/CEO), Bruce Oldham (Hamilton County Parks Deputy Director), Christine Altman (Hamilton County Commissioner), Claire Lane (Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Urban Conservationist, and Chris Stice (Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Director).

If you would like more information on this topic, please contact Claire Lane at 317-773-2181 or claire.lane@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.