

# 2025

## WNY PRISM Annual Report



Prepared By  
Andrea Locke, WNY PRISM Coordinator

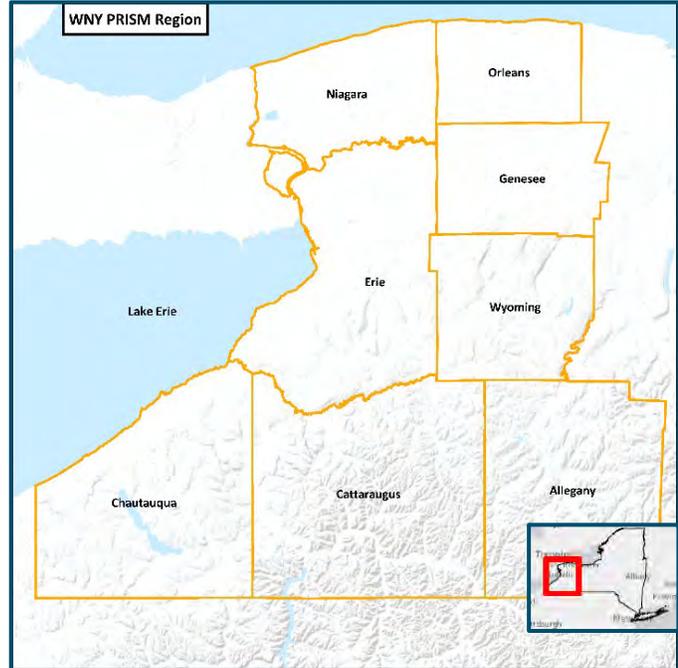
## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	2
Mission .....	3
Operational Structure .....	3
2025 Annual Report .....	6
Program Highlights .....	7
Where We Work .....	8
Partner and Network Coordination .....	9
Partner Meetings .....	9
Strategic Plan (2025-2029) .....	10
Collaboration .....	11
Communications .....	12
Information Management .....	13
Prioritization .....	13
Surveys and Monitoring .....	15
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid .....	17
Swallow-wort Biocontrol .....	18
Education and Outreach .....	19
Community Science .....	19
Pledge to Protect .....	23
WNY PRISM Events .....	23
Social Media Report .....	27
Outreach Materials .....	28
Prevention .....	29
Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program .....	29
Boot Brush Station Program .....	32
Early Detection and Rapid Response .....	34
Terrestrial Early Detection Species .....	35
Aquatic Early Detection Species .....	38
Approaching Region Species .....	39
Management and Habitat Restoration .....	40
Crew Assistance Program .....	40
Survey and Mapping Projects .....	40
Removal and Restoration Projects .....	43
Habitat Management and Restoration Projects .....	46
Summary of Project Expenses .....	51
WNY PRISM Partners .....	42

*Cover Photos: WNY PRISM at work measuring black locust, removing water chestnut, and collecting data on HWA. All photos used in this annual report are property of WNY PRISM, unless otherwise cited.*

## Introduction

Invasive species are those which are non-native to the ecosystem under consideration, and whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health. Western New York is particularly at risk to the threat of invasive species due to the unique geographic and human characteristics of the region. Western New York is situated within both the Great Lakes Basin and Mississippi River Watersheds with extensive river systems connecting much of the landscape, and the diversity of natural ecosystems offer habitats that are inviting to a wide variety of invasive species. Western New York also has a long history of human development and has seen significant alterations to the landscape that have created a level of disturbance in which invasive species thrive. In addition, western New York is positioned along prominent pathways of invasion, such as well-traveled transportation corridors. Each of these factors have led to the increased likelihood for the establishment and spread of invasive species within the region.



*WNY PRISM encompasses the eight western-most counties of NYS, including 5 major watersheds and 6,440 square miles.*

WNY PRISM works to implement programs that address all aspects of the invasive species management needs of the region by forming strategic partnerships, developing resources, and increasing regional capacity. Established in 2014, WNY PRISM has quickly become a leader in invasive species management for the region and continues to expand our impact.

WNY PRISM would like to thank our host organization, the Great Lakes Center at SUNY Buffalo State University, as well as the entire NYS Invasive Species Program for their continued support. We would also like to thank WNY PRISM's partners including the dedicated members of our Steering Committee and Working Groups. WNY PRISM looks forward to continuing to work together on our shared mission.

WNY PRISM is a sponsored program of the Research Foundation for SUNY Buffalo State University. Funding for WNY PRISM is provided by the Environmental Protection Fund through a contract with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Additional funding is provided through various federal, state and foundation grant programs.



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



NEW YORK STATE  
INVASIVE SPECIES  
MANAGEMENT



## 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.

## Operational Structure

WNY PRISM’s operational structure consists of staff, a Steering Committee, and Working Groups. WNY PRISM also solicits information and feedback from partners and additional stakeholders, which factors strongly into the strategic decision-making process.

WNY PRISM staff include a Director, Coordinator, Program Managers and approximately twenty summer staff and interns. The Steering Committee is comprised of a core group of individuals representing a variety of organizations, agencies, businesses and community members, and is representative of the invasive species management needs of the WNY PRISM region. Steering Committee meetings are held a minimum of three times each year with additional communication and meetings held as needed.

Working Groups (Terrestrial, Aquatic, and Education and Outreach) have been established and meet on an as-needed basis, focusing on the completion of specific tasks and projects.

Partner Meetings are held twice a year. The Spring Partner Meeting is held in April, ahead of the field season, and the Fall Partner Meeting is held in October. Working Groups and Partner Meetings are open to everyone and all interested parties are encouraged to attend. For more information on WNY PRISM’s operational structure, please see [WNY PRISM’s Operational Guidelines](#).



*WNY PRISM worked with the Friends of Letchworth State Park on the annual Letchworth State Park Stewardship Day, held on June 14, 2025, removing nine bags of slender false brome.*

**WNY PRISM Steering Committee**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County	Sharon Bachman
New York Sea Grant	Megan Cochran
NYS Department of Transportation	Leslie Moma
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 9	Jennifer Landry
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	Aaron Heminway
Royal Fern Nursery	Jonathan Townsend
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Buffalo District	Richard Ruby/ Mike Voorhees
U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service	Mike Shaw
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office	Colleen Keefer

**WNY PRISM Staff**

<b>Dr. Christopher Pennuto</b> Director	<b>Andrea Locke</b> Coordinator
<b>Nick Farese</b> Aquatic Program Manager	<b>Rachel Taylor</b> Community Science and Engagement
<b>Brittany Hernon/Catherine Eaton</b> Terrestrial Program Manager	

**Summer Staff**

**Field Crew Leader**  
Catherine Eaton

**Education and Outreach Assistant**  
Nikolai White Bear

**Invasive Species Management Assistants**  
Brittnee Bukowski • Winter Mumbach • Manmeet Singh

**Lead Watercraft Inspection Steward/Environmental Educators**

Chloe Van Nelson · Emily Yousey

**Watercraft Inspection Steward/Environmental Educators**

Cayla Burch · Grace Camarata · Emma Dainty · Caitlin Garrell · Dylan Glascock · Teresa Gutierrez  
Marisa Michaels · Mason Schultz · Colby Stoner · Mykayla Williams

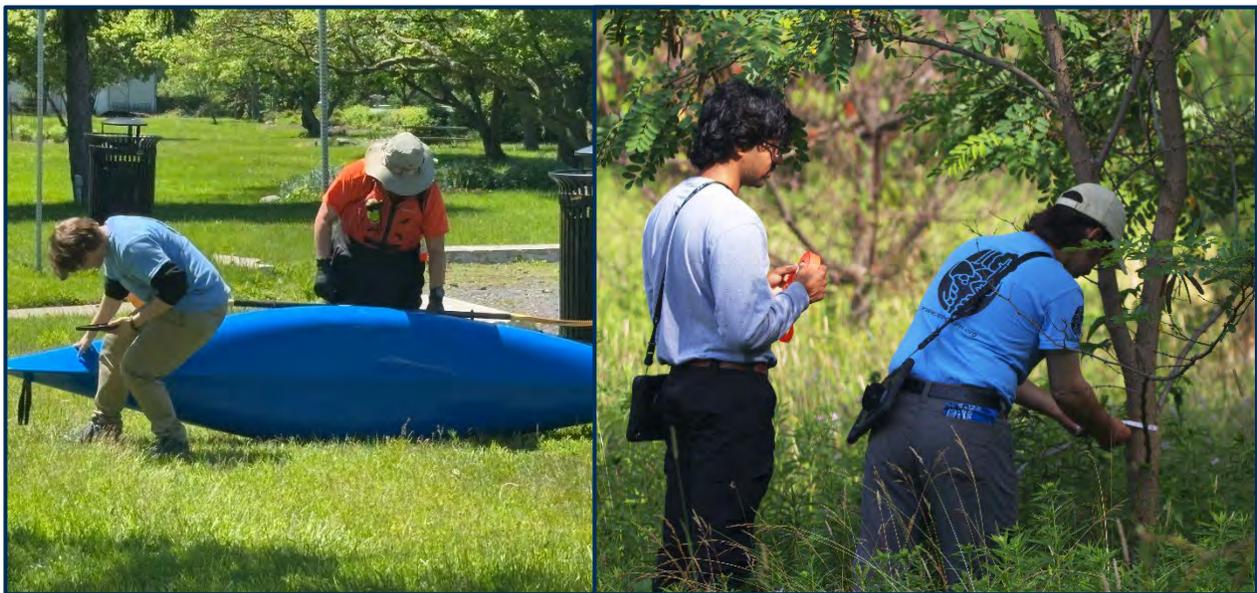


## WNY PRISM 2025 Annual Report

WNY PRISM efforts are guided by the WNY PRISM Strategic Plan, which in 2025 was updated through a year-long collaborative process involving regional partners. WNY PRISM efforts this year incorporated aspects of both the 2019-2024 strategic plan and the developing 2025-2029 strategic plan, which was finalized in December. The strategic plan is supported by annual work plans, and the [2025 WNY PRISM Annual Work Plan](#) identified the specific programs and tasks on which WNY PRISM would focus in 2025.

The WNY PRISM Annual Report provides an overview of the projects and programs WNY PRISM implemented in 2025 and is organized based on the six goals associated with WNY PRISM's established core functions within the 2019-2024 strategic plan: Partner and Network Coordination, Information Management, Education and Outreach, Prevention, Early Detection and Rapid Response, and Management and Habitat Restoration. Most of the work described in this report is funded through the WNY PRISM contract with New York State and administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation. However, some projects have received funding through additional sources such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Greenway Ecological Standing Committee.

WNY PRISM is first and foremost a partnership organization and we rely upon our network of partners to achieve goals and program success. Most of the projects highlighted in this report include support and assistance from partner organizations and in this way, the WNY PRISM Annual Report serves not only as a record of WNY PRISM activities but provides an overview of invasive species management efforts and priorities from across the region. For more information on the projects and programs mentioned in this report, or to view additional documents and resources, please visit [www.wnyprism.org](http://www.wnyprism.org).

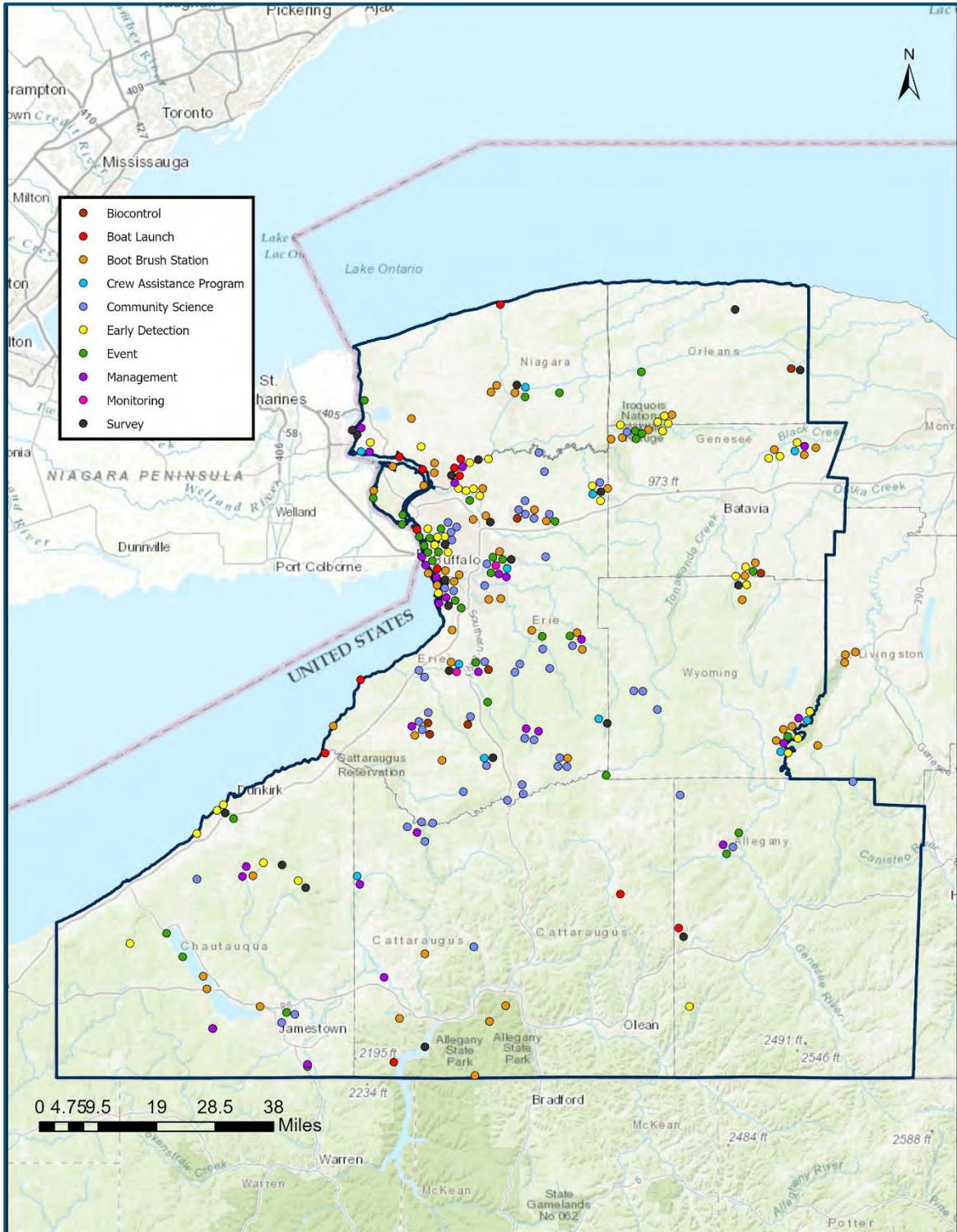


*WNY PRISM Boat Steward inspected a kayak at North Tonawanda Botanical Gardens (left) and the WNY PRISM Crew conducted a black locust survey at the Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary in July (right).*

## WNY PRISM 2025 Program Highlights

- WNY PRISM has worked with **241 partner organizations**, including **17 new partners** in 2025.
- Hired seasonal **Field Crew Leader** to assist with project coordination and Crew supervision.
- Hired **16 summer staff** – Invasive Species Management Assistants (3), Education and Outreach Assistant (1), and Watercraft Inspection Steward/Environmental Educators (12).
- Held **2 Partner Meetings** with **50 attendees** (Spring Meeting – 27, Fall Meeting – 23).
- Reviewed and **updated WNY Invasive Species Tiers** – updated tiers for 40 species and reviewed 64 previously untiered species – **224 species** have been tiered.
- **Updated WNY PRISM priority species** lists for 2026 – early detection, approaching region and data gap lists.
- **5,842 records** submitted by **200 unique users**, an **increase of 52 users**, were uploaded to iMapInvasives, including **90 unique species**, an **increase of 13 species**.
- The **top five recorded** invasive species for WNY PRISM were **multiflora rose (441)**, **common buckthorn (438)**, **bush honeysuckle (376)**, **Eurasian watermilfoil (373)**, and **hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA, 275)**.
- **HWA** was also the **top, not-detected species** with **114 records**.
- Released and monitored *Hypena opulenta* swallow-wort biocontrol agents at **3 sites** across western New York - **75 adults, 75 larvae and 25 pupae** were released at each site.
- Coordinated **3 Community Science Programs**: HWA Hunters and Stand Assessment, Spotted Lanternfly Trap Monitoring and Trail Survey. **33 volunteers** contributed **196.5 hours**.
- **50 volunteers** took part in **4 volunteer workdays**, contributing **130.75 hours**.
- Obtained **402 signatures** for WNY PRISM’s **Pledge to Protect** program.
- WNY PRISM staff responded to **132 public inquiries**.
- Developed **6 Boot Brush Stations** – **60 stations have been installed since 2016**.
- **Facebook** and **Instagram** posts generated **161,496 impressions**, an increase of **166%**.
- Tabled at **19 events**, delivered **17 presentations**, and held **5 Walk and Talks** and **8 workshops**.
- Events resulted in **2,366 direct contacts** and had **20,021 attendees**.
- Boat Stewards conducted **12,711 boat inspections** working at **12 launches**.
- The **Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program** achieved an **87.2% acceptance rate** with **858 interceptions** – the most encountered species were **Eurasian watermilfoil (344)** and **curly pondweed (305)**.
- Stewards conducted **393 Walk-Up Surveys** and **362 Angler Surveys**, interacting with **1,456** community members.
- **Terrestrial early detection survey and management** was carried out at **23 sites** encompassing **310.9 acres**, with surveys of “high probability areas” totaling an additional **921.62 acres**.
- **Aquatic early detection surveys and management** was carried out at **7 sites**, resulting in **492 acres surveyed** and **23.1 acres managed** – 1 site was eradicated and 2 new sites reported.
- The **Crew Assistance Program** received **15 proposals** from **12 partners** and resulted in **11 completed projects**, including **174.8 acres surveyed** and **19.78 acres treated**.
- Facilitated **WNY Water Chestnut Working Group** and assisted with survey and removal efforts – WNY PRISM surveyed a combined **529.3 acres** and **removed 16 bags** across multiple sites.

# WNY PRISM – Where We Work



## Partner and Network Coordination

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*Goal: Effectively coordinate the WNY PRISM partner network and strengthen relationships to the benefit of all those impacted by invasive species and those involved with invasive species management.*

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WNY PRISM works closely with partners and stakeholders across the region to address priority invasive issues. It is through partnership that we work to improve the effectiveness of invasive species management efforts to increase awareness of invasive species issues and to engage both partners and community members in taking meaningful action.

Partner and network coordination begins with the WNY PRISM Steering Committee, which is comprised of member organizations, agencies, businesses and community members who represent the varied interests within the WNY PRISM region. The Steering Committee provides essential support for WNY PRISM efforts including the establishment of priorities, review of operational documents, and review of project proposals and requests. Several members also participate in WNY PRISM Working Groups. Terrestrial, Aquatic, and Education and Outreach Working Groups are used to address various programs and tasks that benefit from the regional, expert knowledge our partners can provide.

WNY PRISM collaborated with seventeen new partners in 2025, bringing the total number of partners we've collaborated with through the years to 241. In addition to working with partners on shared projects, we help promote their programs through multiple channels including the WNY PRISM website, social media and the Listserv, which offers additional opportunities for collaboration and partner feedback.

WNY PRISM staff responded to 132 public inquiries received through our website, email and by phone. This continues to demonstrate improved public awareness of WNY PRISM and the value provided by our resources and knowledge. Topics were varied and ranged from observation reports, requests for presentations and management assistance, to questions about identification, best management



*The WNY PRISM Spring Partner Meeting was held on April 17, 2025, at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge.*

practices, volunteer events, and job opportunities. Management questions pertaining to specific species remains the most common inquiry we receive, with questions about knotweed (*Reynoutria* spp.), hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) and common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) being the most frequent.

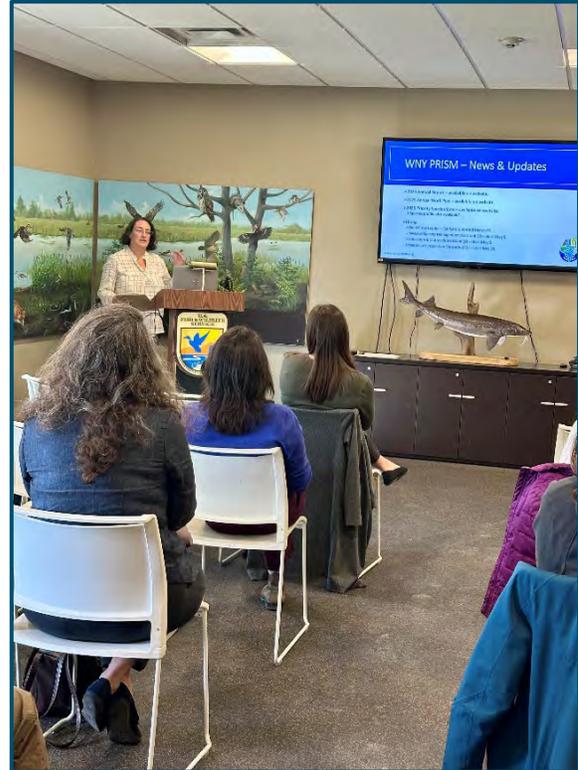
## Partner Meetings

WNY PRISM holds two Partner Meetings each year that serve as an opportunity for partners to interact with one another and learn about important regional news and updates. The Spring Partner Meeting was hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and held at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge on April 17. Twenty-seven partners attended the meeting and guest presenters included Logan Sauer, Park Ranger and Visitor Services Manager at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge who provided an overview of the Refuges activities including land management and educational programs, Meghan Cochran, Great Lakes Outreach Coordinator with New York Sea Grant who presented the recently updated New York State Invasive Species Clearinghouse website ([www.nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info)), and Colleen Keefer, Fish Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who presented on environmental DNA metabarcoding. A strategic plan update and discussion session also took place.

The Fall Partner Meeting was held at the Buffalo State University Alumni and Visitor Center on October 16. Twenty-three partners attended the meeting which began with a brief welcome and presentations on the recently completed field season, provided by WNY PRISM's Program Managers and Field Crew Leader. The second half of the program focused on the strategic plan with the drafted objectives being presented to the group for discussion.

## Strategic Plan

WNY PRISM began development of a new five-year strategic plan with a comprehensive review of the 2019-2024 plan involving WNY PRISM staff and the WNY PRISM Steering Committee. While the strategic plan was found to be in good condition and remained highly effective as a tool for providing a framework for WNY PRISM's work, a few areas were identified as having room for improvement. These areas included improving clarity of language, reducing overlap between goals and addressing shifting priorities and contract deliverables. A process for updating the plan was developed and a timeline for hitting specific benchmarks, including final completion, was identified.



*WNY PRISM Coordinator, Andrea Locke, presented on WNY PRISM News and Updates at the Spring Partner Meeting held at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge.*

The first step in updating the strategic plan involved a review of WNY PRISM’s Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles. The Mission and Vision were approved by the WNY PRISM Steering Committee without changes while minor changes were made to the Guiding Principles. Changes included simplifying some language and adding “Innovation” as a new guiding principle. The next step was addressing WNY PRISM’s Goals, which also saw only minor changes. The most significant change here was the removal of the Information Management goal. Upon review, it was decided that information management was more an aspect of the other goals than one in and of itself, and all the priority actions previously identified within this goal, were easily addressed within the remaining goals.

The updated components of the strategic plan were presented to partners at WNY PRISM’s Spring Partner Meeting, allowing for discussions and feedback which was incorporated into further updates. Partners then signed up for goal-based working groups to provide additional feedback on developing objectives and priority actions. This discussion and feedback cycle took place between the Spring and Fall Partner Meetings, and the developed draft objectives and priority actions were presented for discussion and approval at the Fall Partner Meeting. The final step was development of the written plan, which was completed in December and submitted to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Coordination Section (NYS DEC, ISCS) for review and approval.

The [WNY PRISM 5-Year Strategic Plan \(2025-2029\)](#) is available on our website to view and download.

## Collaboration

WNY PRISM staff participate in and/or facilitate several local, statewide, and regional collaboratives to better provide support for the region we serve. WNY PRISM facilitated in and/or participated in the following local, regional, and statewide collaboratives:

- Buffalo State Arbor Day Committee
- Coastal States Organization – Lake Erie Watershed
- Eighteen Mile Creek Technical Advisory Committee
- Erie Canal Bicentennial Voyage Outreach Committee
- Great Lakes Action Agenda
- Great Lakes Environmental Sciences Professional Science Masters Advisory Board
- Great Lakes *Hydrilla* Collaborative
- Great Lakes *Phragmites* Collaborative
- iMapInvasives Tier Ranking Working Group
- iMapInvasives Tools Planning
- Invasives Crayfish Collaborative
- NYS Aquatic Coordinators Working Group
- NYS *Hydrilla* Task Force
- NYS PRISM Education and Outreach Committee
- NYS Terrestrial Coordinators Working Group
- Niagara Beautification Commission – *Stronger Together In 2025*
- *Phragmites* Adaptive Management Framework
- Spotted Lanternfly Monitoring Group – AGM
- Swallow-wort Research Group
- Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program App (WISPA)

- WNY Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Collaborative
- WNY Mile-A-Minute Working Group
- WNY PRISM Aquatic Working Group
- WNY PRISM Education and Outreach Working Group
- WNY PRISM Terrestrial Working Group
- WNY Water Chestnut Working Group

## Communications

The WNY PRISM Listserv is the primary means by which WNY PRISM shares invasive species information and resources with partners. In 2025, eighty-seven emails were sent through the Listserv by WNY PRISM, iMapInvasives, NYS DEC ISCS, and one Listserv member. WNY PRISM added fifty subscribers in 2025 and maintains 420 Listserv members.

### WNY PRISM Listserv Email Breakdown:

- 28 event announcements
- 24 WNY PRISM eNews
- 18 NYS Monthly Webinar Series
- 7 job opportunities
- 9 news items
- 1 grant/funding opportunity

The WNY PRISM eNews is a biweekly digest of invasive species news, grant information, job openings, professional development opportunities and public events. Several items included in the eNews, such as funding, events and job opportunities, are not sent individually and therefore not included in the individual category metrics.



*The Great Lakes Center and WNY PRISM partnered with the Invasive Crayfish Collaborative to host a New York – Pennsylvania Crayfish Monitoring Training, held at the Great Lake Center Field Station. The field portion, focused on field techniques and data collection, and took place at Cazenovia Creek.*

## Information Management

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*Goal: Establish WNY PRISM as the leading resource for invasive species management information and strategic planning. Ensure information is current, accurate, regionally appropriate and easy to access, and provide opportunities for improved data collection and partner collaboration.*

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### Prioritization

#### Invasive Species Tier System

The NYS Invasive Species Program developed the [NYS Invasive Species Tier System](#) to assist with the prioritization of invasive species based on species presence and management strategies. The aim is to provide a level of consistency across the state, while continuing to allow each PRISM to assess species based on their local need, impact and threat level. The system identifies five tiers based on species abundance (presence and distribution), impact (including potential future impact), cost of control, and difficulty of control. WNY PRISM first adopted the tier system in 2019, using it to help identify species priorities, inform management decisions, and assist in project selection. WNY PRISM revisits the list of assessed species every other year, conducting comprehensive reviews of species through active engagement with partners. In 2025, Aquatic and Terrestrial Working Group meetings were held in tandem with the WNY PRISM Fall Partner Meeting to review and update the species tier assignments.

WNY PRISM reviewed sixty-four, previously untiered species and updated tiers for forty species, marking the most significant update to the tier list since it was first established. Species of note that were added to WNY PRISM's list include several Tier 2 species including beautybush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*) and beech scale (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*), and more common species such as Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*). Notable shifted tiers include stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) being changed from Tier 3 to Tier 4 and slender false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) being changed from Tier 2 to Tier 3. The updated [WNY PRISM Invasive Species Tier Rankings](#), including 224 species, is available for reference.



*NYS Invasive Species Tiers – In addition to Tiers 1-4, Tier 5/M is for species lacking data, or other information gaps, that prevent accurately selecting an appropriate Tier.*

#### Species Priorities

WNY PRISM maintains an [Approaching Region Priority List](#) and [Early Detection Priority Species List](#), which provide guidance beyond the NYS Invasive Species Tiers for species prioritization. Minor changes

were made to both lists for 2025 including sticky sage (*Salvia glutinosa*) replacing stiltgrass on the early detection list and water soldiers (*Stratiotes aloides*) replacing hardy kiwi (*Actinidia arguta*) on the approaching region list. WNY PRISM prioritizes the survey, monitoring and management of these species, as well as education and outreach related to increasing regional awareness and encouraging management.

WNY PRISM also maintains a [Data Gap Species Priority List](#) and four species were selected for 2025. Data gap species represent those species for which additional information is needed and they are used as target species for partners and volunteers to focus their survey efforts. These species may be considered common on the landscape, but available survey data is lacking, or they may be newer species of interest for which an understanding of presence and distribution is unknown.

**Approaching Region Priority Species – species not yet present in WNY PRISM**

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1) <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>                     | Policemen’s Helmet          |
| 2) <i>Ludwigia peploides</i> spp. <i>glabrescens</i> | Floating Primrose Willow    |
| 3) <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>                     | Parrot Feather Watermilfoil |
| 4) <i>Oplismenus undulatifolius</i>                  | Wavyleaf Basket Grass       |
| 5) <i>Stratiotes aloides</i>                         | Water Soldiers              |

**Early Detection Priority Species – species present in WNY PRISM**

- |                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) <i>Ampelopsis glandulosa</i>   | Porcelain Berry     |
| 2) <i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> | Slender False Brome |
| 3) <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>       | Scotch Broom        |
| 4) <i>Lycorma delicatula</i>      | Spotted Lanternfly  |
| 5) <i>Oshuna crassipes</i>        | Water Hyacinth      |
| 6) <i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>   | Mile-a-Minute       |
| 7) <i>Phellodendron amurense</i>  | Amur Corktree       |
| 8) <i>Pistia stratiotes</i>       | Water Lettuce       |
| 9) <i>Procambarus clarkii</i>     | Red Swamp Crayfish  |
| 10) <i>Salvia glutinosa</i>       | Sticky Sage         |

**Data Gap Species Priorities – more information is needed on presence and distribution**

- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> | Sycamore Maple    |
| 2) <i>Aproceros leucopoda</i> | Elm Zigzag Sawfly |
| 3) <i>Rhodotypos scandens</i> | Black Jetbead     |
| 4) <i>Rosa rugosa</i>         | Rugosa Rose       |

The priority species lists were again reviewed in the fall of 2025 and updated for 2026. Slender false brome and red swamp crayfish were removed from the early detection due to both currently being beyond the threshold for potential eradication. The approaching region list remained unchanged;

however the data gap species list saw sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and rugosa rose (*Rosa rugosa*) replaced by wood sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and white perch (*Morone americana*).

## Surveys and Monitoring

### Approaching Region Species

The Approaching Region Priority Species list was reviewed to identify potential survey sites. For each species on the list, the closest known occurrence was found using iMapInvasives and iNaturalist data. By tracing possible vectors of spread into the WNY PRISM region, based on the specific characteristics of each species, a list of high probability areas was identified. From this, a list of WNY PRISM project sites, publicly accessible parks and natural areas, is maintained and used to guide survey efforts as time allows.



*WNY PRISM conducted surveys throughout the region targeting approaching region and data gap species priorities.*

WNY PRISM staff responds to reports of approaching region species by conducting surveys, and if a species is confirmed present, conducts an initial site assessment. In 2025, WNY PRISM staff observed parrot feather watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) being sold at a nursery just outside of the WNY PRISM region. Parrot feather watermilfoil is prohibited from being sold in NYS and this nursery observation was reported to NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM). WNY PRISM then implemented surveys in areas near the nursery, covering 9.6 acres and 6.81 miles. Parrot feather watermilfoil was not found during these surveys.

### Data Gap Surveys

WNY PRISM conducts invasive species surveys to address data gaps, and further inform management efforts, priorities and regional planning. Surveys consist of general inventories, often based on geographic data gaps, and species-specific efforts, which focus on, but are not limited to, those species identified within WNY PRISM priority species lists.

WNY PRISM completed several geographic data gap surveys concurrently with early detection survey efforts. While surveying for porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis glandulosa*) at Canadaway Creek Wildlife Management Area near Cassadaga, the Crew mapped eight invasive species over 25.7 acres. The Crew surveyed over 4 miles of trail at Boutwell Hill State Forest targeting sticky sage, where they also mapped seven additional invasive species. Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.) were the most common species found at both locations. The Crew also completed an inventory survey at Canadaway Creek Nature Sanctuary, where they mapped twenty-one species over 19.8 acres. In addition to porcelain berry, bush honeysuckle and privet (*Ligustrum* spp.) were the most common.

Species-specific data gap surveys were conducted at Delaware Park, Buffalo State University Campus, Amherst State Park, Glen Park, Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area (MUA) and Whirlpool and DeVeaux Woods State Parks. Sycamore maple was observed at Delaware Park and rugosa rose was observed at Buffalo State. The survey conducted at Amherst State Park and Glen Park in Williamsville targeted black jetbead (*Rhodotypos scandens*) and rugosa rose, however neither were detected. Evidence of elm zigzag sawfly (*Aproceros leucopoda*), the unique zigzag patterns that the larvae often leave while feeding, was detected at Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area while completing an early detection survey.



*A single cup-plant was found, and removed, during a survey at DeVeaux Woods State Park.*

The surveys at Whirlpool and DeVeaux Woods State Parks focused on cup-plant (*Silphium perfoliatum* var. *perfoliatum*). Cup-plant is currently identified as a Tier 2 species in the region with little information known about its current distribution and potential ecological impact. To begin to answer these questions, the Crew surveyed 109.7 acres of trails and fields at Whirlpool State Park and DeVeaux Woods State Park, where cup-plant had been previously found and removed by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS Parks) staff. The Crew found and manually removed one individual.

### Drone Surveys

Two projects involving water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) surveys were selected to demonstrate potential benefits of drone use for invasive species surveys and management. The Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal project provided a direct comparison between use of a drone and manual surveys as both were used to survey the same 3.6-acre area, at the same time. The drone was able to locate three plants within approximately 28 minutes, the average length of a battery charge, while WNY PRISM staff conducted a manual survey from kayaks and located nine plants in 40 minutes of search time. The three plants found by the drone were among the nine plants found by WNY PRISM staff. The second project involved locating areas within Big Pond at Audubon Community Nature Center to direct staff removal efforts. Unfortunately, the density of spatterdock within Big Pond was too high and limited the drone's ability to find water chestnut.



*Big Pond at Audubon Community Nature Center is the site of ongoing water chestnut removal activities.*

Regional Data Report – iMapInvasives\*

- 5,842 Total Records
  - 4,381 presence detected, confirmed
  - 624 presence detected, unconfirmed
  - 583 not-detected
  - 254 treatment
- 97 unique species reported
- 200 unique users submitted data
- WNY PRISM trained 79 new iMap Users



*Multiflora rose was the most reported species in WNY with 441 presence detections submitted to iMap-Invasives.*

Presence Detected – Top 10

• Multiflora Rose	441
• Common Buckthorn	438
• Bush Honeysuckle	376
• Eurasian Watermilfoil	373
• Hemlock Woolly Adelgid	275
• Flowering Rush	190
• Garlic Mustard	134
• Amur Honeysuckle	132
• Bull Thistle	131
• Stiltgrass	128

Not Detected – Top 10

• Hemlock Woolly Adelgid	114
• Emerald Ash Borer	46
• European Frogbit	21
• Beech Leaf Disease (nematode)	20
• Water Lettuce	20
• Water Hyacinth	20
• Water Chestnut	18
• Stiltgrass	16
• Elm ZigZag Sawfly	16
• Spotted Lanternfly	16

*\* The data provided is based on the iMapInvasives 2025 Annual Report for WNY PRISM.*

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

WNY PRISM worked with the NYS Hemlock Initiative and Erie County to collect and analyze hemlock woolly adelgid as part of the 2025 New York State HWA Winter Mortality Study. The purpose of this study is to evaluate HWA winter mortality to better inform HWA survey, management and biological control research. WNY PRISM staff collected samples from Chestnut Ridge County Park and Franklin Gulf County Park, and accepted samples from Boston County Forest, which had been collected by Erie County staff. Thirty-six total twigs (samples) were collected from across the three sites. The samples were analyzed using a dissecting microscope and the data sent to the NY Hemlock Initiative. Of the 1,127 HWA counted, 531 (47%) were alive and 596 (53%) were dead. In 2024, only 25% of HWA were alive.



*Eastern hemlock twig with hemlock woolly adelgid was collected and sampled as part of the HWA Mortality Study. The inset photo was taken through the microscope.*

## Swallow-wort Biocontrol Project

WNY PRISM took over the leadership role on Swallow-wort Biocontrol Project efforts in western New York in 2024 and continued to lead efforts this year. The WNY PRISM region includes three *Hypena opulenta* research plots: Clarence Oak Openings, Genesee County Park and Forest (GCPF) and Holley Canal Falls. Clarence Oak Openings is our longest running research plot, first established in 2020 as a joint effort between the New York Invasive Species Research Institute (NYISRI) and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) – Erie County. Holley Canal Falls was added to the project in 2021 and GCPF was added in 2023. WNY PRISM ensured project partners had the necessary supplies, materials, including the biocontrol agents, and data collection protocols to continue monitoring these sites. Similar to efforts in 2024, WNY PRISM purchased the biocontrol agents (25 adults, 25 larvae, 25 pupae per site) and released them within established cages at each monitoring site. Prior to the releases, vegetation monitoring data was collected from 10 monitoring plots at each site and a search for feeding damage, or other evidence of successful overwintering, was conducted also across each site. No evidence of overwintering was observed.

Results were mixed this year with GCPF and Holley Canal Falls seeing encouraging results compared to Clarence Oak Openings. Western New York experienced a very hot and dry summer and the swallow-wort at Clarence Oak Openings has shown to be particularly hard hit by such weather, likely due to local geologic conditions. Both GCPF and Holley Canal Falls saw emergence of larvae and feeding damage throughout the summer with GCPF also seeing feeding damage outside, but near the cage.



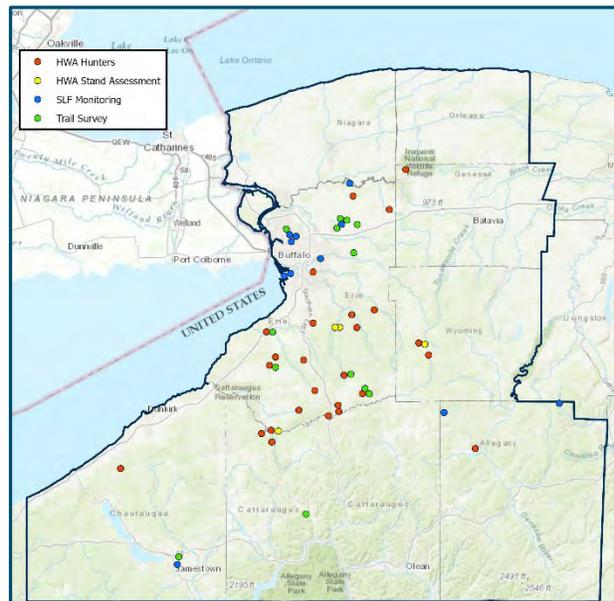
*Clockwise from top left: Hypena opulenta adult, Hypena opulenta larvae, release and monitoring cage set-up at Genesee County Park and Forest and the vegetation monitoring plot from Genesee County Park and Forest.*

## Education and Outreach

*Goal: Increase public and partner awareness, understanding and participation in meaningful and effective invasive species management activities.*

### Community Science Programs

WNY PRISM's Community Science Programs were developed to engage people with data collection in support of established priorities and associated programs. By working with the public on collecting scientific data, WNY PRISM builds relationships with individuals, increases public awareness of invasive species and expands regional capacity to address invasive species issues. WNY PRISM administers three community scientist programs including the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Hunters and Stand Assessment Programs, Trail Survey Program, and Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) Monitoring Program. Thirty-one community scientists participated across all programs, contributing approximately 161 volunteer hours. The data collected has contributed to improved invasive species management efforts within the region.



*WNY PRISM's Community Science Programs are far reaching, including sites from across the region.*

### Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Hunters

With the increasing presence and distribution of HWA in the western New York region, WNY PRISM expanded efforts to address this species by establishing the HWA Hunters Program in 2022. Over the years, WNY PRISM has worked with several partners in collaboration with this program including the NY Hemlock Initiative, CCE, Erie County Parks, Recreation and Forestry (Erie County), and NYS Parks.

The two-hour annual HWA Hunters training was held in partnership with Grow with Springville and held at the Hulbert Library of the Town of Concord with the outdoor portion held at Sprague Brook County Park. A list of thirty-nine prioritized survey locations using information from iMapInvasives and iNaturalist, and with input from Erie County, NYS Parks and the Western New York Land Conservancy was compiled. Sites included conservation lands that had trails, confirmed hemlock presence and were deemed suitable for surveying during the winter. Locations that had known and well mapped HWA infestations were not included this year (e.g., Franklin Gulf County Park, Chestnut Ridge Park), in favor of trying to encourage community scientist to survey less frequented sites. Community scientists were offered the opportunity to adopt one or more survey locations, and the survey period (January 10-March 15) overlapped with the NY iMapInvasives HWA Winter Mapping Challenge (February 1-March 15) in which participants helped map HWA along the "leading edge" of its current range and competed to win a prize.

Seventeen people attended the training and seven of them adopted at least one location to survey. Community scientists trained in previous years, were provided guidance on participating as well as the list of prioritized survey locations, so they could participate without having to attend the training. Individuals who had not surveyed in a couple of years were encouraged to attend the training. Fifteen of the thirty-nine prioritized locations were adopted by community scientists in 2025.



*The HWA Hunters Program Training was held at the Hulbert Library, in partnership with Grow with Springville – 17 people attended.*

Fourteen people participated in the survey portion of the program, surveying twenty-four locations. Of the fourteen community scientists that surveyed for HWA in 2025, half were newly trained, which is an increase from last year where 35% of the community scientists that surveyed for HWA were newly trained. A total of 161 observations were submitted to iMapInvasives. Seventy-three were not detected observations and eighty-eight were confirmed presence observations, which is an increase from last year (28 confirmed presence) and the first time that confirmed presence outnumbered not detected observations.

Multiple new infestations were detected, including Beaver Meadow Nature Preserve, Eighteen Mile Creek Park, Owens Falls Sanctuary, Scoby Dam Park, two private properties in Erie County and one private property in Cattaraugus County. Additional infestations were detected at Beeman Creek Park, Chestnut Ridge Park, Emery Park, Franklin Gulf County Park, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Sprague Brook County Park, Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area and Deer Lick Preserve, where HWA was already known to be present. A total of 60.25 volunteer hours (self-reported) were contributed by community scientists towards surveys in 2025, an increase from the 50.25 and 18.5 hours contributed in 2024 and 2023 respectively.

#### *Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Stand Assessment Program*

As part of the HWA Hunters program, WNY PRISM launched a pilot HWA stand assessment effort in 2025 aimed at bolstering our region's ability to assess hemlock stands after HWA is detected. Stand assessments help inform management decisions, including whether the area is a good fit for future biocontrol release. Our goal with this pilot project was to teach community scientists how to complete stand assessments, so they may visit a location where HWA was recently detected and implement what they learned independently.



*WNY PRISM Community Scientists took part in our first HWA Stand Assessment Training at JP Nicely Memorial Park.*

WNY PRISM finalized the HWA Stand Assessment Protocol during the winter of 2025 and eight community scientists, who were previously trained and experienced in surveying for HWA, were invited to participate, six of whom indicated interest in participating. WNY PRISM prioritized four survey locations using information from the HWA Hunters program and iMapInvasives, and sites included Beaver Meadow Nature Preserve, Beeman Creek County Park, JP Nicely Memorial Park and Eighteen Mile Creek Park. Community scientists were encouraged to select one of these locations and were permitted to work in pairs, small groups or individually. The survey period was March 8 through the second week of April.

A ninety-minute outdoor training was held at JP Nicely Memorial Park on March 8 and five community scientists attended. A sixth community scientist was unable to attend, however they participated in the field test last spring and planned to work with an individual who did attend the training. During the training, an overview of the pilot HWA stand assessment

survey efforts was provided and attendees ran through the protocol together. Three of the prioritized survey locations were selected and an additional location (Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area) was chosen by one of the community scientists.

Ten stand assessments were submitted by four community scientists from three locations. One community scientist completed five stand assessments at JP Nicely Memorial Park; another completed one stand assessment at Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area and two worked together to complete four stand assessments at Beaver Meadow Nature Preserve. A total of 15.25 volunteer hours (self-reported) were contributed by community scientists.

### Trail Survey Program

The WNY PRISM Trail Survey Program provides an opportunity for community scientists to learn invasive species identification and assist with surveying popular hiking trails throughout the region. The data they collect helps fill data gaps and provides valuable information that supports land managers in the development of invasive species management plans.

The annual Trail Survey Program training was held at the Clarence Nature Center on May 31 and seven people attended. Community scientists trained in previous years were provided guidance on participating, which included the updated list of focal and bonus species, but were not required to attend the training. During the classroom portion of the training, participants learned the survey

protocol as well as how to use the iMapInvasives app and identify the focal and bonus plant species. Samples of the focal species were on-hand to assist with learning. During the field portion, participants were able to practice their identification skills and practice with the iMapInvasives app. In a change from previous years, participants were offered the opportunity to adopt a trail of their choosing, rather than select from a pre-determined list. Five of the seven participants adopted a location to survey and a total of six locations were adopted by community scientists.

The 2025 survey period ran from May 31 through July 12, and seven community scientists completed surveys along trails in twelve locations. A total of sixty-six observations were submitted and confirmed, and fourteen species were detected with the most common being common buckthorn (26), bush honeysuckle (9) and multiflora rose (8). The number of invasive species detected was highest along the Tonawanda Rails to Trails followed by Eighteen Mile Creek Park. Community scientists contributed 13.5 hours completing surveys and contributed twenty-one hours for the training portion.



*WNY PRISM Trail Survey Program training was held at the Clarence Nature Center on May 31.*

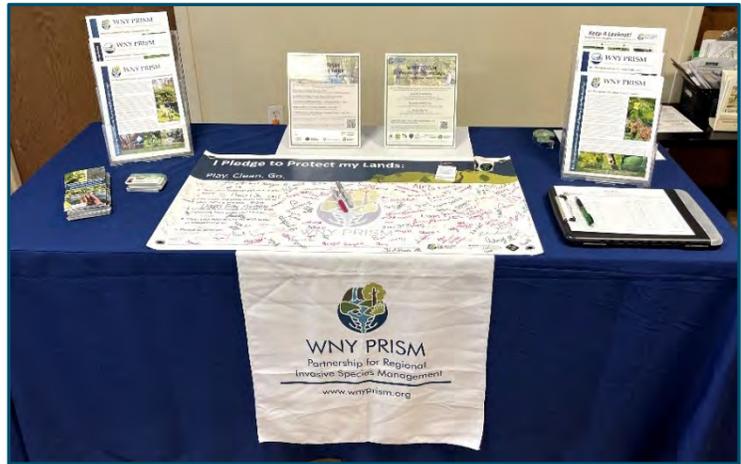
### Spotted Lanternfly Monitoring Program

WNY PRISM's third community science program centered on spotted lanternfly monitoring. Spotted lanternfly is a high priority species across NYS and our efforts to support statewide spotted lanternfly programs through use of community science began in 2022. An SLF infestation was confirmed in the WNY PRISM region in September 2022 and in October 2025 the first SLF was caught within a trap as part of this program.

Eleven traps were set up and monitored in Allegany (2), Chautauqua (1) and Erie (8) counties. Participants were instructed to provide data to WNY PRISM at a minimum of every two weeks, but to report any observation of SLF immediately. Setup and monitoring data was provided via a Google Form or by email and WNY PRISM staff uploaded data to AGM's Survey123 form, which is not publicly accessible for community scientists. In total, two SLF were reported from traps, one located at the North Buffalo Rails to Trails and the other at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve. Both were adult SLF and the one at Reinstein Woods had eggs. Additionally, there were seven observations of SLF, which were submitted to iMapInvasives. These confirmed presence observations were of SLF on trees with traps, but not in the trap itself, or on nearby trees, all located in Tiff Nature Preserve. Approximately 45 hours (self-reported) were contributed by community scientists in 2025, a slight decrease from the 49.5 hours contributed in 2024, but still an increase from the 32.5 hours contributed in 2023.

## Pledge to Protect

Traditional educational messaging for invasive species is focused on raising awareness but we recognize this is only the first step in fully engaging the public. To address this, WNY PRISM has developed, and continues to expand, our Pledge to Protect Program to help move people from awareness to action. The program centers on four campaigns: “Play. Clean. Go.”, “Clean. Drain. Dry.”, “Don’t Move Firewood”, and “Know Before You Grow”. Each campaign includes messaging that consists of small steps that people can take to help manage invasive species and slow their spread. Actions such as cleaning footwear before entering and upon leaving a trail or natural area, planting native plants, and removing organic material from boats and trailers can make a huge difference.



402 people signed one of WNY PRISM’s pledges, committing to protect their lands and waters.

Community members may Pledge to Protect in one of two ways. They may visit our website, where they can sign onto one or all the pledges, or they may sign one of our banners while at an outreach event or training. In addition, the *Clean. Drain. Dry.* banners are rotated around our staffed boat launches. By signing onto one of the pledges, people are making a commitment to taking those simple steps to help manage invasive species. Those who sign a pledge receive a pocket card, with a reminder of their pledge and the steps they can take, as well as an “I Pledged to Protect” sticker. WNY PRISM gained 402 signatures this year with 123 taking the “*Clean. Drain. Dry.*” pledge, 105 taking the “*Don’t Move Firewood*” pledge, 103 taking the “*Play. Clean. Go.*” Pledge, and 71 taking the “*Know Before You Grow*” pledge.

## WNY PRISM Events

Education and outreach events, whether held by WNY PRISM or our partners, offer an opportunity to reach a wide variety of audiences who have expressed interest in invasive species management and who are actively seeking more information. Events represent different models of engagement from more passive tabling to targeted presentations and workshops.

WNY PRISM tracks both direct contacts and event attendees as part of education and outreach efforts. Direct contacts include those with whom WNY PRISM staff or volunteers communicate with directly, as well as all participants in partner



WNY PRISM Director, Chris Pennuto, taught attendees of the Great Lakes Crayfish Monitoring Workshop how to identify crayfish.

meetings, presentations, workdays, workshops and trainings. Event attendees include those who may stop by our table and take outreach materials but with whom we did not engage in direct dialog. WNY PRISM held and/or attended 53 events with at least one event in each county and recorded 2,366 direct contacts and 20,021 attendees. Attendance numbers for larger events were either provided by the host organization or are estimates based on staff observations.

Partner Meetings	County	Direct Contacts	Date
Spring Partner Meeting	Genesee	27	17-Apr
Fall Partner Meeting	Erie	23	16-Oct

Outreach Table/Display	County	Contacts/Attendees	Date
Rural Landowner Workshop	Cattaraugus	21/108	1-Mar
Fredonia Job & Internship Fair	Chautauqua	31/300	4-Mar
CareerFest 2025	Chautauqua	49/120	5-Mar
Buffalo State Job & Internship Fair	Erie	33/366	6-Mar
CAPE Summer Job & Internship Fair	Erie	27/156	8-Apr
Earth Day & Arbor Day Sustainability Fair	Erie	20/200	22-Apr
Party for the Planet	Erie	81/370	26-Apr
The Garden Art Sale	Erie	135/2000	28-Jun
Paddles Up Niagara	Erie	120/352	26-Jul
Lewiston Art Festival	Niagara	194/10000	9-Aug
Clarence Hollow Farmers Market	Erie	54/450	23-Aug
Niagara Frontier Antique & Classic Boat Show	Erie	27/300	6-Sep
Local Environmental Awareness Fair (LEAF)	Erie	58/308	13-Sep
NYS Invasive Species Expo - Conservation Day	Saratoga	82/350	14-Sep
NYS Invasive Species Expo	Saratoga	84/650	15-Sep
Reinstein Woods Fall Festival	Erie	321/2000	20-Sep
Erie Canal Bicentennial Voyage	Orleans	153/450	25-Sep
University at Buffalo Department of Environment & Sustainability Seminar	Erie	51/250	14-Nov



*Left to Right: WNY PRISM tabled as part of the Medina stop of the Erie Canal Bicentennial Voyage, at the NYS Invasive Species Expo held in Saratoga Springs, and the Reinstein Woods Fall Festival.*

<b>Presentations</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Direct Contacts</b>	<b>Date</b>
Winter Greenhouse Growers School	Erie	11	23-Jan
Rural Landowner Workshop	Cattaraugus	5	1-Mar
Rural Landowner Workshop	Cattaraugus	37	1-Mar
Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens	Erie	10	27-Mar
NYS PRISM Monthly Webinar Series	Virtual	72	26-Mar
iMapInvasives Monthly Webinar Series	Virtual	23	26-Mar
Seeing the Unseen Panel Discussion	Chautauqua	28	4-Apr
Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust Conversations	Erie	6	9-Apr
Tree Care Clinics Speaker Series	Chautauqua	12	14-Apr
Master Gardeners Monthly Meeting Erie Co.	Erie	65	3-Jun
Niagara County Environmental Field Days	Niagara	140	4-Jun
30th Annual Local Government Conference	Allegany	20	5-Jun
NYISAW: NAISMA Certified Weed Free Products	Virtual	16	11-Jun
Summer Ecology Camp at Reinstein Woods	Erie	24	6-Aug
Mile-a-minute Community Meeting	Genesee	8	23-Sep
Mile-a-Minute Community Meeting	Genesee	8	23-Sep



*WNY PRISM staff provided 16 presentations this year including those at the Rural Landowners Workshop (left), Niagara County Environmental Field Days (center) and a Mile-a-Minute Community Meeting (right).*

<b>Workshops/Trainings</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Direct Contacts</b>	<b>Date</b>
HWA Hunters Training	Erie	17	18-Jan
Springville Field and Stream Club HWA Training	Erie	27	6-Feb
HWA Hunters Stand Assessment Training	Erie	5	8-Mar
Trail Survey Training	Erie	7	31-May
Invasive Plant ID & iMapInvasives Training	Erie	20	9-Jun
Management Workshop: Trees & Shrubs	Genesee	33	12-Jun
Great Lakes Crayfish Monitoring Workshop	Erie	24	5-Sep
NYS Invasive Species Expo	Saratoga	37	15-Sep



WNY PRISM held several trainings and workshops in 2025 including a Trail Survey Program training (top left), Great Lakes Crayfish Monitoring Workshop (top right) and an Invasive Species ID and iMapInvasives Training (bottom).

Volunteer Workdays	County	Direct Contacts	Date
Letchworth Stewardship Day	Wyoming	15	14-Jun
GCPF Invasive Species Volunteer Workday	Genesee	17	21-Jun
Volunteer Workday: Kenneglenn Preserve	Erie	11	19-Jul
Volunteer Workday at Chestnut Ridge	Erie	15	23-Aug

Walk and Talks	County	Direct Contacts	Date
Lyle Nature Preserve	Niagara	8	7-Jun
Audubon Community Nature Center	Chautauqua	6	12-Jul
Chautauqua Institute Bird, Tree & Garden Club	Chautauqua	33	4-Aug
Nike Base Trail	Erie	11	16-Aug
Moss Lake Preserve	Allegany	4	27-Sep



The Chautauqua Institute Bird, Tree and Garden Club hosted WNY PRISM for a Walk and Talk along Chautauqua Lake.

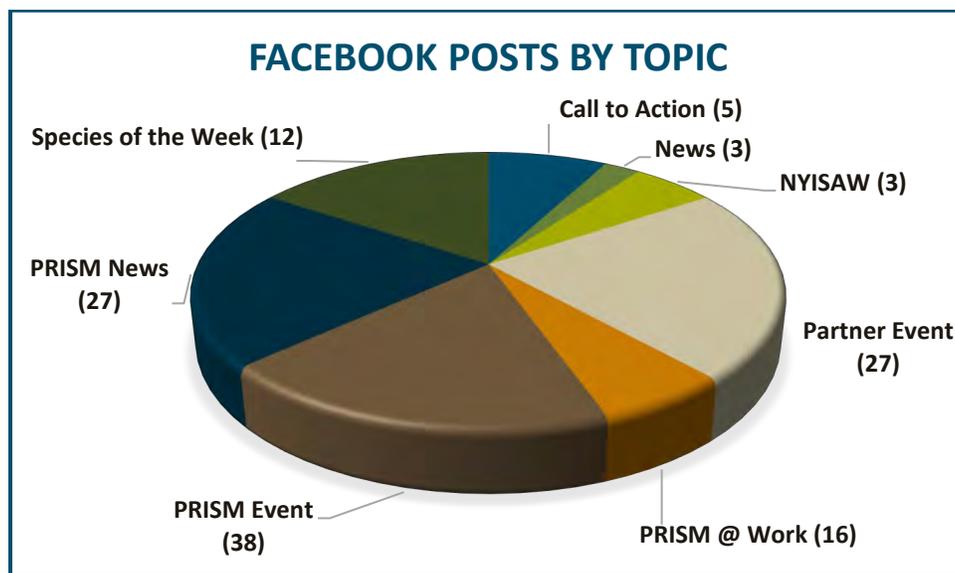
## Social Media Report

WNY PRISM’s social media outreach continues to be a useful tool for sharing information, promoting WNY PRISM’s resources, programs and projects, and providing community engagement and learning opportunities. Focus on social media platforms ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)) remained consistent throughout the year and resulted in steady increases in followers for both.

### Facebook

WNY PRISM gained 88 followers, bringing our total followers to 1,145 and representing an increase of 6%. We created 130 Facebook posts, 4 reels and 9 stories, which generated 106,003 impressions, when combining views, reach and engagement. Posting frequency was highest during the traditional field season (May – September), with an average of 17 posts per month, and lower during the off-season, with an average of 6.5 posts per month.

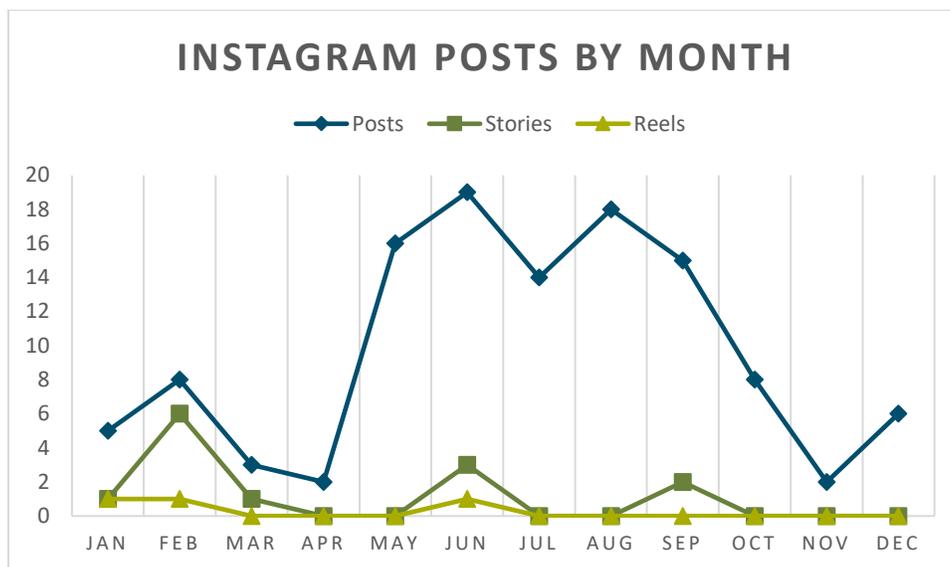
Facebook posts ranged in topic from news, ecology, and project updates to events and calls to action. The most frequent topics for Facebook posts were events, including both WNY PRISM and partner events, as Facebook provides a strong platform for advertising and generating interest. WNY PRISM news posts included items such as notices for the Crew Assistance Program and Boot Brush Station Program being open for applications and posts related to hiring. The most popular post, based on engagement, was our Crew welcome post and the most popular based on views was our Trail Survey Training reminder. One of our most popular posts across the various metrics tracked by Facebook was our Call to Action – Keep a Lookout post which featured updated Keep a Lookout terrestrial and aquatic species fliers.



### Instagram

WNY PRISM created 116 Instagram posts, 13 stories and 3 reels, with a combined viewership of 55,493. We gained 117 followers, representing an increase of 11% from 2024. Post categories were similar to

Facebook posts and many posts were shared to both platforms. The post with the highest number of views was somewhat ironically the Crew farewell post, considering the Crew welcome post was the Facebook post with the highest engagement. Rounding out the top five Instagram posts were the Crew welcome post, two “PRISM @ Work” posts that highlighted early detection work at Walton Woods and a survey of Chautauqua Gorge, and our seasonal hiring post.



## Outreach Material

WNY PRISM developed Spring and Fall Newsletters which were distributed through the WNY PRISM Listserv and social media accounts and posted to the website. The [Spring Newsletter](#) featured an article on the Crew Assistance Program that highlighted the growth and success of this program since its establishment in 2016. The newsletter also featured an article written by Ryan McClean, with Lower Hudson PRISM, which introduced sticky sage and our partners at Reinstein Woods submitted an article highlighting their restoration work at Mallard Pond. The [Fall Newsletter](#) included articles on early detection for aquatic species, the elm zigzag sawfly and a partner spotlight on the Niagara River Greenway and their efforts to improve the Niagara River and its surrounding communities. In addition to the Spring and Fall Newsletters, Quarterly Community Scientist Bulletins were developed and provided to participants of those programs.

Several new invasive species profiles with associated, integrated iMapInvasives distribution maps, were developed for the website. Rugosa rose, sycamore maple, sticky sage and water soldiers were identified as priority species and invasive species profiles were created to assist with increasing awareness and providing identification resources. In addition, twenty-one blog posts were uploaded to the website in the Latest News section. Blog posts featured articles on news items, field notes and staff profiles. WNY PRISM created two [Best Management Practices](#) fact sheets including an updated Pathways of Invasion fact sheet and a new fact sheet featuring mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). In addition, both the terrestrial and aquatic [Keep a Lookout](#) fliers were updated in March to include new species and updated distribution maps.

## Prevention

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*Goal: Prevent the introduction of invasive species to the WNY PRISM region, limit the spread of invasive species within the region and limit the movement of invasive species established in WNY PRISM to other regions.*

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### Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program

Boats, trailers and other watercraft have long been recognized as a vector for the spread of aquatic invasive species. Plants and animals can be transported between bodies of water when species become attached to watercraft and are subsequently moved to another location where they become dislodged. WNY PRISM coordinates a regional Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program to help reduce the spread of invasive species, to raise awareness, and to engage the public in taking spread prevention action. Watercraft Inspection Steward/Environmental Educators (Stewards) are placed at boat launches throughout the western New York region from Memorial Day through Labor Day to educate the public on the importance of spread prevention, to perform voluntary inspections and to remove visible aquatic plants and animals from watercraft.



*WNY PRISM Boat Steward talked with a boater about “Clean. Drain. Dry.” at Amherst Veterans Park.*

The WNY PRISM region has over eighty public launches and fishing access points, and therefore it is necessary to work through a prioritization process to determine which launches should be staffed. Launches are selected through regular evaluation of launch usership, aquatic invasive species presence and distribution, risk of spread, opportunities for education and outreach, and how closely the launch aligns with established WNY PRISM priorities.

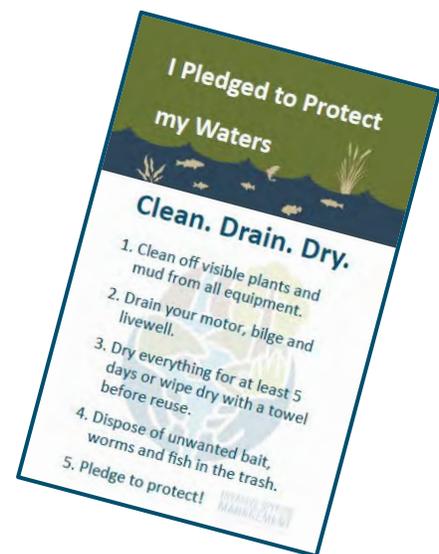
Twelve launches were selected and staffed by two Lead Stewards and ten Stewards. Launches included one site on the Allegheny Reservoir (Onoville Marina), two sites on the Buffalo River (Black Rock Canal and Ohio Street Kayak Launch), one site on Cuba Lake, three sites on the Erie Canal (Amherst Veterans Canal Park, North Tonawanda Botanical Gardens and West Canal Park and Marina), two sites on Lake Erie (Sturgeon Point and Hanover Town Boat Launch), one site on Lake Ontario (Olcott Harbor) and two

sites on the Niagara River (Gratwick Riverside and Griffon Parks). Ohio Street Kayak Launch and Black Rock Canal were staffed by Lead Stewards resulting in reduced coverage due to the time requirements of their other responsibilities. However, due to ongoing safety concerns at Ohio Street Kayak Launch, the Lead was reassigned to assist at Sturgeon Point mid-way through the season. An additional launch, Case Lake, was staffed for four days in June due to the temporary closure of the Cuba Lake launch, which was the result of storm damage.

Launch	Launch Owner	Waterbody
Amherst Veterans Canal Park	Town of Amherst	Erie Canal
Black Rock Canal Park	Erie County	Niagara River
Case Lake	NYS DEC	Case Lake
Cuba Lake	NYS DEC	Cuba Lake
Gratwick Riverside Park	City of North Tonawanda	Niagara River
Griffon Park	City of Niagara Falls	Niagara River
Hanover Town Boat Launch	Town of Hanover	Lake Erie
N. Tonawanda Botanical Gardens	City of North Tonawanda	Erie Canal
Ohio Street Kayak Launch	NYS DEC	Niagara River
Olcott Harbor	Town of Newfane	Lake Ontario
Onoville Marina	Cattaraugus County Planning	Allegheny Reservoir
Sturgeon Point	Town of Evans	Lake Erie
West Canal Park and Marina	Niagara County Parks	Erie Canal

Stewards talk with boaters and conduct watercraft inspections using the Survey123 based Watercraft Inspection Steward Application (WISPA) to collect valuable data. Stewards conducted 12,711 watercraft inspections and had 31,259 total interactions with members of the public. The inspection acceptance rate was 87.2% and when boaters were asked to take the “Clean. Drain. Dry.” pledge, 89.2% of boaters asked for the first time said “Yes”, and 8.5% said “Maybe.” Asking boaters to commit to taking spread prevention measures, specifically when a Boat Steward isn’t present as a reminder, is an important component of this program as it instills personal responsibility and the development of new habits.

During an inspection, Stewards remove all organic matter from watercraft, including native and invasive species. Of the 5,254 total pieces of vegetation or debris removed in 2025, 858 were invasive organisms, 4,100 were native species, 287 were attached debris and 10 were unidentified. While 20.5% of all inspected watercraft had organic matter identified and removed, only 5.6% of them were carrying invasive organisms. The most intercepted invasive species was Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*, 344) followed closely by curly pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*, 305), which is similar to previous years. Additional species intercepted include zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*, 147), starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*, 38), brittle naiad (*Najas minor*, 15),



quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*, 3), *Hydrilla* (*Hydrilla verticillata*, 2), spiny water flea (*Bythotrephes cederstroemi*, 2), round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*, 1) and water chestnut (1). Stewards stationed at Black Rock Canal Park (54.2%) and Sturgeon Point Marina (51.1%) had the highest percentages of inspections that resulted in an organism being found, while the Steward stationed at Case Lake (0.0%) and Cuba Lake (1.2%) had the lowest. No aquatic invasive species previously unknown to be present in western New York were found during inspections in the 2025 season.



*Eurasian watermilfoil was intercepted – found and removed - from launching and retrieving boats 344 times in 2025.*

When watercraft are launching (entering a waterbody), Stewards inquire as to the watercrafts’ last body of water visited. Of the watercraft inspected, 54.3% had been in the water in the last two weeks and many boaters noted their last body of water visited within the last two weeks was the same as the current launch location (45.4%).

The most common previous waterbody reported was Lake Erie with the next most common being the Niagara River and the Erie Canal. These results are likely skewed by WNY PRISM having the greatest presence on these bodies of water and boater’s documented behavior of frequenting the same locations. The furthest a boater traveled was from Nevada and outside of the United States, the only other country provided as a previous body of water was Canada with boats coming from New Brunswick and Ontario.

### Angler and Walk-up Surveys

The WISPA survey is a powerful tool that allows watercraft inspection programs statewide to share data on inspections and interactions. However, there are opportunities beyond just interacting with boaters at the launches. Two surveys, an angler and a walk-up survey, were developed to accompany the WISPA survey and capture information from a broader group of recreationists that use launches and the associated parks.



*WNY PRISM Boat Steward conducted a kayak inspection at West Canal Park and Marina.*

The number of angler and walk-up survey submissions is heavily dependent upon the location and layout of individual launches. Launches with heavier boat traffic, such as Sturgeon Point and Onoville Marina, are not set up for members of the public to walk through or fish from the docks. Launches that

are adjacent to a popular park or walking trails may have many more interactions with non-watercraft launch visitors, regardless of the level of boat traffic. However, Stewards are often busy talking with boaters and unable to interact with other visitors.

Stewards submitted 393 walk-up and 362 angler surveys, recording direct interactions with 1,456 community members. Hanover Town Boat Launch was the busiest launch for both walk-up encounters (355 individuals) and angler encounters (140 individuals), likely due to the popularity of the nearby fish cleaning station.

In only 37.2% of angler surveys did the angler have previous contact with a boat steward, clearly demonstrating a continued opportunity for education and outreach efforts. Despite low familiarity with WNY PRISM and the Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program, 83.1% of anglers still allowed Stewards to inspect their equipment, including fishing reels, bait boxes and tackle boxes. No invasive species were found during angler surveys, and organisms were only detected on 1.1% of the equipment inspected.

### Boot Brush Station Program

WNY PRISM’s Boot Brush Station Program has been highly successful, with sixty boot brush stations being installed since the program began in 2016. The program aims to improve regional spread prevention efforts by providing partners with the signs and building materials necessary to install boot brush stations at popular trailheads and public access areas on their properties. The signs provide information on invasive species and advice on how visitors can help stop the spread of invasive species by cleaning off their footwear before and after hiking.

The Boot Brush Station Program opened for applications on January 28, 2025. Nine applications were received but funding was only available for six, requiring us to prioritize proposed sites. In exchange for receiving a boot brush station, partners agree to install and maintain the stations, which generally includes cleaning the sign and replacing the brushes. Brush replacement frequency depends on level of use, which can be highly variable between sites.



*A boot brush station was installed at Walton Woods in the Town of Amherst.*

WNY PRISM staff worked with partners to tailor the signs to each site by including partner logos and selecting appropriate species to showcase. Each sign includes a featured species and three secondary species. Selected species may be those that partners are actively managing, those that hikers are most likely to encounter on the trail, or those species in need of increased public awareness. We strongly encourage the inclusion of an early detection priority species as the featured species, to help increase awareness of these high priority species, but don’t require it. The most popular species selected as the

featured species were mile-a-minute and sticky sage while the most frequently selected secondary species was porcelain berry.

Site	Partner	County
Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area	NYS DEC - Region 9	Wyoming
Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area	NYS DEC - Region 9	Erie
Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary	Village of Hamburg ECC	Erie
Walton Woods Park	Town of Amherst	Erie
Erie County Forestry Lot 1	Erie Co. Parks, Recreation & Forestry	Erie
The Park School of Buffalo	The Park School of Buffalo	Erie

Partners received their supplies in May, which include the sign, boot brush, lumber and necessary hardware, and were tasked with installing the boot brush stations by Friday, June 6. This was prior to the start of New York Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW) and would allow for cross promotion of ISAW events and the boot brush station installation effort. Partners provided WNY PRISM with photos and GPS points for each station.



*Volunteers with the Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission installed a boot brush station at the Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary.*

## Early Detection and Rapid Response

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*Goal: Develop an effective early detection program and associated protocols that provide for reporting, assessment, and response efforts.*

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The WNY PRISM early detection program addresses the survey, removal and spread prevention of Tier 2 and Tier 1 species, with a focus on established early detection species and approaching region species priorities. WNY PRISM’s Early Detection Priority Species represent those that pose the greatest threat to the region while also being species for which a goal of eradication is feasible based on current species presence and distribution, and management capabilities. In 2025, the early detection priority list was updated by removing stiltgrass and adding sticky sage.

### Early Detection Priority Species

1) <i>Ampelopsis glandulosa</i>	Porcelain Berry
2) <i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Slender False Brome
3) <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch Broom
4) <i>Oshuna crassipes</i>	Water Hyacinth
5) <i>Lycorma delicatula</i>	Spotted Lanternfly
6) <i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	Mile-a-Minute Vine
7) <i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Amur Corktree
8) <i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water Lettuce
9) <i>Procambarus clarkii</i>	Red Swamp Crayfish
10) <i>Salvia glutinosa</i>	Sticky Sage

WNY PRISM early detection sites, those with known infestations of early detection priority species, are placed into four categories: **Active**, **Inactive**, **Partner** and **Eradicated**. **Active** sites are those WNY PRISM staff members and/or volunteers visit each year to survey for and remove plants. **Inactive** sites are those for which WNY PRISM is unable to carry out management. This is most often due to capacity limitations but may also be due to an inability to safely access a site or a lack of permission. **Partner** sites are those actively managed by WNY PRISM partners and **eradicated** sites are those identified as presumed eradicated based on WNY PRISM’s early detection site monitoring protocol.

Early detection monitoring sites (i.e. sites where previous removal efforts resulted in no remaining plants) are monitored annually by WNY PRISM. If removal efforts have resulted in individuals not being found for three consecutive years, the site will then be monitored every other year for up to five or seven years, depending on the species. If no individuals are found after the final survey year, the site is presumed eradicated and removed from WNY PRISM’s site monitoring list. If at any point additional plants are found, the site resets to active management, and annual monitoring will begin again the following year.

Terrestrial early detection efforts focused on porcelain berry, slender false brome, scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*) and amur corktree (*Phellodendron amurense*).

Twelve early detection sites including active, inactive and partner sites, were surveyed for a total of 263.2 acres. Treatments were conducted at eleven sites over a total of 47.7 acres. Additional early detection surveys were conducted at eight sites identified as high probability areas, totaling 921.62 acres.

Aquatic early detection efforts focused on water hyacinth (*Oshuna crassipes*) and water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*). WNY PRISM's existing aquatic early detection monitoring sites, including three water lettuce and two water hyacinth sites, were surveyed, covering 368.9 acres. No water lettuce or water hyacinth were found, however, after receiving reports through iMapInvasives, two new sites in Erie County were confirmed. Associated removal efforts resulted in 601 water lettuce and twenty-nine water hyacinth removed from Walton Woods Park (7 acres surveyed/managed) and eighty-four water lettuce removed from Tiff Nature Preserve (16.1 acres surveyed/managed).

### Terrestrial Early Detection Species

#### Porcelain Berry – 1 active, 1 inactive

Porcelain berry was first reported in the WNY PRISM region in September 2020 by a community scientist. At the time porcelain berry was a Tier 1 and approaching region priority species, so it was moved to the early detection list upon confirmation. There is one active porcelain berry site in the WNY PRISM region, in Delaware Park, an Olmsted Park, located in Erie County, and one inactive site at Canadaway Creek Nature Sanctuary, in Chautauqua County, which was first reported, and then mapped by WNY PRISM, in 2023.

Site monitoring at Delaware Park resulted in no plants being found in 2024, however a single plant was found in 2025 and manually removed. Staff conducted a survey along the Jesse Krugel Path within Delaware Park, but no additional plants were discovered. Canadaway Creek Nature Sanctuary was reassessed in 2025, including an expanded survey that was conducted across the full site. New populations of porcelain berry were found upstream of the initial infestation, but still within the sanctuary boundaries. With support from NYS DEC, WNY PRISM has begun the process of determining permit needs associated with implementing removal efforts.



*Porcelain berry leaves and berries at Canadaway Creek Nature Sanctuary.*

Additional surveys were conducted at nearby sites, including Canadaway Creek Wildlife Management Area, Lake Erie State Park, and Boutwell Hill State Forest. No new infestations were discovered across the combined 377.4 acres surveyed as part of this effort.

#### Slender False Brome – 5 active, 2 partner, 6 inactive

Slender false brome continued to be a focus of WNY PRISM's early detection efforts in 2025. Manual removal was carried out at five sites, totaling 5.8 acres and resulting in the removal of 13.33 bags of

plants. Herbicide treatments were carried out at two sites, resulting in 17.78 total acres treated. WNY PRISM returned to an area of Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area where plants have been manually removed since 2019, but no plants were detected in 2025. A new population of slender false brome was found and managed at Trestle Park in the town of Byron, and two plants were found and removed from the Swallow Hollow Trail in Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. As part of the 2025 Crew Assistance Program, 2.15 acres of slender false brome were treated along the Pocock Trail at Bergen Swamp for the third year of treatment by WNY PRISM. Slender false brome herbicide applications were also completed at 15.63 acres near Inspiration Point in Letchworth State Park.



*WNY PRISM assisted Genesee County Park and Forest with manual removal of slender false brome.*

Two volunteer removal workdays focused on slender false brome removal were held at Letchworth State Park and Genesee County Park and Forest (GCPF). The Letchworth State Park workday represented a continuation of previous efforts alongside Friends of Letchworth State Park, and the event took place as part of their Annual Stewardship Day. The workday held at GCPF was held in partnership with ACORNS and served as a “passing of the torch” with ACORNS volunteers expected to take over site monitoring moving forward. Volunteers removed nine bags of slender false brome at Letchworth State Park and removed two bags across 3.1 acres at GCPF.

### Scotch Broom – 1 partner

Scotch broom is present at a single known site within the region, at Letchworth State Park, and is under the management of NYS Parks. However, in 2025 WNY PRISM assisted with removal efforts as part of a Crew Assistance Program project. The Crew used a combination of cut stump herbicide treatments and manual removal to address scotch broom across three locations within the park, resulting in 0.23 acres managed and 4.6 bags of plants removed. More information on this project can be found in the Crew Assistance Program section of this report (page 45).



*WNY PRISM assisted with the removal of scotch broom, including seedlings, from Letchworth State Park.*

### Spotted Lanternfly – 8 partner

Spotted lanternfly was first reported in the region in 2022, within the City of Buffalo and management of this site was taken on by NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) and USDA Animal and Plant

Health Inspection Service (APHIS). In 2025, several new reports of SLF were submitted through iMapInvasives and confirmed, resulting in 7 additional monitoring sites. Surveys conducted at each of the newly reported occurrences did not result in additional spotted lanternfly being found, however surveys will continue.

Mile-A-Minute – 1 partner, 1 eradicated

WNY PRISM facilitates the WNY Mile-a-Minute Working Group which includes WNY PRISM, SUNY Brockport, NYS DEC and Finger Lakes PRISM. WNY PRISM is home to a single, active mile-a-minute site that is located in Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area (Oak Orchard) and includes satellite populations that are present on several adjacent private properties. A second site in Cattaraugus County has been eradicated.

The Oak Orchard site has been under the management of a team led by SUNY Brockport and NYS DEC. WNY PRISM staff assisted the SUNY Brockport team to manually remove mile-a-minute over 8.24 acres at Oak Orchard and the surrounding private properties. Dense thickets of vegetation were forest mulched along sections within Oak Orchard in the spring, allowing staff and volunteers to more easily access these areas to search for and remove plants. WNY PRISM helped pull 2,442 plants over the course of three workdays, and a total of 3,992 plants were removed in 2025. For comparison, in 2023 approximately 5,000 plants were removed and in 2024 only 440 plants were removed. The fluctuation in the number of plants may be due to several factors including weather being more favorable for germination, or due to the use of the forestry mower, which by increasing sunlight may have spurred increased germination.



*Mile-a-minute was found and removed amidst dense vegetation at Oak Orchard.*

Amur corktree – 1 active, 1 inactive

Amur corktree was first reported in the WNY PRISM region in 2019 and was added to the early detection priority species list in 2024. There are currently two sites, including Akron Falls County Park (active) and Delaware Park (inactive), both located in Erie County. WNY PRISM’s efforts in 2025 included a 15.7-acre survey of Akron Falls County Park where twenty-nine trees were identified and twenty-eight of which were removed by the WNY PRISM Crew. Erie County Bureau of Forestry staff removed the remaining tree, which was too large for the Crew to cut, as well as an additional tree found on a neighboring private residence. A second survey was completed covering an additional 219.3 acres of the park and no additional amur corktree were observed. A 2.44-acre survey was also conducted at Delaware Park and five new individuals were identified.

### Sticky Sage – 1 inactive

Sticky sage was first reported in Chautauqua County in late 2022, through iNaturalist. WNY PRISM has worked to identify and communicate with the landowner, to gain permission to complete a site-assessment and implement removal activities, however as of December 2025 we have been unable to do so. As this effort to communicate with the property owner continues, WNY PRISM began surveys within nearby public lands including a 3.12-acre survey within Chautauqua Gorge State Forest. No additional populations have been identified.



*WNY PRISM surveyed the beautiful Chautauqua Gorge as part of early detection surveys for sticky sage.*

### **Aquatic Early Detection Species**

Water Hyacinth – 2 active, 1 partner, 1 inactive, 5 eradicated

Water hyacinth was first reported in the WNY PRISM region in 2001, and removal efforts began in 2014. Since efforts began, five sites have been eradicated including Oppenheim Park, which was added to this list after no plants were found for a fifth straight year in 2025. However, water hyacinth was reported at a new location this year, at Walton Woods in Amherst. WNY PRISM responded to the report, confirmed the presence of water hyacinth and conducted a site assessment. Seven acres were surveyed and twenty-nine plants removed. WNY PRISM staff spent a total of 108 hours surveying a total of 240.6 acres across Oppenheim Park, Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal and Walton Woods. No plants were found in the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal site.



*Both water lettuce and water hyacinth were found and removed from Walton Woods.*

Water Lettuce – 4 active, 1 inactive, 1 eradicated

Water lettuce was first observed in the WNY PRISM region in 2011, and removal efforts began in 2016. Site monitoring efforts for Hyde Park Lake, Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal and Ellicott Creek resulted in 368.9 acres surveyed and no plants being found. This was the fifth year of no plants being observed at

Hyde Park Lake, leading to this site being presumed eradicated. However, water lettuce was reported at two new locations: Tift Nature Preserve and Walton Woods. WNY PRISM responded to each report confirming the presence of water lettuce and conducting site assessments before removing the plants. Eighty-four plants were removed from Tift Nature Preserve and 601 plants were removed from Walton Woods.

Red Swamp Crayfish – 1 active, 1 partner



Catherine Eaton, WNY PRISM Terrestrial Program Manager, took part in a crayfish monitoring workshop held at the GLC.

Red swamp crayfish was first reported in the WNY PRISM region in 2020, in a small pond on the property of the Park School of Buffalo. WNY PRISM’s Director, Christopher Pennuto, initiated a trapping program with students from the Park School in 2020, which has continued with select Buffalo State University students adding to the effort. As of November 2025, 3,041 red swamp crayfish have been removed from the pond with the team collecting 511 crayfish this year alone. In 2025, trapping occurred over 1,521 nights (# of traps \* # of nights deployed). While catch per unit effort continued to decline ( $0.34 \pm 0.06$ ) as it has the past three years, the ratio of captured males to females returned to near 50:50 and the average mass and carapace length increased.

A second population of red swamp crayfish was reported, and confirmed, in September 2024, within Two Mile Creek, near the Niagara River in Tonawanda. NYS DEC implemented trapping efforts in 2025.

**Approaching Region Species Efforts**

An effective early detection program dedicates time and resources to survey and monitoring efforts for approaching region species, so new priority invasive species can be detected as early as possible. All species on the approaching region list were included in the Crew invasive species ID training, so staff were familiar with these species should they be encountered during fieldwork. In addition, resources were made available to partners to provide training for their staff and invasive species profiles were created for those species not already on the WNY PRISM website.

Water soldiers (*Stratoites aloides*) was added to the approaching region list in 2025, replacing hardy kiwi (*Actinidia arguta*). No approaching region priority species were found in the WNY PRISM region in 2025.

Approaching Region Priority Species

- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>    | Policemen’s Helmet          |
| 2) <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>    | Parrot Feather Watermilfoil |
| 3) <i>Ludwigia peploides</i>        | Floating Primrose Willow    |
| 4) <i>Oplismenus undulatifolius</i> | Wavyleaf Basket Grass       |
| 5) <i>Stratoites aloides</i>        | Water Soldiers              |

## Management and Habitat Restoration

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*Goal: Assist with management planning and project implementation focused on long-term, sustainable projects that provide resilience against future invasions, and provide improved ecosystem function and services. Supported efforts will be based on WNY PRISM identified priorities through primarily technical assistance and training, with project implementation assistance when capacity allows.*

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### Crew Assistance Program

The Crew Assistance Program continues to be one of WNY PRISM's most popular and successful programs, improving invasive species management across the region by assisting partners with invasive species surveys and mapping, invasive species removal, habitat management, and restoration projects. It offers valuable opportunities for partners to work alongside WNY PRISM's experienced staff and trained seasonal crew to learn about invasive species management and gain experience using removal methods and equipment.

The Crew Assistance Program Request for Proposals was released on Monday, December 2, 2024, and the closing date was set for Friday, January 31, 2025, giving partners nine weeks to submit project proposals, one additional week from 2024. We received fifteen proposals submitted by twelve unique partners from five of eight WNY PRISM region counties. Each proposal was reviewed and prioritized based on our established review criteria and assessed based on the project's ability to fit within our capacity. Eleven projects, consisting of six survey and mapping projects and five removal and restoration projects, were selected.



*Winter Mumbach, ISMA, removed amur corktree from Akron Falls County Park as part of a Crew Assistance Program.*

Completed projects resulted in 174.8 acres surveyed and 19.78 acres managed. Partners contributed to the success of projects through various means, including providing volunteers to assist with removal efforts, and recognized the work through organizational newsletters and social media posts. Reports, including summaries of the completed work, the data collected and recommendations for future management actions, were provided to partners for each of the completed projects.

### Survey and Mapping Projects

Crew Assistance Program survey and mapping projects serve the purpose of providing partners with a basis for which to identify strategies and build a management plan. Surveys primarily consist of general invasive species site inventories, though species focused surveys are also conducted, such as at the Anna Mae Bacon Nature Sanctuary where the survey focused on black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). WNY

PRISM primarily uses the iMap Mobile Advanced tool to collect and manage data and provides each partner with a map and written summary of the survey. The project summary includes an overview of how the survey was conducted and what was observed, provides management recommendations, and provides information on how to access the data within iMap.

### Survey Projects

Project Site	Partner Organization	Acres
Akron Falls	Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry	15.7
Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary	Village of Hamburg Environmental Commission	8.4
Forestry Lot #5 Protection Bog	Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry	40.3
Klemens/Dearing	Private Landowner	47.2
Lytle Nature Preserve	Cornell Cooperative Extension - Niagara County	51.2
Reinstein Woods	NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation	12

#### Akron Falls: Invasive Species Assessment in the Forest at Akron Falls – Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry

Akron Falls is known for its forests and water features including a 40-ft. waterfall, a small stream called Murder Creek, and a man-made lake that provides many recreational opportunities. The Crew conducted a general invasive species inventory survey of 15.7 forested acres between the park road and Murder Creek. The survey will assist Erie County in creating a management plan for the site. Twenty species were mapped, most commonly garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), dame’s rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), bush honeysuckle and amur corktree, a WNY PRISM early detection priority species. In addition to the survey, the Crew treated twenty-eight amur corktree found on site as part of early detection and response efforts.

#### Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary: Black Locust Control in Meadow Habitat of the Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary – Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission

The Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary is an 11-acre park located in Hamburg and is cared for by the Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission. The sanctuary lies adjacent to Eighteenmile Creek and consists of hardwood forests and meadows. The Commission originally requested assistance with the removal of black locust, however, WNY PRISM advised that a survey would be necessary to ensure a proper management strategy could be developed ahead of any removal effort. The Crew surveyed the site to map the full black locust infestation and measured the diameter at breast height (DBH) of each tree. The Crew identified and measured a total of 584 trees at the site.

#### Forestry Lot #5 Protection Bog: Invasive Species Assessment at and Around Protection Bog – Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry

Forestry Lot #5, located near Holland, includes 263 acres of conifer plantations and wetlands. The Crew conducted a general invasive species inventory survey of a 40.3-acre area that surrounds a highbush blueberry bog thicket referred to as Protection Bog. Protection Bog and the forest surrounding it are considered centers of biodiversity, containing rare plants and providing vital habitat for many animals

and as such is a priority site for conservation. This survey will assist Erie County in the development of a management plan to prevent the spread of invasive species into the highly ecologically valuable highbush blueberry bog.

Nine invasive species were mapped, the majority of which consisted of garlic mustard, honeysuckle and multiflora rose. Mugwort, oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), common buckthorn and Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) were also mapped and identified as management priorities due to their infrequent distribution within the surveyed area.

#### Klemens/Dearing: Invasive Species Survey – Private Landowner

The Klemens/Dearing property includes approximately 100 acres, 50 acres of which are comprised of wetlands and riparian areas that are protected through a 30-year conservation easement. The property owners have worked for several decades to transition the site from former farmland to a network of forests, wetlands and meadows. This work has included planting thousands of trees, stocking native fish in reconstructed ponds and the establishment of a native tree nursery on the property. The invasive species survey data and summary provided by WNY PRISM will assist the landowners in prioritizing management of the invasive species in continuation of their stewardship efforts and restoration of the property. The most common plants found were mugwort, knapweed (*Centaurea* spp.) and reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). WNY PRISM identified knotweed, mugwort, Canada thistle, glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) and *Phragmites* as prioritizations for management.

#### Lytle Nature Preserve: Lytle Nature Preserve Survey – Cornell Cooperative Extension – Niagara County

Lytle Nature Preserve, located near Lockport, spans 110 acres of wetlands, forest and tallgrass prairie. The preserve is owned by the Town of Lockport but managed for educational purposes by CCE – Niagara County. To support land management efforts, assistance was requested from WNY PRISM to conduct a general invasive species survey of the property. Several areas were identified as survey priorities including trails, wetlands

and edges of the tall grass prairie.

Sixteen invasive species were mapped on the site, including dense

thickets of bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose, privet, and black locust along the forested trails. Isolated populations of crown vetch (*Securigera varia*), mugwort and Canada thistle were mapped near the edges of the prairie, while monocultures of *Phragmites* and yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) were found within the wetland areas.



*The WNY PRISM Crew surveyed along trails and woodland edges at Lytle Nature Preserve, located near Lockport.*

Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve: Japanese Stiltgrass Survey at Reinstein Woods – NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve is a 292-acre preserve located in Depew and managed by NYS DEC. It is comprised of an extensive trail network, nineteen ponds and wetlands created by a man-made system of dams and approximately seventy-six acres of mature beech-maple forest. It provides important habitat for a wide range of wildlife including beaver, fish, waterfowl and many species of birds. Stiltgrass was detected along the Footprint Trail on the northern shore of Flattail Lake in 2023.

The Crew surveyed twelve acres of trail and accessible shoreline where they mapped the current extent of the monoculture along the Footprint Trail. Smaller populations were also found along the southern shoreline of Flattail Lake and the History Trail. The data provided as part of this survey will support Reinstein Woods staff and volunteers with future management.

**Removal and Restoration Projects**

WNY PRISM selects removal and restoration projects based on the established prioritization criteria, available at [WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program](#). Successful projects are those where we can work with our partners to achieve long-term, sustainable management success on high priority conservation lands, and where the projects can support improved capacity for partner efforts moving forward.

Five removal projects were selected, each representing either a site or project we have worked on previously, although in different capacities. Species targets included slender false brome, *Phragmites*, scotch broom, invasive shrubs, and knotweed.



*WNY PRISM Crew with NYS Parks Staff at Letchworth State Park after a day of managing slender false brome.*

**Management & Restoration Projects**

<b>Project Site</b>	<b>Partner Organization</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Bergen Swamp	Bergen Swamp Preservation Society	3.75
Letchworth State Park	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	0.22
Letchworth State Park	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	15.81
Niagara County	Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District	0.85
Rosche Preserve	Nature Sanctuary Society of WNY, Inc.	0.24

## Bergen Swamp: Invasive Species Control at Bergen Swamp – Bergen Swamp Preservation Society



*Bergen Swamp – photo shows successful treatment of slender false brome mixed with thriving native plants.*

along the Pocock Trail in 2025.

The Bergen Swamp Preservation Society (BSPS) requested assistance for management of slender false brome and *Phragmites*, to continue efforts to protect pristine habitat within the preserve by pushing back infestations. Bergen Swamp is designated as a National Natural Landmark and is home to rare habitats, plant communities and species that represent important conservation targets. Invasive species management efforts have focused on protecting conservation targets and have allowed native plant communities to reemerge within the treated areas.

The Crew conducted two rounds of foliar treatment of slender false brome along the Pocock Trail corridor. The initial treatment in this area was completed in 2023, with follow-up in 2024, and focused on treating plants within a 10-foot area along either side of the trail. In 2025, the Crew was able to successfully complete both rounds of follow-up application in June and August within this same area. The Crew was also able to treat an additional 0.2 acres on either side of the boundary. A total of 2.15 acres of slender false brome were treated

The Crew returned to Bergen Swamp in September to conduct follow-up clip and drip treatments to *Phragmites* populations treated in 2023 and 2024. Previous treatments were highly successful and little follow-up treatment was necessary in these areas, allowing the Crew to expand initial treatments into adjacent populations. The Crew focused on areas along the Pocock Trail and spots where *Phragmites* was encroaching into the marl fen area. The Crew treated 0.51 acres of *Phragmites* in 2025.

## Letchworth State Park – NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Letchworth State Park is one of New York State’s crowning jewels, often referred to as the “Grand Canyon of the East”. The 14,350-acre park follows roughly seventeen miles of the Genesee River featuring several waterfalls and a deep gorge with cliffs as high as 600 feet. Located in Livingston and Wyoming counties, Letchworth State Park provides a diverse range of recreational opportunities for the public and is home to northern hardwood forest, meadows and vernal pools. Separate proposals, requesting assistance with removal of slender false brome and scotch broom were submitted for consideration through the Crew Assistance Program.

### *Slender False Brome - Bishop Woods Restoration Plan at Letchworth State Park*

WNY PRISM worked with Parks staff at Bishop Woods and Inspiration Point, two areas within Letchworth State Park. Efforts at Bishop Woods involved a volunteer workday, held in partnership with

the Friends of Letchworth State Park, and focused on manual removal of slender false brome. Ten volunteers, alongside five WNY PRISM staff members, removed nine contractor bags of slender false brome from 0.19 acres over 2.5 hours.

The Crew also assisted with management of a population of slender false brome located near Inspiration Point—an area that WNY PRISM has assisted with in varying capacities since 2020. At Inspiration Point, the Crew worked together with NYS Parks staff to foliar spray the slender false brome population. Previous efforts had reduced the population significantly and they were able to treat 15.62 acres over the course of two days.

#### *Scotch Broom Removal Project at Letchworth State Park*

Scotch broom is an early detection priority and Tier 2 species in western New York. Three locations of scotch broom have been identified within Letchworth State Park, at the radio tower, Gardeau Overlook, and an area located immediately east of the maintenance yard. The WNY PRISM Crew first addressed the population near the maintenance yard (0.021 acres) using a combination of cut stump application with an oil-based triclopyr and manual removal. Efforts then shifted to Gardeau Overlook where they manually removed seedlings from along the roadside (0.21 acres).

#### Niagara County: Japanese Knotweed Eradication Project – Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District

WNY PRISM has worked with NCSWCD since 2017 to assist with their ambitious project focused on eradicating knotweed from Niagara County. This project has funding secured to allow for long-term monitoring and management, and measurable progress has been seen at the treated sites. These factors contribute to the repeated selection and participation in this work from year to year. The Crew worked alongside NCSWCD staff for three days in July at two sites within Niagara Falls. WNY PRISM treated 0.85 acres of knotweed across the three days using stem injection.

#### Rosche Preserve: Special Concerns Species Thrive with Partner Care – Nature Sanctuary Society of WNY, Inc.

The Rosche Preserve is a 43-acre private wetland located on the floodplain of Conewango Creek in Cattaraugus County. Owned and managed by the Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York (NSSWNY), the Rosche Preserve includes a NYS Class II Wetland which is home to a population of rare western chorus frogs and supports eastern meadowlark, nesting American woodcock, blue-winged warbler and northern harrier.

The WNY PRISM Crew worked alongside NSSWNY volunteers to conduct follow-up treatment on *Phragmites* initially treated by WNY PRISM in 2024. The Crew observed a dramatic decrease in *Phragmites* present at the site, from 75-100% density in 2024 to less than 5% in 2025. Taller, larger individuals were treated with the clip and drip method, while smaller or more branching individuals that could not be effectively treated with clip and drip, were foliar sprayed.

Due to less time than expected being required to treat the drastically reduced *Phragmites* populations, the Crew was also able to treat bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose at the site. Large shrubs were cut

by volunteers and treated by the Crew. The Crew treated 0.24 acres of *Phragmites*, bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose across two days.



*The WNY PRISM Crew first worked with the Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York to remove Phragmites from the Rosche Preserve in 2024 (left photo: pre-treatment 2024), returning in 2025 to implement follow-up treatment (right photo: pre-treatment 2025). There was a dramatic decrease in the Phragmites population after the single treatment in 2024.*

## Habitat Management and Restoration Projects

WNY PRISM implements several habitat management and restoration projects outside of the Crew Assistance Program. These projects often serve as demonstration projects designed to showcase management strategies and methods or provide training opportunities for staff. Projects may also address additional priorities, include externally funded projects or include previously completed projects that require follow-up monitoring or management to ensure the long-term success of the project.

### Buffalo State University – Great Lakes Center Field Station

Great Lakes Center (GLC) is working to restore native communities to the GLC Field Station, located along the Buffalo waterfront, so that it may better serve as a place of learning and contribute to the regional efforts to restore connectivity along the Niagara River. WNY PRISM implemented several management efforts at the GLC Field Station property at the Buffalo State University in support of this effort and to provide training opportunities for WNY PRISM staff.

Building off an invasive species survey completed in 2024, WNY PRISM staff spent several days treating populations of mugwort, Canada thistle, common buckthorn, and knotweed while also treating the occasional teasle (*Dipsacus fullonum*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*). Much of this work took place within native plantings and treatments will allow for increased resiliency of these areas.

### Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park

Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park is a 77-acre preserve owned and managed by the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, and located in Pomfret. The park is a mixture of wetlands and forests and is considered one of the most diverse birding sites in Chautauqua County with over 175 species of birds identified.

WNY PRISM has assisted with survey and management work at Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park, for several years including invasive species surveys completed in 2021 and 2024, and removal of mugwort and invasive shrubs in 2024.

WNY PRISM returned in 2025 to conduct follow-up treatment of mugwort in two locations within the park. Pre-treatment monitoring completed in April showed a decrease in percent cover from 100% in 2024 to a range of <5% up to 25%, in 2025. In addition, the areas where mugwort was treated showed significant regrowth of native species including grasses, sedges and forbs. The two populations of mugwort were treated twice in 2025, once in May and again in August, totaling 0.55 acres treated.



*WNY PRISM treated mugwort at Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park in 2024 and 2025. The photos show the site prior to treatments in 2024 (left) and 2025 (right). A decrease from 100% cover to between <5% and 25% cover were observed. The photos are taken from opposite sides of the opening along the trail, but the informational sign is visible in both photos (small on the far left of the 2024 photo). The inset photo shows mugwort seedlings in 2025, growing within sedges.*

### Craneridge Homeowners Association

Craneridge is a residential community of 165 homes located near Glenwood. The Woodlands & Habitat Committee, as part of the Craneridge Homeowners Association, first requested assistance from WNY PRISM in 2021 for an invasive species inventory survey as part of their initiative to remove invasive species, plant native species and support a healthy ecosystem within their community.

The Crew carried out Crew Assistance Program projects focused on removal of invasive shrubs and *Phragmites* in 2022 and 2023 and provided additional follow-up management in 2024. This year, the Crew completed follow-up removal of invasive shrubs and *Phragmites* within all previously treated areas, as well as conducting an initial treatment of several knotweed populations. The Crew treated sparse populations of bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose with a combination of foliar spray and cut-stump applications over 0.48 acres. Later in the season, they treated 0.06 acres of *Phragmites* using clip-and-drip and foliar spray applications. The knotweed was assessed early in the season and treated in August with a combination of mechanical removal followed by foliar spray and stem injection. A total of 0.09 acres of knotweed was treated.

The Craneridge Woodlands & Habitat Committee continues to build upon WNY PRISM’s work by planting native trees and shrubs in areas after invasive species management. They are also active in WNY PRISM’s HWA Hunters Program, conducting annual surveys of HWA and have hired contractors to treat infested hemlocks.

### Ohio Street Boat Launch



*Mugwort, which had taken over native plant gardens at the Ohio Street Boat Launch, was treated in May by the WNY PRISM Crew.*

The Crew foliar sprayed 0.23 acres of mugwort.

The Ohio Street boat launch is a paddle-craft only launch located along the Buffalo River and is managed by the NYS DEC. In addition to groomed lawns, paved pedestrian paths and a fishing pier, the site features six Maintained Meadow Areas (MMA) meant to act as “no-mow” demonstration gardens that highlight native vegetation and habitat. WNY PRISM received a request from DEC to address mugwort at the site, which had taken over the MMA with between 75%-100% cover. This project provided a wonderful training opportunity for the WNY PRISM Crew during the first week of their season as well as serving as demonstration for management of

### Stiltgrass Monitoring and Management

Stiltgrass was an early detection priority species in western New York for many years, however by 2024 it was clear that the species had spread too far within the region to consider eradication as a feasible management goal. Therefore, WNY PRISM moved stiltgrass from Tier 2 – Early Detection, to Tier 4 – Local Control. With this change, there were still several priority sites on which WNY PRISM had been working to eradicate stiltgrass for many years that were identified to be revisited in 2025. Significant progress with removal had been made at these sites and an additional year of management could result in successful local control.

Stiltgrass was hand-pulled from seven sites, encompassing 4.2 acres and accounting for 5.6 contractor bags of plants plus 2,500 individual plants removed. In addition, the Crew surveyed Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary for stiltgrass while completing a Crew Assistance Program project, and no plants were detected.



*The WNY PRISM Crew manually removed 0.33 bags of stiltgrass from 0.24 acres at the David and Margaret Naetzker Preserve.*

## Tifft Nature Preserve

WNY PRISM has assisted Tifft Nature Preserve with invasive species control and native planting in the past through the Crew Assistance Program and several grants, and the Crew returned to work on the *East Canal Ecological Renovation at Tifft Nature Preserve* project for a second year. This project involves restoring twenty-four acres of riparian woodland and 0.75 miles of shoreline along the East Canal by removing invasive species and revegetating the site with native species identified from nearby reference communities. Project goals include replacing the dying cottonwood canopy, which provides essential stopover habitat for migratory songbirds, creating a zone of emergent native plant species within the canal, assisting with fish habitat, and continuing terrestrial restoration work within the preserve, to improve and expand native habitat. Invasive species removal efforts continued to focus on bush honeysuckle, common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, multiflora rose, tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and knotweed. Foliar treatment took place over the course of five days between July 14-22 and covered 3.09 acres of the preserve and an additional 3.86 acres were treated from September 16-18. Previous work has included planting American basswood within the invasive shrub treatment areas.

## Water Chestnut/Water Chestnut Working Group

Water chestnut is a Tier 3 species in the WNY PRISM region, located in Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara Counties. It is a species of concern for many of our municipal, state and federal partners, particularly within our Southern Tier. To assist with the management, WNY PRISM leads the WNY Water Chestnut Working Group which facilitates communication among members and coordinates survey and management efforts. The working group includes members from fifteen different organizations and met twice in 2025.



*WNY PRISM surveyed nearly 500 acres of the Allegheny Reservoir for water chestnut – no plant were found.*

WNY PRISM staff continued a 2024 effort to survey Allegheny Reservoir, which connects to Allegheny State Park. Allegheny State Park contains three populations of water chestnut, and this survey was performed to address concerns that there may be spread due to the routine flooding of the reservoir. WNY PRISM surveyed 486.1 acres of the reservoir, and no water chestnut were found. A survey was conducted at Cuba Lake after WNY PRISM received a report of water chestnut possibly being present. This 43.2-acre survey resulted in no water chestnut being found. In addition, while conducting early detection surveys for water hyacinth and water lettuce within Erie and Niagara Counties, WNY PRISM staff also looked for water chestnut, but no new water chestnut sites were found as part of these efforts.

Water chestnut removal activities included efforts at Audubon Community Nature Center (ACNC), Conewango Swamp Wildlife Management Area (Conewango), and the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal. WNY PRISM has been assisting ACNC with water chestnut removal since 2014 and in 2025 we returned for one day during which seven WNY PRISM staff members, alongside ACNC staff, removed ten bags of water chestnut over 3.7 acres. Work at Conewango resulted in six bags being removed over approximately 25.5 acres. Water chestnut was also found, and removed, during surveys of Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal, in areas where water chestnut has been previously recorded, between the Ellicott Island Bark Park and Ellicott Creek Park, including the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal overflow area within the park. Fifty-nine plants were removed.



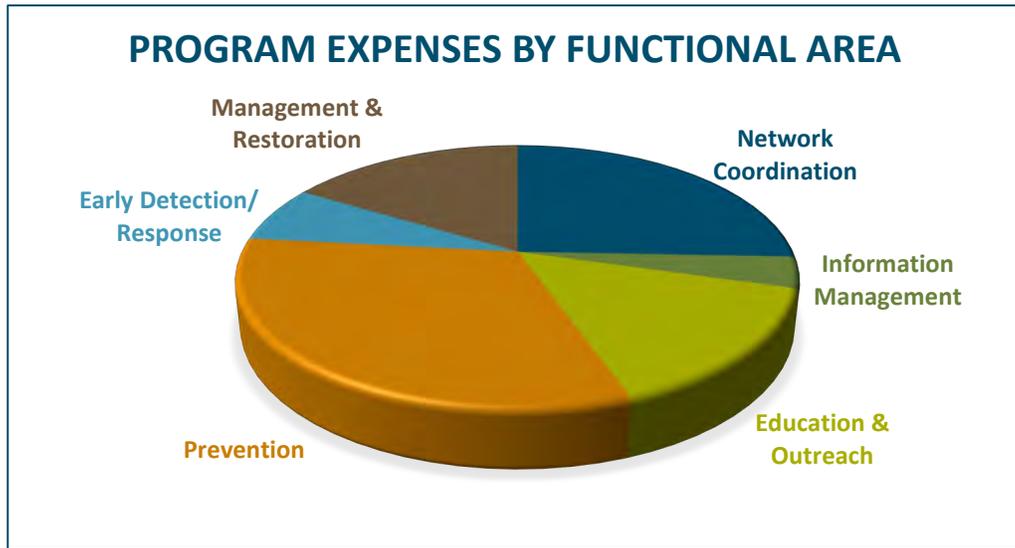
*WNY PRISM Stewards assisted Audubon Community Nature Center with water chestnut removal in July. Inset picture shows water chestnut growing within other vegetation.*

Water Chestnut Working Group partners implemented four surveys and nine removal projects including efforts at ACNC, Conewango, and Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal, which WNY PRISM assisted with. Approximately 400 plants were removed from the Chautauqua Lake Outlet, in an effort led by the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, and eighty-five pounds of plant material (wet) was removed from New Albion Lake by NYS DEC, which is also the site of a research project looking into the differences between macroinvertebrate communities on and off water chestnut beds. A total of approximately 250 plants were removed from remaining project sites, which included efforts made by NYS Parks.

#### Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Project

Hydrilla was first discovered in New York in 2008 and has since spread to fourteen counties, including two (Erie and Niagara Counties) in western New York. The populations in Erie and Niagara counties are primarily found within Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal and the Niagara River, and have been under active management since 2015, through a partnership initially led by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Buffalo District and now under the leadership of NYS DEC. In support of the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal *Hydrilla* Demonstration Project, WNY PRISM Stewards provided outreach to members of the public at staffed launches along the Erie Canal throughout sampling and treatment efforts and assisted with two days of post-treatment assessments.

## Summary of Program Expenses



This summary of program expenses is intended to provide a general overview of how WNY PRISM divided time and resources in 2025. Expenses were grouped together by Goal/Core Function. Many of WNY PRISM's activities fall within multiple functional areas and effort was taken to place expenses appropriately. This is not intended to serve as a financial report.

**Partner/Network Coordination (26%)** – Program administration, grant management and reporting, partner communication, working groups and committees, hiring, messaging and marketing.

**Information Management (4%)** – Data collection and data management, prioritization, resource development and outreach, non-early detection survey and monitoring, and research support.

**Education and Outreach (15%)** – Community science programs, pledge to protect campaign, outreach, workshops and trainings, volunteer management, website and social media management, and materials development.

**Prevention (32%)** – Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program, boot brush stations, horizon scanning, and associated resource/materials development and outreach.

**Early Detection/Rapid Response (7%)** – Early detection site monitoring and management, surveys, partner communication, data management, data collection protocols, working group facilitation, research support and outreach.

**Management & Habitat Restoration (16%)** – Crew Assistance Program, pre and post treatment monitoring, removal, restoration, development of best management practices, partner communication, data collection and management, resource development and outreach.

## WNY PRISM Partners

WNY PRISM worked with 17 new partners in 2025 – new partners are in bold.

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program	Canal Village Farmers Market	City of Tonawanda
Alfred Farmers Market	Capital Region PRISM	Clarence Hollow Farmers Market
Alfred State College	Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	Conewango Creek Watershed Association
Allegheny Highlands Council - Boy Scouts of America	Cattaraugus County Department of Public Works	Cornell University
American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators	Cattaraugus County Highway Department	Craneridge Association
American Legion Post 362	<b>CCE of Chautauqua County</b>	Daemen College
Amherst Conservation Advisory Council	CCE of Allegany County	Don't Move Firewood
Amherst Public Library	CCE of Erie County	Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm
Amherst State Park	CCE of Genesee County	Eckert Herbarium
Arcade Chamber of Commerce	CCE of Niagara County	Ecological Research Institute
Association for Conservation of Recreational and Natural Spaces (ACORNS)	CCE of Orleans County	Elmwood Village Farmers Market
Audubon Community Nature Center	CCE of Wyoming County	Environmental Protection Agency
Belmont Farmers Market	Certified Nursery Landscape Professionals	Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation
Bergen Swamp Preservation Society	Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center	Erie County 4-H Club
Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens	<b>Chautauqua Bird, Tree and Garden Club</b>	Erie County Agricultural Society
Buffalo Audubon Society	Chautauqua County Forest Pest Taskforce	Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
<b>Buffalo Maritime Center</b>	<b>Chautauqua County Parks Department</b>	Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Buffalo Museum of Science	Chautauqua Institution	Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District
Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village	Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance	Faun Lake Association
<b>Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust</b>	Chautauqua Lake Association	Federated Garden Clubs of New York
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy	Finger Lakes PRISM
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy	Chautauqua-Conewango Consortium	Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance
Buffalo Science in the Pub	Christ the King Seminary - Diocese of Buffalo	Fox Valley Farmers Market
Buffalo Sewer Authority	Citizens Coalition for Wildlife and Environment	Friends of Bond Lake
Buffalo Women of Environmental Learning & Leadership (BWELL)	City of Buffalo	Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
Buffalo Zoo	City of Dunkirk	Friends of Knox Farm State Park
Byron-Bergen Central Schools	City of Lockport	Friends of Letchworth State Park
	City of Niagara Falls	
	City of North Tonawanda	

Friends of Reinstein Woods  
 Friends of Times Beach  
 Friends of Unity Island  
 Gardens Buffalo Niagara  
 Genesee Country Farmers  
 Market  
 Genesee County Agricultural  
 Society  
 Genesee County Park and  
 Forest  
 Genesee County Soil and  
 Water Conservation District  
 Genesee River Wilds  
 Girl Scouts of Western New  
 York - Camp Timbercrest  
 Grand Island Conservation  
 Advisory Committee  
 Grand Island Memorial  
 Library  
**Grand Island Nature Alliance**  
 Grassroots Gardens WNY  
 Great Lakes Action Agenda  
 Great Lakes Center at SUNY  
 Buffalo State  
 Great Lakes Hydrilla  
 Collaborative  
 Great Lakes Media  
 Great Lakes Phragmites  
 Collaborative  
 Great Lakes Restoration  
 Initiative  
 Greystone Nature Preserve  
 Groundworks Buffalo  
**Grow With Springville**  
 Habitattitude  
 Hamburg Farmers Market  
 Hamburg Garden Club  
 Hikerbabes Community:  
 Western New York Chapter  
**Hulbert Library of the Town  
 of Concord**  
 Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
 Invasive Species Advisory  
 Committee  
 Invasive Species  
 Coordination Section  
 Invasive Species Council

Jamestown Farmers Market  
 Jamestown Garden Club  
 Ken-Ton School District  
 Lake Erie Seaway Trail Center  
 Lake Erie Watershed  
 Protection Alliance  
 Lily Dale Assembly  
 Lockport Community Market  
 Lockport Public Library  
 Long Island Invasive Species  
 Management Area  
 Lower Hudson PRISM  
 M&T's Think Green Resource  
 Group  
 Massachusetts Avenue  
 Project  
 Master Forest Owners  
 Master Gardeners  
 Master Naturalists  
**Mayville Library**  
**Mayville Tree Advisory  
 Committee**  
**Michigan State University**  
 National Plant Diagnostic  
 Network  
 Natural Resources  
 Conservation Service – USDA  
 Nature Sanctuary Society of  
 Western New York  
 New York Farm Bureau  
 New York iMapInvasives  
 Program  
 New York Invasive Species  
 Research Institute  
 New York Natural Heritage  
 Program  
 New York New Jersey Trail  
 Conference  
**New York Power Authority**  
 New York Sea Grant  
 New York State Turfgrass  
 Association  
**Niagara County Department  
 of Public Works**  
 Niagara County Parks  
 Niagara County SWCD

Niagara Frontier Antique &  
 Classic Boat Club  
 Niagara Frontier Botanical  
 Society  
 Niagara River Greenway  
 Niagara University  
 North American Invasive  
 Species Management  
 Association  
 North Buffalo Farmers  
 Market  
 North Tonawanda City  
 Market  
 NYS Canal Corporation  
 NYS Classic Fishing  
 Tournaments  
 NYS Department of  
 Agriculture and Markets  
 NYS Department of  
 Environmental Conservation  
 NYS Department of  
 Transportation  
 NYS Federation of Lake  
 Associations  
 NYS Hemlock Initiative  
 NYS Office of Parks,  
 Recreation, and Historic  
 Preservation  
 NYS Thruway Authority  
 Olean Farmers Market  
 Onondaga Environmental  
 Institute  
 Ontario Invasive Plant  
 Council  
 Orchard Park Library  
 Orleans County Soil and  
 Water Conservation District  
 Outside Chronicles  
 Panama Rocks  
 Penn Dixie Fossil Park &  
 Nature Reserve  
 Perry Farmers Market  
 Pfeiffer Nature Center  
 Plant WNY  
 Play. Clean. Go.  
 PUSH Buffalo  
 Reinstein Woods

Research Foundation for  
SUNY Buffalo State  
Resource Environmental  
Services  
Richmond Memorial Library  
Riverside Community High  
School  
Roger Tory Peterson Institute  
Rushford Lake Association  
Saint Bonaventure University  
Salamanca Farmers Market  
Science Demands Action  
Seneca Nation of Indians  
Silver Lake Association  
Silver Lake Water Quality  
Group  
South Towns Garden Club  
**Southern Tier West  
Springville Field and Stream  
Club**  
St. Lawrence Eastern Lake  
Ontario PRISM  
Starry Stonewort  
Collaborative  
Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers  
Strykersville Senior Citizens  
SUNY Brockport  
SUNY Buffalo State  
University  
SUNY College of  
Environmental Science and  
Forestry  
SUNY Fredonia

SUNY Jamestown Community  
College  
The Archaeological  
Conservancy  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Park School  
The Service Collaborative of  
WNY  
The Stewardship Network  
Gloves for Good  
Tifft Nature Preserve  
Town of Amherst  
Town of Aurora  
Town of Bergen  
Town of Boston Conservation  
Advisory Council  
Town of Byron  
Town of Cheektowaga  
Town of Clarence  
Town of Clarence  
Conservation Advisory  
Council  
Town of Eden – Conservation  
Advisory Board  
**Town of Evans - Parks  
Department**  
Town of Hanover  
Town of Holland  
Town of Newfane  
Town of Tonawanda  
Town of Tonawanda – Youth,  
Parks & Recreation  
Town of Tonawanda Public  
Library - Kenmore Branch

Town of West Seneca  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
– Buffalo District  
U.S. Department of  
Agriculture – Animal and  
Plant Health Inspection  
Service  
U.S. Department of  
Agriculture – National  
Resources Conservation  
Service  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
– Lower Great Lakes Fish and  
Wildlife Conservation Office  
University at Buffalo  
University of Georgia  
Village of Allegany  
Village of East Aurora  
**Village of Hamburg  
Environmental Conservation  
Commission**  
Village of Holley  
WBFO 88.7 NPR  
West Seneca Chamber of  
Commerce  
West Seneca Lions Club  
Western New York Land  
Conservancy  
WGRZ Channel 2  
WNY Forest Pest Taskforce  
Wyoming County Soil and  
Water Conservation District