

Weed of the Month

Preventing the spread of invasive plants

Our summers are often spent enjoying the great outdoors, and taking advantage of the plentiful parks, trails, and natural areas in Mendota Heights and the surrounding area. You may not be thinking about invasive plants while enjoying summer recreation, but invasive plants can be accidentally spread as we enjoy summer recreation such as camping, hiking and biking.

When moving through an area with invasive plants, seeds and other plant material can be transferred via footwear, clothing, bikes, and other equipment, or even on your pet. These seeds can move to un-infested areas where they can invade, disrupting our local ecosystem and suppressing or outcompeting native vegetation that is vital food and habitat for wildlife.

What can we do?

- Clean equipment, pets, and clothes before leaving an area
- Do not pick plants or transplant plants from one area to another
- Sweep out your RV or tent before leaving the campground
- Spray down vehicles, trailers, and bikes with water or compressed air