

## Class of 2017: Wipe Your Feet!



The project is affectionately called "Wipe Your Feet!" This project's mission is to promote and increase awareness in Charlevoix County of invasive species through the installation of public trail head boot brush stations and educational kiosks.

Invasive species can impact our local nature trails and parks, and most of us don't even notice when they appear. Similar to the effect zebra mussels have on our lakes, if we aren't careful, invasive plants can spread all over our beautiful Northern Michigan habitat.

As Benjamin Franklin said, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The boot brush stations will help keep our natural areas free of invasive species like Garlic Mustard, which overruns our woodlands in the spring. Seeds of invasive plants can get lodged in boot treads, pant cuffs, or pet fur. Invasive plants displace native plants that are critical to wildlife, and once they become established are costly and even impossible to control.

So, help prevent the spread, CLEAN YOUR BOOTS, pants, pets, and packs before and after hitting the trail.

This project is in partnership with **CAKE CISMA** (Charlevoix Antrim Kalkaska Emmet Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area).