

Western New York PRISM

Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management



2026 Annual Work Plan

Partnering to Protect Western New York from Invasive Species

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WNY PRISM Steering Committee Members

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County
 Great Lakes Center - SUNY Buffalo State
 New York Sea Grant
 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
 NYS Department of Transportation

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 Royal Fern Nursery
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Buffalo District
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Lower Great Lakes Conservation Office
 U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Abbreviations

AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species
CAP	Crew Assistance Program
CSE	Community Science and Engagement
DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
E&O	Education and Outreach
GCPF	Genesee County Park and Forest
ISAC	Invasive Species Advisory Committee
ISC	Invasive Species Council
PRISM	Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
TIS	Terrestrial Invasive Species
WISP	Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program
WISPA	Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Application



**Department of
 Environmental
 Conservation**

Funding for WNY PRISM is provided by the Environmental Protection Fund through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. WNY PRISM is a sponsored program of The Research Foundation at SUNY Buffalo State University and hosted by The Great Lakes Center.

WNY PRISM Mission

The WNY PRISM Mission is to proactively identify, evaluate and address invasive species priorities in western New York using a coordinated partnership of local professionals, organizations and community members to improve, restore and protect local aquatic and terrestrial resources.

Strategic Plan Goals *(from WNY PRISM Strategic Plan 2025-2029)*

Partnership

Coordinate the WNY PRISM partner network to build and strengthen relationships to the benefit of all those impacted by invasive species.

Community Engagement

Engage with the regional community through education and encourage participation in meaningful and effective invasive species management activities.

Prevention

Coordinate and support efforts to reduce the likelihood of new invasive species introductions to the region and to limit the spread of established species.

Early Detection and Response

Coordinate, support and implement early detection, assessment and response efforts focused on priority species within the region.

Management and Habitat Restoration

Provide assistance with management planning and project implementation based on identified priorities focusing on projects that use best management practices to support long-term sustainability of efforts.

I. Partnership

GOAL: Coordinate the WNY PRISM partner network to build and strengthen relationships to the benefit of all those impacted by invasive species.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Provide structure for the sharing of information and resources, for supporting collaboration and increasing partner engagement.
- B. Increase regional capacity for invasive species management and priority projects.
- C. Identify and maintain clearly defined regional invasive species management priorities.
- D. Ensure WNY PRISM maintains the ability to successfully implement the strategic plan and address established priorities.
- E. Work with the NYS Invasive Species Program and broader regional programs on shared goals and priorities.

Actions Planned		Program	Deadline or Frequency
I.A.1	Hold Steering Committee Meetings (3).	PRISM	2/19; 6/18; 11/19
I.A.2	Hold Spring Partner Meeting (1).	PRISM	4/16/2026
I.A.3	Hold WNY PRISM Symposium/Fall Partner Meeting (1).	PRISM	10/15/2026
I.A.4	Participate in local, state and regional collaboratives and working groups.	PRISM	ongoing
I.A.5	Identify Aquatic and Terrestrial Working Group needs, hold meetings as need requires.	AIS/TIS	2/12/2026
I.A.6	Hold E&O Working Group meeting(s) focused on improving engagement and reaching new groups.	E&O	TBD
I.A.7	Integrate story maps for CAP and WISP on the website (2).	E&O	4/30/2026
I.A.8	Update WNY PRISM Style Guide (1).	PRISM	9/30/2026
I.A.9	Develop website form/portal for partners to submit management project information (1).	TIS	10/9/2026
I.A.10	Produce 2026 core program reports (WISP, ED, CAP, CS)(4).	PRISM	11/6/2026
I.A.11	Release bi-weekly eNews through WNY PRISM Listserv.	E&O	bi-weekly
I.A.12	Maintain WNY PRISM Listserv (1).	E&O	ongoing
I.A.13	Maintain Inquiry Tracker (1).	PRISM	ongoing
I.B.1	Provide support for partners seeking grants/funding - review proposals, provide letters of support.	PRISM	as identified
I.B.2	Provide review and feedback for partner management plans and project development.	PRISM	as identified
I.B.3	Assist with project development efforts, provide for opportunities for improved communication and collaboration.	PRISM	as identified
I.B.4	Review and update Invasive Species Funding Guide for Western New York.	PRISM	7/31/2026
I.C.1	Maintain WNY PRISM Early Detection and Approaching Region priority species lists, promote.	PRISM	ongoing
I.C.2	Maintain WNY PRISM Data Gap priority species list, promote among partners and greater community.	PRISM	ongoing
I.C.3	Review regional NYS Tiers for Tier 1 and Tier 2 species, update as needed.	PRISM	ongoing
I.C.4	Improve ability to incorporate conservation targets into project selection and implementation.	PRISM	3/30/2026
I.D.1	Maintain WNY PRISM core staff - Coordinator (1), Program Managers (3).	PRISM	ongoing
I.D.2	Provide professional development opportunities for staff.	PRISM	ongoing
I.D.3	Hold monthly staff meetings.	PRISM	monthly

Actions Planned		Program	Deadline or Frequency
I.D.4	Finalize and release 2025 WNY PRISM Annual Report.	PRISM	1/30/2026
I.D.5	Finalize and release updated WNY PRISM Strategic Plan.	PRISM	1/30/2026
I.D.6	Develop and release strategic plan 2-page summary/quick reference guide.	PRISM	1/30/2026
I.D.7	Recruit, interview and hire Field Crew Leader.	TIS	2/27/2026
I.D.8	Post summer staff positions and recruit candidates/solicit applications.	PRISM	1/12/2026
I.D.9	Interview and hire summer staff positions.	PRISM	3/30/2026
I.D.10	Maintain field/stewardship equipment and ensure proper storage.	AIS/TIS	ongoing
I.D.11	Ensure WNY PRISM truck I properly maintained and has current registration and insurance documents.	TIS	ongoing
I.D.12	Develop WNY PRISM truck use calendar.	PRISM	ongoing
I.D.13	Review/update 2027 Field Crew Leader job description, post position.	TIS	11/30/2026
I.D.14	Review/update 2027 summer staff job descriptions, prepare for posting.	PRISM	12/15/2026
I.D.15	Finalize and release 2027 WNY PRISM Annual Work Plan (1).	PRISM	12/1/2026
I.E.1	Participate in quarterly PRISM Leaders Meetings (4).	PRISM	1/15; 4/9; 7/9; 10/6
I.E.2	Provide WNY PRISM updates for ISAC/ISC Meetings (1).	PRISM	10/30/2026
I.E.3	Participate in statewide Terrestrial, Aquatic and Education working group meetings.	PRISM	as identified
I.E.4	Attend and provide updates for NYS Monthly Webinar Series (9), facilitate January Meeting (1).	PRISM	Monthly
I.E.5	Support Invasive Species Awareness Week - hold events (5) and assist partners by supporting planning efforts.	E&O	6/13/2026

II. Community Engagement

GOAL: Engage with the regional community through education and encourage participation in meaningful and effective invasive species management activities.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Increase awareness and engagement through educational programming and outreach that addresses priorities and encourages action among partners and community members.
- B. Coordinate effective community science and volunteer programs to assist with data collection and to support priority invasive species management efforts.
- C. Use online platforms to broaden WNY PRISM's reach and to better engage with and inform partners and community members on invasive species issues and priorities.

Actions Planned		Program	Deadline or Frequency
II.A.1	Hold event planning meeting and develop annual schedule, ensure availability of staff coverage.	E&O	1/14/2026
II.A.2	Provide presentations for partner events, meetings and/or conferences (10).	PRISM	as identified
II.A.3	Hold Walk and Talk Series (4).	E&O	TBD
II.A.4	Attend/table at community outreach events (15).	E&O	as identified
II.A.5	Hold annual terrestrial (1) and aquatic (1) management workshops.	AIS/TIS	6/13/2026
II.A.6	Incorporate workshop/learning evaluations into all appropriate events.	E&O	as identified
II.A.7	Review and update WNY PRISM general trifold.	PRISM	2/27/2026
II.A.8	Review and update, if necessary, WNY PRISM keep-a-lookout fliers.	E&O	10/30/2026
II.A.9	Develop species ID video - identify target species, determine video/image needs, implement plan.	CSE	3/30/2026
II.A.10	Develop species ID video - complete porcelain berry identification video.	CSE	4/30/2026
II.A.11	Develop ID resources for wood sedge (<i>Carex sylvatica</i>).	CSE	5/31/2026
II.A.12	Develop and release Spring and Fall Newsletters (2).	E&O	4/1; 10/1
II.A.13	Maintain Pledge to Protect Program.	CSE	ongoing
II.A.14	Maintain Events Calendar and Tracking spreadsheet (1).	E&O	ongoing
II.B.1	Coordinate Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Hunters Program.	CSE	Quarter 1
II.B.2	Coordinate Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Hunters: Stand Assessment Program.	CSE	Quarter 1
II.B.3	Coordinate Trail Survey Program - develop and implement training and online resources.	CSE	6/13/2026
II.B.4	Coordinate Trail Survey Program - data collection and review.	CSE	8/14/2026
II.B.5	Review Spotted Lanternfly Trap Monitoring Program.	CSE	2/27/2026
II.B.6	Coordinate adjusted Spotted Lanternfly Trap Monitoring Program.	CSE	Quarter 3
II.B.7	Release 1-page Quarterly Community Science Bulletin (4).	CSE	quarterly
II.B.8	Identify and hold volunteer workdays (3).	CSE	TBD
II.B.9	Track volunteer and community science metrics - training, hours, impacts/results, match/leveraged value.	CSE	ongoing
II.B.10	Continue discussions on development of AIS community science program.	AIS	ongoing

Actions Planned		Program	Deadline or Frequency
II.C.1	Develop social media plan with monthly breakdown/schedule, implement.	CSE	1/30/2026/ongoing
II.C.2	Track social media metrics monthly, incorporate results into subsequent efforts.	CSE	ongoing
II.C.3	Develop new invasive species profiles for priority species (3).	E&O	as identified
II.C.4	Develop and/or coordinate, and post, blogs to website.	E&O	monthly
II.C.5	Review and update location for WNY PRISM publications and resources on website.	E&O	4/30/2026
II.C.6	Review website and identify pages in need of updates.	E&O	4/30/2026
II.C.7	Conduct annual review of website for outdated information and broken links.	CSE	7/31/2026
II.C.8	Develop plan for identified website page updates and implement.	E&O	11/30/2026

III. Prevention

GOAL: Coordinate and support efforts to reduce the likelihood of new invasive species introductions to the region and to limit the spread of established species.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Support and implement spread prevention efforts that focus on the identification and disruption of pathways of invasion.
- B. Increase regional awareness and understanding of potential and emerging threats.
- C. Successfully coordinate the WNY PRISM Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program and leverage program to further support invasive species management efforts.

Actions Planned		Program	Deadline or Frequency
III.A.1	Coordinate Boot Brush Station Program, provide boot brush stations (5-6).	CSE	6/13/2026
III.A.2	Implement regional boot brush station survey - round 2.	E&O	8/30/2026
III.A.3	Identify and coordinate installation of AIS spread prevention signs at public boat launches.	AIS	7/31/2026
III.A.4	Identify potential boat launch sites for installation of disposal stations.	AIS	9/30/2026
III.A.5	Support development of spread prevention procedures and/or regulations for construction and fill.	PRISM	as identified
III.B.1	Seek information on potential new and approaching invasives species and emerging threats.	PRISM	ongoing
III.B.2	Ensure information on emerging threats is communicated and available to partners.	PRISM	as identified
III.B.3	Support partner eDNA programs and provide assistance with surveys and monitoring.	AIS	as identified
III.B.4	Identify high probability areas for approaching region priority species (1 TIS, 1 AIS).	AIS/TIS	6/30/2026
III.B.5	Identify methods for disrupting potential establishment of approaching region species at high probability areas.	AIS/TIS	8/12/2026
III.B.6	Assess potential effectiveness of drone surveys for monitoring high probability areas.	AIS/TIS	9/30/2026
III.C.1	Finalize and produce outreach/information banner for WISP tables (1).	WISP	2/28/2026
III.C.2	Ensure all launch permissions, permits and insurance documents are in place for selected launches.	AIS	2/28/2026
III.C.3	Maintain effective communication with launch partners.	AIS	ongoing
III.C.4	Hold two-day mandatory Boat Steward Training, secure site, guest presenters, equipment, specimens, food, etc.	AIS	5/19/2026
III.C.5	Ensure Stewards have all necessary training and reference materials, supplies and equipment.	AIS	5/20/2026
III.C.6	Produce monthly data reports (5) and final combined report (1).	AIS	monthly
III.C.7	Provide DEC with requested monthly reports and attend monthly check-in meetings (4).	AIS	monthly
III.C.8	Produce weekly Steward newsletters, starting with week 1/Memorial Day Weekend (16).	AIS	weekly
III.C.9	Hold weekly Lead Steward meetings and monthly All-Steward calls.	AIS	weekly/monthly
III.C.10	Regularly review and confirm WISPA data, identify issues with data collection and address.	AIS	ongoing
III.C.11	Identify ways of using WISPA data to improve regional management efforts and WNY PRISM programming.	AIS	9/30/2026
III.C.12	Provide year-end launch summaries/profiles to partners (12).	AIS	10/31/2026
III.C.13	Review launches/sites and prioritize for 2027 staffing.	AIS	11/30/2026

IV. Early Detection and Response

GOAL: Coordinate, support and implement early detection, assessment and response efforts focused on priority species within the region.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Implement established early detection and response framework for regional response.
- B. Implement early detection site monitoring and maintain database.
- C. Assist with regional early detection management and removal efforts.

Actions Planned		Program	Deadline or Frequency
IV.A.1	Facilitate communication for early detection/assessment/response among partners.	PRISM	ongoing
IV.A.2	Assist with confirmation and site assessments for early detection reports.	AIS/TIS	as identified
IV.A.3	Communicate early detection reports internally and with appropriate partners and landowners.	AIS/TIS	as identified
IV.A.4	Communicate/facilitate communication with landowners to gain permission for site access.	AIS/TIS	as identified
IV.A.5	Facilitate mile-a-minute working group, develop additional species specific working groups as needed.	TIS	4/30/2026
IV.A.6	Assist with development of early detection response plans, assist with implementation.	PRISM	as identified
IV.B.1	Review early detection monitoring sites, identify responsible entities for annual monitoring and communicate.	AIS/TIS	1/30/2026
IV.B.2	Identify and prioritize high probability areas for early detection species surveys, implement surveys.	AIS/TIS	1/30/2026
IV.B.3	Complete early detection site monitoring for active sites.	AIS/TIS	9/30/2026
IV.B.4	Maintain communication with partners responsible for site monitoring (partner sites).	AIS/TIS	9/30/2026
IV.B.5	Provide presumed eradicated data to iMapInvasives.	AIS/TIS	10/31/2026
IV.B.6	Ensure early detection database remains accurate and up to date.	AIS/TIS	ongoing
IV.C.1	Assess and prioritize early detection sites for removal; develop schedule.	AIS/TIS	1/30/2026
IV.C.2	Complete identified early detection removal efforts.	AIS/TIS	10/15/2026
IV.C.3	Continue to work through permit process for porcelain berry removal at Canadaway Creek Nature Sanctuary.	TIS	TBD
IV.C.4	Obtain permission to access sticky sage private landowner site.	TIS	TBD
IV.C.5	Communicate with partners on status of their early detection removal efforts.	AIS/TIS	ongoing

V. Management and Habitat Restoration

GOAL: Provide assistance with management planning and project implementation based on identified priorities focusing on projects that use best management practices to support long-term sustainability of efforts.

- OBJECTIVES**
- A. Provide support and technical assistance for partner-led removal and restoration projects.
 - B. Coordinate Crew Assistance Program based on clearly defined criteria for project selection and prioritization.
 - C. Implement pre-treatment and post treatment data collection and monitoring in support of adaptive management and increased efficacy.
 - D. Implement or support projects that help demonstrate or determine the effectiveness of tools, technologies and methods of invasive species management

Actions Planned		Program	Deadline or Frequency
V.A.1	Provide review and feedback for partner developed invasive species management plans	PRISM	as identified
V.A.2	Assist partners with survey, removal and restoration efforts based on priorities and as capacity allows.	AIS/TIS	as identified
V.A.3	Provide opportunities for partners to take part in WNY PRISM trainings and to work with WNY PRISM Staff.	AIS/TIS	as identified
V.A.4	Facilitate Water Chestnut Working Group (ongoing) and hold post-season meeting.	AIS	11/13/2026
V.A.5	Identify and prioritize water chestnut survey and removal efforts in coordination with the working group.	AIS	4/30/2026
V.A.6	Follow-up on historic water chestnut sites to determine status.	AIS	8/30/2026
V.A.7	Ensure necessary permissions and permits are in place for survey and removal efforts.	AIS/TIS	5/1/2026
V.A.8	Support partner efforts to identify and develop sources of native plant materials.	PRISM	ongoing
V.A.9	Navigate new wetland permitting pathways, support development of updated invasive species general permit.	PRISM	ongoing
V.A.10	Review/assess management database and identify improvements that better support adaptive management.	TIS	12/31/2026
V.B.1	Review CAP proposals, score and prioritize for selection - hold/schedule project meetings, as needed.	TIS	2/6/2026
V.B.2	Hold pre-selection meetings with partners to finalize details, finalize project selection.	TIS	2/27/2026
V.B.3	Develop Crew field season calendar to include CAP and additional programs.	TIS	2/27/2026
V.B.4	Ensure necessary permissions, permits and Scope of Work agreements are in place for all CAP projects.	TIS	5/1/2026
V.B.5	Maintain clear communication with CAP partners.	TIS	ongoing
V.B.6	Implement CAP projects, provide project reports to partners within 6 weeks of completing project.	TIS	ongoing
V.B.7	Review, update and release 2026 CAP request for proposals.	TIS	12/1/2026
V.C.1	Implement pre-treatment surveys and site assessments for all removal projects.	AIS/TIS	ongoing
V.C.2	Collect treatment and/or planting data for all removal and restoration projects.	TIS	ongoing
V.C.3	Implement post-treatment survey and site assessment for identified projects.	AIS/TIS	ongoing
V.C.4	Finalize rake toss survey protocol, post on website.	AIS	5/1/2026
V.C.5	Develop photo point monitoring protocol.	TIS	5/1/2026
V.C.6	Identify and implement data gap surveys - species and geographic.	AIS/TIS	9/25/2026
V.C.7	Prioritize locations and implement white perch surveys, to include additional invasive species.	AIS	8/30/2026

Actions Planned		Program	Deadline or Frequency
V.D.1	Ketchum Restoration - implement initial invasive species removal and site prep for planting (Units 1, 2, 3).	TIS	4/10/2026
V.D.2	Ketchum Restoration - develop and implement education and outreach plan.	E&O	4/10/2026
V.D.3	Ketchum Restoration - install native plants within Unit 3.	TIS	5/1/2026
V.D.4	Continue to work through permit process for Cassadaga Lakes, to allow for expanded removal efforts.	TIS	2/28/2026
V.D.5	Conduct mugwort removal/follow-up at Cassadaga Lakes.	TIS	6/12/2026
V.D.6	Identify projects for which to demonstrate the effective use of drones.	AIS	3/30/2026
V.D.7	Implement identified drone project(s).	AIS	10/16/2206
V.D.8	<i>Hypena opulenta</i> - continue swallow-wort biocontrol release and monitoring at GCPF and Holley Canal Falls.	PRISM	5/1/2026
V.D.9	Assist with red swamp crayfish survey and trapping efforts.	AIS	9/18/2026
V.D.10	Assist with Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal <i>Hydrilla</i> Demonstration Project as requested and capacity allows.	AIS	as identified
V.D.11	Assist with additional partner project as requested and time allows.	AIS/TIS	as identified
V.D.12	Ensure all survey and management data is reviewed, confirmed and organized within the appropriate database(s).	AIS/TIS	ongoing