4.9 Invasive Species

4.9.1 Description

Harmful species are species that have potential negative impacts on the environment and economy of Clinton County. Harmful species are both native and invasive. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines an invasive species as "an organism that causes ecological or economic harm in a new environment and is not native." Harmful species are species that are native to a region, but that also cause significant ecological, public health, or economic harm. Their growth is often encouraged through human activity.

Invasive species can be terrestrial (land dwelling) or aquatic (water dwelling). Terrestrial species include plants, trees, shrubs, animals, birds, and insects, as well as fungi, bacteria, molds, and viruses. Aquatic species include aquatic plants and algae, fish, mollusks, amphibians, and insects, as well as fungi, bacteria, molds, and viruses.

4.9.2 Location

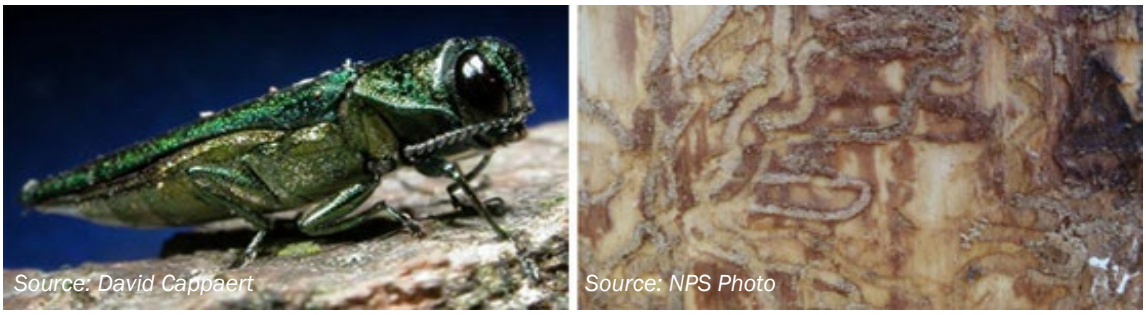
Invasive species have the potential to impact any location within the County. The most invasive of terrestrial species degrade the State's woodlands, wetlands, and prairies. Aquatic Invasive Species use rivers to spread. Ohio has over 66,000 miles of streams, 262 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, nearly 2,000 inland lakes and reservoirs, and shares major watersheds with other states and Canada. Clinton County lies in the Mississippi River basin, which is an ecologically diverse river system, and is susceptible to invasions through the Ohio River and its tributaries.

4.9.3 Extent

Once invasive species become widely established, controlling their spread is both technically difficult and expensive, making eradication nearly impossible. Invasive species can usually overtake native species and alter the natural wildlife habitat.

The most common invasive species in Clinton County is the **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (Figure 4.9.1).** It is an exotic beetle that feeds on ash trees inhibiting its ability to transport water and nutrients. This insect was first found in Ohio in 2002 and has since been found in every county in the State. Since the EAB has been found in every county, there are no quarantines in effect with Ohio's borders. Ohio is still listed in the Federal quarantine boundary.

Figure 4.9.1: Emerald Ash Borer and Feeding Tunnels



Approximately 2,300 plant species occur in the wild in Ohio. Of these, about 78 percent are native, that is, they were found in the region before the times of European settlement. Of the remaining 22 percent, fewer than 100 have been identified to be problems in natural areas. According to the Ohio Invasive Plants Council, there are 38 banned invasive plant species in Ohio and more under consideration (**Table 4.9.1**). These plants cannot be sold, distributed, or imported.

Studies conducted by Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Sea Grant, and the Ohio State University have identified over 70 invasive aquatic species in Ohio (**Table 4.9.2**). With the exception of White Perch, it is unlawful to possess, import, or sell these species live.

Table 4.9.1: Plant Invasive Species in Ohio as of January 7, 2018

Scientific Name	Common Name
Ailanthus altissima	Tree-of-heaven
Alliaria petiolate	Garlic mustard
Berberis vulgaris	Common barberry
Butomus umbellatus	Flowering rush
Celastrus orbiculatus	Oriental bittersweet
Centaurea stoebe ssp. Micranthos	Spotted knapweed
Dipsacus fullonum	Common teasel
Dipsacus laciniatus	Cutleaf teasel
Egeria densa	Brazilian elodea
Elaegnus angustifolia	Russian olive
Elaegnus umbellate	Autumn olive
Epilobium hirsutum	Hairy willow herb
Frangula alnus	Glossy buckthorn
Heracleum mantegazzianum	Giant hogweed
Hesperis matronlis	Dame's rocket
Hydrilla verticillata	Hydrilla
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae	European frog-bit
Lonicera japonica	Japanese honeysuckle
Lonicera maackii	Amur honeysuckle
Lonicera morrowii	Morrow's honeysuckle
Lonicera tatarica	Tatarian honeysuckle
Lythrum salicaria	Purple loosestrife
Lythrum virgatum (effective January 7, 2019)	European wand loosestrife
Microstegium vimineum	Japanese stiltgrass
Myriophyllum aquaticum	Parrotfeather
Myriophyllum spicatum	Eurasian water-milfoil
Nymphoides peltata	Yellow floating heart
Phragmites australis	Common reed
Potamogeton crispus	Curley-leaved pondweed
Pueraria montana var. lobate	Kudzu

Scientific Name	Common Name
Pyrus calleryana (effective January 7, 2023)	Callery pear
Ranunculus ficaria	Fig buttercup, lesser celandine
Rhamnus cathartica	Common Buckthorn
Rosa multiflora	Multiflora rose
Trapa natans	Water chestnut
Typha angustifolia	Narrow-leaved cattail
Typha x glauca	Hybrid cattail
Vincetoxicum nigrum	Black Swallow-Wort

Table 4.9.2: Aquatic Invasive Species in Ohio

Type	Scientific Name	Common Name
Fish	*Alosa pseudoharengus*	Alewife
Fish	*Carassius auratus*	Goldfish
Fish	*Carassius carassius*	Crucian Carp
Fish	*Carassius gibelio*	Prussian Carp
Fish	*Channa app. and Parachanna app.*	Snakeheads
Fish	*Claris batrachus*	Walking Catfish
Fish	*Ctenopharyngodon idella*	Diploid Grass Carp - White Amur
Fish	*Ctenopharyngodon Idella* #	Grass Carp
Fish	*Cyprinus carpio* #	Common Carp
Fish	*Fundulus catenatus*	Northern Studfish
Fish	*Fundulus diaphanus*	Eastern Banded Killifish
Fish	*Gambusia holbrooki and Gambusia affinis* #	Eastern & Western Mosquitofish
Fish	*Gasterosteus aculeatus*	Three Spine Stickleback
Fish	*Gymnocephalus cernuus*	Ruffe
Fish	*Hypophthalmichthys harmandi*	Large-scale Silver Carp
Fish	*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*	Silver Carp
Fish	*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*	Bighead Carp
Fish	*Lates niloticus*	Nile Perch
Fish	*Leuciscus idus*	Ide
Fish	*Morone americana*	White Perch
Fish	*Mylopharyngodon piceus*	Black Carp
Fish	*Neogobius melanostomus*	Round Goby
Fish	*Osmerus mordax*	Rainbow Smelt

Type	Scientific Name	Common Name
Fish	*Perca fluviatilis*	European Perch
Fish	*Perccottus glenii*	Amur Sleeper
Fish	*Petromyzon marinus*	Sea Lamprey
Fish	*Phoxinus phoxinus*	Eurasian Minnow
Fish	*Proterorhinus marmoratus*	Tubenose Goby
Fish	*Pseudorasbora parva*	Stone Moroko
Fish	*Rhodeus sericeus*	Bitterling
Fish	*Rutilus rutilus*	Roach
Fish	*Sander lucioperca*	Zander
Fish	*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*	European Rudd
Fish	*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*	Rudd
Fish	*Silurus glanis*	Wels Catfish
Fish	*Tinca tinca*	Tench
Mollusks	*Bellamya (Cipangopaludina)*	Mystery Snails
Mollusks	*Bithynia tentaculata*	Faucet Snail
Mollusks	*Corbicula fluminea* #	Asian Clam
Mollusks	*Dreissena bugensis*	Quagga Mussel
Mollusks	*Dreissena polymorpha*	Zebra Mussel
Mollusks	*Limnoperna fortune*	Golden Mussel
Mollusks	*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*	New Zealand Mudsnail
Crustaceans	*Bythotrephes longimanus*	Spiny Waterflea
Crustaceans	*Cercopagis pengoi*	Fishhook Waterflea
Crustaceans	*Cherax destructor*	Yabby
Crustaceans	*Cherax tenuimanus*	Marron
Crustaceans	*Dikerogammarus villosus*	Killer Shrimp
Crustaceans	*Eriocheir sinensis*	Chinese Mitten Crab
Crustaceans	*Eriocheir sinensis*	Chinese Mitten Crab
Crustaceans	*Faxonius virilis*	Virile Crayfish
Crustaceans	*Hemimysis anomala*	Bloody-red Shrimp
Crustaceans	*Procambarus clarki*	Red Swamp Crayfish
Plant	*Butomus umbellatus*	Flowering-rush
Plant	*Egeria densa*	Brazilian Waterweed
Plant	*Hydrilla verticillata*	Hydrilla
Plant	*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*	European Frog-bit

Type	Scientific Name	Common Name
Plant	*Iris pseudacorus*	Yellow Iris
Plant	*Ludwigia peploides* #	Creeping Water-primrose
Plant	*Lysimachia nummularia* #	Moneywort
Plant	*Lythrum salicaria*	Purple Loosestrife
Plant	*Marsilea quadrifolia*	European Water Clover
Plant	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*	Parrotfeather
Plant	*Myriophyllum spicatum* #	Eurasian Watermilfoil
Plant	*Najas minor* #	Brittle Naiad
Plant	*Nelumbo nucifera*	Pink Lotus
Plant	*Nitellopsis obtusa*	Starry Stonewort
Plant	*Nymphoides peltata*	Yellow Floating Heart
Plant	*Phalaris arundinacea* #	Reed Canary Grass
Plant	*Phragmites australis*	Common Reed (Phragmites)
Plant	*Pistia stratiotes*	Water Lettuce
Plant	*Potamogeton crispus* #	Curly-Leaf Pondweed
Plant	*Trapa natans*	Water Chestnut
Plant	*Typha angustifolia, Typha x glauca* #	Narrowleaf and Hybrid Cattails

#*Species most likely found in Clinton County*

Other invasive species that have the potential to impact Ohio and Clinton County include:

The **Gypsy Moth** has been migrating into Ohio from Pennsylvania and Michigan. In the caterpillar stage, the Gypsy Moth targets over 300 different trees and shrubs. A healthy tree will typically die within two years of a Gypsy Moth infestation. Gypsy Moth eggs are laid during July and over winter until late April to mid-May. An egg mass can contain up to 600 eggs. Before feeding, the larvae are dispersed by the wind to other trees or areas. The Gypsy Moth can lead to heavy defoliation and can make trees more susceptible to other invasive or harmful species. Preferred host plants include alder, aspen, gray birch, white birch, hawthorn, larch, linden, mountain ash, oaks, Lombardy poplar, willows, and witch hazel. Trees that are susceptible to older larvae only include beech, red cedar, chestnut, hemlock, plum, pine, and Colorado blue spruce.

The **Walnut Twig Beetle** transmits the thousand cankers disease, a fungus that attacks black walnut trees. Butler County is currently under quarantine to limit the spread of the Walnut Twig Beetle throughout Ohio.

Hemlock Wooly Adelgid are small invasive pests that can be found on the underside of hemlock needles. They feed on the sap causing the tree to dry up and die. It was first found in North America in the 1950s. Today, they are a huge problem in northeast Ohio.

Mute Swans are non-native invasive species found on public lakes across Ohio. During the breeding season, March through May, adult mute swans become highly territorial and will fight to push native birds out of their nesting area. Mute swans have attacked humans and pets during this time as well.

Mute swans can consume submerged aquatic vegetation and usually uproot the whole plant leaving nothing behind. This takes away natural habitat from fish and leaves little food source for native waterfowl. The removal of aquatic vegetation can also cause water quality issues and erosion problems.

White Nose Syndrome is a fungal disease infecting and killing bats. Bats provide several ecological benefits such as plant pollination, seed dispersal, pest control, and contributions to the medical field. In Ohio, there are 11 species of bats that consume tons of nocturnal insects each year including moths, beetles, flies, true bugs, and hoppers. A White Nose Syndrome case was confirmed in Ohio in 2011.

4.9.4 History

There are no known impacts of invasive species particular to Clinton County except the Emerald Ash Borer, which has spread to all 88 counties in Ohio. Additionally, it is possible that any of the species listed above have at one point affected the County and its residents.

4.9.5 Probability

Since there are many invasive species throughout Ohio, it is probable that Clinton County will experience some of the invasive species listed above.

4.9.6 Vulnerability Assessment

Infrastructure Impact

There are no likely impacts to public roadways or utilities. Public trees may be destroyed or impacted by various invasive species. Aquatic invasive species could destroy water quality, make poor habitat for fish, and clog water intake pipes. Some species also increase fire potential and can be problematic to levees, dams, and irrigation systems.

Population Impact

There are no likely impacts on the local population. Recreational activities such as boating and fishing may be mildly impacted

Property Damage

Property damage, in the form of reduced values from impacts on landscaping, is likely.

Loss of Life

Loss of life due to the effects of invasive species is unlikely. Some of these species consumed as food could lead to diseases and other health impact in humans.

Economic Losses

Economic impacts can vary greatly depending on the target and of the invasive species and their impacts on those targets. If a large number of trees are severely damaged or killed by various invasive species, there may be indirect economic losses. Examples include increased heating and cooling costs, reduced property value, and reduction in viable lumber for construction.

4.9.7 Land Use and Development Trends

There could be slight impacts on development and land use due to invasive species. Some invasive species can be particularly damaging to crops, agricultural land, and wetlands.