Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Inc.
Assistance Program
for the Control of Invasive Species

Assistance Program Background

SEWISC, the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Inc., periodically has funds available to support worthwhile projects designed to lessen the impacts of invasive species in southeastern Wisconsin. Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, native plant and animal communities, and wildlife habitat. SEWISC funds will only be provided for projects that further the SEWISC effort to educate the public and protect biodiversity and ecological function throughout the region, contributing to a high quality of life for present and future generations.

SEWISC is a broad-based coalition that promotes efficient and effective management of invasive species throughout an eight-county region. SEWISC integrates invasive plant and animal management resources and provides the opportunity for partners to share and leverage limited resources, raise awareness about invasive species problems, and provide a mechanism for collaborative problem-solving on both public and private lands. We protect our natural resources by promoting the stewardship needed to prevent and control invasive species.

SEWISC assistance funds are most often designated for on-the-ground invasive species control work and must be used in the 8-county SEWISC region. When funds are available, clear notice of the availability of those funds will be posted on our website (SEWISC.org) and announced in an electronic mailing (e.g. our quarterly e-Newsletter and/or separate e-News Blast). If the funding is earmarked for specific types of projects, (e.g. on-the-ground invasive species control) that information will be described on the website. Depending on the source of the funding, individuals, established non-profit organizations, community and civic groups, private businesses, or units of government may be eligible to receive funds.

Member Benefit

This Assistance Program is a benefit of membership to SEWISC members. All applicants must be a current (2026) member of SEWISC. Membership is easy to obtain at https://sewisc.org/support-us.

Application Review

Grant funds may be used to accomplish a specific project or to support an on-going program. However, preference will be given to projects that demonstrate a long-term commitment to invasive species control, especially continued control of the specific invasive species populations targeted by the project.

In order to extend the reach of this grant program to as many project applicants as possible, preference will be given to qualified applicants/projects not funded in the previous (2025) year. Additionally, the Assistance Program will not fund the cost of in-house labor paid to employees of the applicant. Employee time necessary to carry out the project can be used as match. However, outside project-related labor (i.e. contract labor) may be considered for funding.

All applications will be reviewed by the SEWISC Assistance Program Committee and scored on the merits of the project and likelihood of accomplishing proposed outcomes. Specific Assistance Program scoring metrics are attached for reference. Applicants are encouraged to use these metrics in the development of their projects and applications.

All applications must follow the specified requirements in the application form. SEWISC reserves the right to disqualify any applications that do not meet these requirements. For example, **the application requires the Project Information to be completed in two pages, or fewer. If more than two pages are submitted, the application will not be considered**.

Assistance Requirements

1. 2026 Assistance Program funds may only be used for on-the-ground control projects.
2. Assistance awards will be limited to a maximum of $2,000 of funding from SEWISC.
3. The funded project must provide a match that equals at least 25% of the total project budget. In-kind (e.g. volunteer labor **and staff personnel time**) match is acceptable. SEWISC will not fund more than 75% of the total cost of the project. Details of the match calculation must be shown in the grant application budget.
4. Applications are due by **5 pm February 27, 2026**; and awardees will be notified by March 20, 2026.
5. The project must be completed in 2026; a final report will be due by January 31, 2027.

Awardee Requirements

As part of their award agreement, awardees agree to provide SEWISC with:

1. A brief (1-2 pages) written project report on or before January 31, 2026. The final report and any related attachments must be submitted as a single document (.pdf format is preferred).
2. Map(s) of the project depicting treatment areas (include approximate project acres)
3. Photos of the project (Before, in process, and as completed).
4. Project updates and photos when requested by SEWISC.
5. Examples of promotional materials used for the project.
6. Notice of any press or media related to the project. Awardees agree to acknowledge SEWISC support in press or media stories and promotional materials.
7. Awardees must schedule a project visit by a SEWISC Assistance Grant Committee member no later than October 1, 2026.
8. SEWISC Invasive Species Management signage must be obtained and posted on the project site during project period. SEWISC will provide the sign at no cost.

If a project report is not submitted to SEWISC within the required time period, SEWISC reserves the right to request that the funds be returned, and the awardee will not be eligible to apply for any further funding. Awardees are responsible for any income tax associated with the assistance award.

In the event the Awardee experiences unforeseen circumstances affecting the timely completion of their project, they should contact SEWISC as soon as possible (info@sewisc.org).

Liability for Control Work

All invasive control work performed with funding provided by SEWISC is entirely the responsibility of the organization or individual performing that work. SEWISC has no direct control over the work performed and will not assume any responsibility for any damages caused by control work using funding provided by SEWISC. This includes any damage that might be caused by the use of herbicides, whether that damage is caused by a use that might be considered normal practice or by negligence.

An application form for the SEWISC Assistance Mini-Grant Program can be accessed on the SEWISC website: http://sewisc.org/.

SEWISC Assistance Program - Application Ranking Form

To be completed by SEWISC Grant Selection Committee Members

Applicant Individual/Organization Name _____

Selection Committee Member_____

SELECTION CRITERIA						
Control Invasive Species Likelihood of long-lasting invasive species control from project; management efficacy; effectiveness monitoring	Uncertain 1	2	3	4	Certain 5
Work in High-quality Natural Area / Wildlife Habitat Project area is in, or adjacent to, a natural area with high regional or local significance for wildlife populations	Low importance 1	2	3	4	High importance 5
Reduce Impact of Targeted Invasives Project likely to reduce the impact of targeted invasive species in southeastern Wisconsin	Uncertain 1	2	3	4	Certain 5
Environmental Education/Outreach Project offers strong public invasive species education components	Low 1	2	3	4	High 5
Building Partnerships Project brings together partnerships with potential for ongoing impact on invasives	Weak 1	2	3	4	Strong 5
Capacity and SEWISC Linkages Organization or individual has the capacity to successfully complete project	Low 1	2	3	4	High 5
Project has strong linkage to SEWISC's mission and work in southeastern Wisconsin	1	2	3	4	5
Proposals from Individuals Proposed project submitted by an individual with few other potential funding sources (not an agency or organization)	(+3 points): _____				
Previously Funded Project/Applicant The project/applicant was funded by SEWISC in 2025	(-5 points): _____				
Selection Committee Comments and Discretionary Points (+/- 5 points allowed): (Please add brief note regarding why added / deleted): (+/- 5 points): _____					

TOTAL SCORE _____ **RANK**_____

(43 POINTS MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SCORE)

SAMPLE