



Capital Region PRISM
Partnership for Regional
Invasive Species Management
capitalregionprism.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension Saratoga County
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Volunteer Education & Engagement Program (VEEP) Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (CR-PRISM)

Introduction:

Invasive Species are harmful organisms that affect our ecosystems, economy, and way of life. If you are a group or entity seeking to improve the health of a property, please contact the CR-PRISM. We are proud to offer technical assistance to potential partners on methodologies and hands-on experiences to make a parcel more ecologically functional and sustainable through a Volunteer Education and Engagement Program.

Program Purpose:

The CR-PRISM Volunteer Education and Engagement Program (VEEP) exists to help improve invasive species management across the region by assisting partner organizations with priority projects involving invasive species identification, management, and habitat restoration.

About the Program

The PRISM is seeking to assist partners by helping to build and train their staff or volunteer base to take action. The CR-PRISM will help with response on public, community, and private land holdings (e.g., preserves, parks, and easements) with a volunteer engagement program. The VEEP provides a method and opportunity to share our expertise and experience with groups and entities seeking to act in controlling invasive species but don't know where to start. Our goal is to increase your efficacy and impact to slow the spread of invasive species while promoting a more sustainable and functioning ecology on a small scale. Together we can make a difference.

The Partnership

The PRISM works within a network of Partner groups to promote prevention, education, and outreach strategies, create early detection and response networks, and execute best management practices for invasive species control, including post-treatment monitoring and restoration actions. To promote regional cohesiveness and reduce the spread and impact of invasive species, CR-PRISM collaborates with several dozen entities in a Partnership. All are welcome, for more information check out our [Partner Invite and Acknowledgement](#) on our website.

The CR-PRISM

The PRISM is a not-for-profit quasi-governmental agency hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County, strategically operates across [eleven counties](#), and is financially supported by the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). The CR-PRISM is one of eight such PRISMs throughout New York State.



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY
Department of
Environmental
Conservation

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation provides financial support to The Capital Region PRISM via the Environmental Protection Fund



Services Offered

- Training of staff, group members, volunteers, or community scientists on
 - Invasive species identification
 - Reporting of invasive species for monitoring (using iMapInvasives)
 - Training and demonstration of best management practices to respond to invasive species.
- Provide basic consultation reviews on proposed projects
 - Aid with the recommendations in prioritizing species and areas for removal and restoration work with a project
- Provide loaner tools and other resources needed to complete desired work actions
- Safety trainings prior to conducting work
 - CR-PRISM requires a signed waiver of liability before collaborating on a project
- Considerations for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to fund management, restoration, and/or educational signage.

Planning Considerations

When planning volunteer engagements, having a broad view of ensuring impact over time will aid in providing a framework of success for projects moving forward. The most effective volunteer events are those that are well thought out with goals and objectives and reoccur over time in the same location to make a difference.

Core practices of the program for success:

- Drafting a plan with clear and obtainable objectives.
- Utilization of established volunteers and collaborative recruitment of new participants.
- Commitment to a reoccurring program to ensure a higher likelihood of success for species that are difficult to manage.
- Alignment of events coinciding with the phenology of target species as a best management practice
- Proper permits, permissions, and disposal venues will be identified and in place before commencement of an engagement.

Applications:

- Partners should submit a one-page typed document requesting services that describe
 - A proposed project initiative with goals outlined (If known, and we can help).
 - A map of the property
 - Species for potential management, and size of infestation, if known.
 - Direct point of person contact.
 - Location.
 - Property owner permissions.
- Participants must be located within the [CR-PRISM](#) boundaries.
- We do not work on private residential properties.
- The CR-PRISM is not obligated to respond to all requests based on feasibility of projects and staffing capacity.

Please reach out to the CR-PRISM Education, Volunteer, and Outreach Coordinator to discuss potential projects prior to submitting a request for a VEEP project to identify our availability and feasibility of partnering on an initiative.

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