



CR-PRISM Aquatic Invasive Species Detect & Monitor Report

Featherstonhaugh Lake, Schenectady County

About This Priority Waterbody

Featherstonhaugh Lake embodies 40.3 acres with a maximum depth of nine feet. Located in Duanesburg, the waterbody connects to Mariaville Lake.

The shoreline of this waterbody is largely undeveloped and surrounded by Featherstonhaugh State Forest. The East side contains a handful of homes who's access to the water is largely limited by dense vegetative floating mats of white waterlily. Some of these homes have created narrow pathways. The bottom cover of the lake is comprised of macrophytes including white waterlily and large-leaf pondweed. Eurasian water-milfoil is present and primarily found on the South/East sides. A well established and undisturbed native species populations reduced opportunity for EWM to spread.



Public access is located off of Judith Lane, with a State Forest DEC parking area. A steep pathway leading to a small hand launch places boaters at the South end; no other public access is available. More information can be found on the [NYS DEC Featherstonhaugh State Forest Webpage](#).

Invasive Species Previously Recorded

Common Name	Scientific Name	Location (GPS)	Growth Type	Phenology	Abundance
Eurasian water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Multiple locations	Submerged	Vegetative	Sparse/Dense

Growth Type: Tree, Shrub, Vine, Ground Cover, Herbaceous, Riparian, Submerged, Floating, Emergent, Wetland, Pest, Animal

Phenology: Flowering, Leaf unfolding, fruit ripening, leaf color change, dormant, swarming, spawning, emergence (insects), migrating, in seed, senesce

Distribution/Abundance: Trace (single plant/clump), Sparse (scattered plants/clumps), Dense plants/clumps, linearly scattered, Monoculture

iMapInvasives Aquatic Invasive Species Observations





Capital Region PRISM AIS Early Detection Survey

On June 24th, 2024 the Capital Region PRISM conducted an aquatic survey on Featherstonhaugh Lake located in Schenectady County. The survey focused on early detection of Tier 1 and 2 aquatic invasive species, as well as high threat widespread species such as water chestnut. Upon completion of the surveys it was determined that Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) is the only aquatic invasive species detected. EWM is primarily located on the south/east ends of the waterbody, with dense established native aquatic vegetation keeping populations reduced.

General Information	
Waterbody Name: Featherstonhaugh Lake	Date of Survey: June 24 th , 2024
Survey Lead: Hannah Coppola	Time to Conduct Survey: 2 hours
Team Members: N/A	Address: Featherstonhaugh Lake Trail 294 Judith Ln, Delanson, NY 12053
iMapInvasives User ID: 21052	County: Schenectady
Property Owner Contact: DEC Region 4 Schenectady Office (M-F, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM), (518) 357-2155; r4.ump@dec.ny.gov	Coordinates: 42.811485, -74.116425
Date of Last Survey: 9/1/2022	Waterbody Acreage: 40.3
Recommended Date of Next Survey: 2027	Average Depth: 3.6
Has This Site Received Previous Management? N/A	

Survey Techniques

This survey was conducted using the following methods.

- **Top-side (visual):** A total of 20 observations outside of rake toss using top-side visual methodology. Wind and light rain created somewhat difficult conditions for surveying.
- **Meandering rake toss:** A total of five rake tosses drew species found in top-side visual observations. Rake tosses were conducted in locations less effected by winds.

New York State Invasive Species Prioritization Model



Featherstonhaugh Lake is located near an area with a medium-high comprehensive score on the NYS Invasive Species Prioritization Model. Locations with high comprehensive scores have high ecological significance, a high risk of spread of invasives into the area, and high value according to their protected status. Early detection is important in these locations to ensure timely management of new infestations if detected.

[NYS Invasive Species Prioritization Model](#)



Aquatic Invasive Species Presence

Common Name	Scientific Name	Location (GPS)	Growth Type	Phenology	Abundance
Eurasian water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Multiple locations	Submerged	Vegetative	Sparse/Dense

Eurasian watermilfoil

- New York Non-Native Animal Invasiveness Ranking – 100
https://nyis.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NYS-INVASIVE-PLANT-RANKS_March-2013.pdf

Native Species Presence

Common Name	Scientific Name	Species Notes
White water lily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	Dominant species found in dense floating mats throughout waterbody. Restricts access by property owners
Common waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	
Large leaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	
Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia spp</i>	Common and creeping bladderwort spp
Spatterdock	<i>Nuphar variegata</i>	Primarily found on Northern end of lake mixed with White waterlily and Watershield.
Watershield	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	Found throughout waterbody mixed with white waterlily primarily.
Coontail	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	
Muskgrass/Skunkweed	<i>Chara vulgaris</i>	

Native Vegetation Distribution – Select

This is a qualitative assessment of the native plants that will be entered into the CR-PRISM Survey Report.

- Dominant** (Natives are the most common plants and widespread),
- Subdominant** (Natives are present, but invasive plants are more common and widespread),
- Absent** (There are no native plants either because there are no plants at all or just about all the plants are invasive)

Summary of Recommendations

Prevention

Prevention efforts are recommended to reduce the chance of new aquatic invasive species introductions into Featherstonhaugh Lake. The restricted hand launch access with a steep pathway to the lake helps prevent unwanted species being introduced through reduction of visitors.

Ensuring clean, drain, dry practices are being followed when transporting watercraft from one waterbody to another is also recommended. Identifying and reporting any suspected aquatic invasive species is encouraged to ensure early detection.



Survey Photos

