



Capital Region PRISM AIS Water Chestnut Treatment/Response Report

Fish Creek, Saratoga Lake, Saratoga County

Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) colonizes areas of freshwater lakes and ponds and slow-moving streams and rivers, where it forms dense mats of floating vegetation, causing problems for boaters and swimmers and negatively impacting aquatic ecosystem functioning. The aquatic plant has been introduced to the northeast for over a century and is widespread. The purpose of the [hyperlinked prioritization scale](#) is to determine if an effort is warranted to manually control a plant through hand harvesting, or if a recommendation for mechanical harvesting should be pursued. Water chestnut has a [NYS Non-Native Threat Ranking - 82 Very High](#).

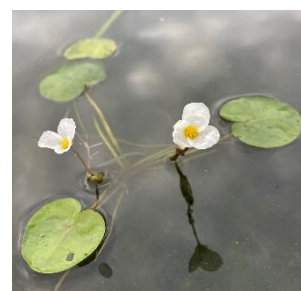
Fish Creek flows east out of Saratoga Lake for 13 miles to Schuylerville, where it empties into the Hudson River. There is a small dam east of Bryant's Bridge Rd that controls the level of the lake and creek. Motorboat traffic is typically heavy on the weekends, but is primarily concentrated on Saratoga Lake. A well-used launch for kayakers and canoeists is off of Stafford's Bridge Rd at the Kayak Shak, which is part of Saratoga Outdoor Center.

On July 11th the Capital Region PRISM conducted a water chestnut pull on Fish Creek in the surrounding area in front of the Kayak Shak and roughly half a mile past the Stafford Bridge. This 29-acre area contains several populations of water chestnut and one larger monoculture. European frog bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) is also present with trace to sparse populations along the shoreline. A monoculture of water chestnut is found roughly half a mile up from the Skidmore Boat House. This event has a cultural and economic significance for the Kayak Shak and recreational users of Fish Creek. Spot treatments of satellite populations of water chestnut and European frog bit resulted in an estimated 1,700 pounds of dewatered plant material by 21 volunteers.

Site Information	
Waterbody Name: Fish Creek, Saratoga Lake	Date of Treatment: July 11 th , 2024
Coordinates: 43°04'27.2"N 73°41'43.5"W	Property Owner Contact: Kayak Shak kayakshakk@gmail.com
County: Saratoga County	Biomass Disposal Contact: Saratoga Tree Nursery
Address: Kayak Shak 251 County Road 67 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866	Treatment Lead: Hannah Coppola, AIS Program Manager Additional Staff: Kristopher Williams, CR-PRISM Coordinator Alexa Howansky, Watercraft Steward Assistant Supervisor
	iMapInvasives User ID: 21052
Has This Site Received Previous Management? <i>If so by who, what method, when?</i> This site has been receiving annual management since 2020 by the Capital Region PRISM in partnership with the Kayak Shak and Saratoga PLAN.	

Present Aquatic Invasive Species of Concern

- European Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) is a very high threat species. The plant is free floating and observed in the shorelines.
- Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*) is a very high threat species. (Right image)



Treatment Information

Size of Infestation: Trace to Sparse populations found throughout shoreline	Time Spent: 2.5 hours
Size of Area Treated: Trace/Sparse populations	% Completed: 70%
Treatment Method: Manual Pull, rosettes and roots, removing nutlet from sediment when possible	Amount Removed: Estimated 1,700lbs removed by 21 volunteers
WC Action Site? Yes. This site has been receiving annual management since 2020.	Treatment Record #: IMMA #11589
	Other: All watercraft are permitted on Saratoga Lake.
Justification for Removal: Public recreation and economic impact	
Follow up Recommended? <i>If so when?</i> Annual management is recommended to keep dock and launch areas clear of water chestnut vegetation. Management should focus around these areas prior to volunteers moving across the creek.	

Removal Photos

