

Boot Brush Stations

Ellen Jacquart, Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
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The design and idea were taken from John Exo who led a Univ. of Wisconsin – Extension project to produce stations like this a few years ago. We wanted a consistent look and message for around the state, so we got local grant money to do a similar project and produced 35 stations for use on Forest Service, Indiana DNR, local land trust, and TNC preserves (all those logos are in the left banner of the sign).

Frame Assembly

Ruth Risler, Best-Ex, Inc
820 Industrial Court
P.O. Box 454
Baraboo, WI
608-356-4882
ruth@best-exfab.com

\$196 per frame assembly (frame for sign and boot brush holder, both made to slide over 2 – 4”x 4”s) when we ordered around 35 units. This does not include shipping, which was about \$300 for the 35 to be shipped to one address. Very solid materials; they also sent some replacement brushes should the first ones start to wear out. We added the 2” x 4” frame filled with gravel around the base of the station to trap any seeds.



Sign

Michael Brown, Crystal
Graphics, Inc.
Suite 200
4225 Drane Field Road
Lakeland, FL 33811
1-863-577-2000

\$93 per sign (18”x 24”, 1/8” thick Colorgard Embedment) when we ordered 35, plus shipping costs of \$30. This was by far the cheapest quote we got for this kind of sign. Very durable, no need to cover with plastic. The sign was designed by Lise Schools of Interpretive Ideas, P.O. Box 355, Okemos, MI, 517-347-0861



Wipe Your Feet!
Please brush your boots before entering this natural area.

The tiny seeds of invasive plants can hide in the soles of your shoes. Wiping your shoes on the boot brush (at the base of this sign) will prevent seeds from entering this natural area.

Invaders From Afar
Non-native invasive plants have come into the United States from other countries in a number of ways. Some were introduced as garden plants or wildlife food. Unfortunately, these highly aggressive plants have spread uncontrollably. Their unrestricted growth chokes our forests, suppressing native plants and decreasing wildlife habitat.

Immigrants From Other Lands
Each of these problem species has a different origin and history. Two examples that can be spread by your boots:

Japanese Stilt Grass
(*Microstegium vimineum*) is native to Asia. Another common name is Chinese packing grass. The grass was dried and used as packing material. In this way, its seeds went all over the world. An individual plant can produce up to 1000 seeds. It can be identified by a silvery stripe down the center of each leaf. Japanese stilt grass grows in dense patches and can crowd out native plants within 3-5 years. Japanese stilt grass destroys habitat for ground nesting birds. It occurs locally in southern and central Indiana and is moving north quickly.

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a native of Europe. It was brought to America by settlers as a vitamin-rich herb. Garlic mustard seeds are dispersed inadvertently by people and vehicles. Once established, garlic mustard displaces forest wildflowers such as trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit and wood phlox. Compared to the diversity of plants it eliminates, garlic mustard provides little food for wildlife. Garlic mustard is invading forests in many parts of Indiana.

Are You Harboring an Invasive?
Invasive plant populations can get their start from one seed. Please use the boot brush and help keep this natural area native. Thank you.