



## Capital Region PRISM Prioritization Framework

**Purpose:** The Capital Region PRISM prioritizes high threat invasive species with a low number of populations. Invasive species are non-native and are a serious threat to the economy, environment and/or human health. Efforts are focused on conservation targets that are highly significant or protect rare and endangered species.

The PRISM prioritizes projects that have a high probability of success and the greatest impact with a limited capacity. The prioritization document provides an overview of considerations to be implemented when determining work efforts. These work efforts include: prevention, early detection surveys, control, management and restoration.

The document provides a framework of response that permits the efficient use of resources while providing the greatest return on work efforts. The Capital Region PRISM focuses on Priority Conservation Areas and Priority Waterbodies. Secondary sites are considered based on social, cultural, or partner priorities at the discretion of the PRISM.

### How we Prioritize our Work:

#### **By Species:**

- Species are evaluated to determine their [invasiveness ranking](#) by assessing each species ecological impact, biological characteristics and dispersal ability, ecological amplitude and distribution, and difficulty to control. These assessments can be used for species that are established in New York State, new arrivals or even species that are not yet present. The rankings are based on a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest threat. The Capital Region PRISM focuses efforts on species with higher threat rankings due to their ability to invade areas at a faster rate and/or have a higher impact on the environment.
- Species are assigned to a tier based on state invasiveness ranks and abundance. A [statewide tier list](#) was developed by the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) to guide management priorities across New York State. Additionally, each PRISM has developed a [tier list](#) to guide management priorities within each region.
  - **Tier 1** species are not yet present in the region and surveying efforts are targeted for early detection of these species.
  - **Tier 2** species are present in low abundance and are possible eradication candidates. They are another high priority target during early detection surveys. If a tier 2 species is detected and the project is applicable, it can be run through IPMDAT to determine if eradication is feasible. If so, it will be added to the list of priority control projects for Capital Region PRISM staff and partners.
  - Actions regarding **tier 3 and 4** species are dependent on location and are addressed below. It is important to note that tier rankings are dynamic and need to be reevaluated as new information becomes available (such as new recorded infestations or updates to invasiveness rankings).

#### **By Impact:**

- Some species impact human health and the economy; therefore, they are the focus of removal and exclusion efforts to prevent harm to these groups. These would likely be partner-led projects with the PRISM available to assist either through funding or capacity.





#### By Location:

- Highly probable areas are the most likely areas invasive species will be introduced and/or establish, especially pertaining to areas with a lot of human movement and disturbance. To protect larger areas that don't have invasive species or have a very low abundance of invasive species, the Capital Region PRISM prioritizes surveying and removals in these areas.
  - For example: parking lots, boat launches, trailheads, picnic areas, campgrounds, gravel/brush piles, rights-of-way, roadways, etc.
- The [NYNHP Prioritization Models](#) were created to highlight areas of the state that have high ecological significance, a high risk of spread of invasives into the area, and high value according to their protected status. Areas that overlap with high values for all three categories (high ecological significance, high risk of spread and high value due to protected status) are locations where the PRISM focuses management and survey efforts.
- The [Environmental Resource Mapper](#) is an interactive mapping application that can be used to identify some of New York State's natural resources and environmental features that are protected by the state or federal government, or of conservation concern. These maps are intended as one source of information for landowners, land managers, citizens, local officials, and project sponsors engaged in land use decision making, conservation, or environmental assessment. Additionally, the maps can assist in determining if a permit may be needed for projects in that area. These maps also show significant natural communities, rare plants or animals and wetlands. This is another great tool that helps the PRISM prioritize which sites to manage.
- The [New York Protected Area Database \(NYPAD\)](#) is a spatial database of lands protected, designated, or functioning as open space, natural areas, conservation lands, or recreational areas. These lands cover over six million acres, approximately 20% of New York State. While the database has 'Protected' in its name, that term is used broadly. Lands in NYPAD may be public or private, open or closed to public use, permanently protected from development or subject to future changes in management. The PRISM focuses its efforts on public and protected land, therefore this database is a great resource for assisting in identifying those areas.
- Using the tools above (the NYNHP Prioritization Models, the Environmental Resource Mapper and NYPAD), we can decide where to survey for and manage tier 3 and tier 4 species. Additionally, these tools are used to determine areas to focus efforts by creating a list of Priority Conservation Areas and Priority Waterbodies.
  - **Tier 3** species are containment candidates, as they are too widespread to eradicate from the region but certain areas may be at risk if they are not managed. Actions to contain these species are evaluated by the PRISM staff to identify the most ecologically significant areas.
  - **Tier 4** species are suppressed within and excluded from pristine areas that are dominated by native species and support exceptional biodiversity concentrations. [Invasive Species Prevention Zones \(ISPZs\)](#) and other high priority areas are prime target locations for these efforts. These areas are determined by presence of rare/threatened/endangered species, ecological significance and habitat uniqueness.
  - The Capital Region PRISM has established areas where efforts are focused within the PRISM boundary, called Priority Conservation Areas. These sites have high ecological significance, greater possibility of invasion, and/or are aesthetically appealing. The Capital Region PRISM surveys for and manages invasive species within 26 PCAs and 22 Priority





Waterbodies throughout the Capital Region that have been identified through these models.

- Examples of these sites include: bird conservation areas, wildlife management areas, important bird areas, wild forests, state forests, preserves, parks, grasslands, and historic sites.

Using the above information and data, actions can be assigned to conservation areas based on the following guidelines:

Ecological Significance (model value)	Risk of Spread (model value)	# of iMap observations	Action
High	High	Low	Focus Capital Region PRISM surveys for Tier 1 and 2 species (but also create list of Tier 3 and 4 species for parcel). Focus control efforts if found.
High	Low	Low	Encourage volunteer surveys to report Tier 3 and 4 species (also include Tier 1 and 2 for more advanced surveyors)
High	Any	High	Provide information about Tier 1 and 2 species to conservation partner that has been collecting iMap data

### **Terrestrial Priority Conservation Areas\*:**

1. Ann Lee Pond (Albany)
2. Ashford Glen Preserve (Albany)
3. Black Creek Marsh WMA (Albany)
4. Charleston State Forest (Montgomery)
5. Cherry Plain State Park & Capital District WMA (Rensselaer)
6. Eldridge Swamp State Forest (Washington)
7. Four Mile Point Preserve (Greene)
8. Ft. Edward Grasslands (Washington)
9. Goose Egg State Forest (Washington)
10. Grafton Lakes State Park (Rensselaer)
11. Indian Kill (Schenectady)
12. Moreau Lake State Park (ISPZ) (Saratoga, Warren)
13. Partridge Run WMA (Albany)
14. Peck Hill State Forest & Willie Wildlife Marsh (Fulton)
15. Plantation Island WMA (Herkimer)
16. Ralph Rd State Forest (Warren)
17. Rockwood State Forest (Fulton)
18. Rural Grove State Forest (Montgomery)
19. Sanders Preserve (Schenectady)
20. Saratoga Sand Plains WMA (Saratoga)
21. Spruce Creek & Lake Reservoir (Herkimer)
22. Stockport Flats & Nutten Hook Tidal Wetland (Columbia)
23. Thacher State Park (Albany)
24. Vosburgh Swamp (Greene)
25. Washington County Grasslands (Washington)
26. Wilton Wildlife Preserve (Saratoga)

\*The designation of these areas are subject to review.





## **Aquatic Priority Waterbodies\*:**

1. Partridge Run WMA (Albany)
  - Fawn Lake
  - White Birch Pond
  - Tubbs Pond
2. Basic Creek Reservoir (Albany)
3. Thompson Lake (Albany)
4. Queechy Lake (Columbia)
5. Rockwood Lake (Fulton)
6. North-South Lake (Greene)
7. Spruce Lake (Herkimer)
8. Grafton Lakes State Park (Rensselaer)
  - Long Pond
  - Shaver Pond
  - Second Pond
  - Mill Pond
9. Black River Pond (Rensselaer)
10. Dunham Reservoir (Rensselaer)
11. Moreau Lake State Park (Saratoga)
  - Moreau Lake
  - Lake Bonita
12. Delegan Pond (Saratoga)
13. Round Lake/Little Round Lake (Saratoga)
14. Colonie Reservoir (Saratoga)
15. Featherstonhaugh Lake (Schenectady)
16. Collins Lake (Schenectady)
17. Mariaville Lake (Schenectady)
18. Butler Pond (Warren)
19. Rush Pond (Warren)
20. Halfway Creek/Ann Pond (Warren)
21. Carters Pond WMA (Washington)
  - Carters Pond
22. Battenkill River (Washington)

\*The designation of these areas are subject to review.

## **Supporting Documents and Tools:**

The Capital Region PRISM uses a [Framework for Response and Integrated Pest Management Approach](#) which can be used for a logical approach when responding to newly identified invasive species infestations. The framework is also designed to help the PRISM prioritize management activities while considering all aspects of management known and possibly unknown.

### **Species:**

- [Invasiveness ranking](#)
- [Statewide tier list](#)
- [Capital Region Tier List](#)
- [iMap Invasives](#)

### **Locations:**

- [NYNHP Prioritization Models](#)
- [Environmental Resource Mapper](#)
- [New York Protected Area Database \(NYPAD\)](#)
- [Invasive Species Prevention Zone \(ISPZ\)](#)

### **Reporting Templates:**

- [Survey Report](#)
- [Treatment Report](#)
- [Invasive Species Management Plan](#)

