

Project Title:

Identifying Priority Invasive Species Conservation Efforts in Key Natural Areas in the Town of Colonie

Prepared by:

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BACKGROUND

Invasive species and their ecological and economic impacts act on multiple scales from global, to regional, to the local level. Although much attention is directed at tackling invasive species at larger scales, particularly to combat new invasions from coming into a country or region, local scale efforts are also critical. Educating and engaging local public officials and citizens are important mechanisms to create a larger force to combat invasive species at all scales. For example, a knowledgeable public can serve to help identify new invasions when invasive species first move into an area, minimize the spread of invasive species by encouraging the planting of native species, and educate and garner public support for conservation initiatives. This “spreading the word” can be important, but there is often a challenge at getting people together to work cooperatively and productively to achieve these goals.

This project initiated a new partnership and line of communication between Siena College and the Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council (CAC). This project was designed to work with the Town of Colonie CAC to identify high priority natural areas to survey for invasive plant species. Siena faculty and students conducted field surveys, uploaded invasive species distribution and abundance records to *iMapInvasives*, summarized data, and identified priority conservation actions. These recommendations were geared towards what can be done at the town level.

METHODOLOGY/IMPLEMENTATION

Study Areas:

We worked with the Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council to identify key natural areas for sampling. We prepared and provided maps of *iMapInvasives* location data, invasive species prioritization model components, conservation areas, natural areas, and other associated features. We met with the Town of Colonie CAC and, based on our discussions, the Town of Colonie CAC suggested surveying four town-owned properties:

- Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Trail (Town of Colonie section),
- The Crossings,
- New property with stream (newly acquired property; located within a conservation overlay district), and
- Schuyler Flatts Cultural Park.

We discussed that if sampling was completed at those sites, we may be able to sample additional properties within the town. We had additional time, so we were able to add two additional sites:

- Town of Colonie Golf Course
- Siena College campus.

Undergraduate Student Project Assistants.

We hired and trained three students to assist in this project. Two (Joseph DeMarco and Lexie Lill) were primarily in charge of field surveys, data summary, preliminary analyses, and map preparation. A third student (Kate Scimeca) was primarily in charge of background research, data summary, and preparing outreach materials. Students were trained in invasive species identification and *iMapInvasives*.

Field Surveys and iMapInvasives Data Collection.

We developed and field-tested the sampling protocol. To be time efficient, invasive species plant surveys were conducted along key invasion corridors (e.g., roads, trails, streams, edges). Locations of invasive species encountered (and rough information on their relative abundance) was recorded and uploaded to *iMapInvasives*. Locations were mapped at regular intervals so that we could get an indication of how widespread each species was across a given site. Sampling was conducted from June–mid-July.

RESULTS OF SURVEYS

Twenty-nine invasive plant species were observed across the sites (range: 9-20; Table 1). We documented a similar number of species (around 18-20) at each site, with the exception of the New Property with Stream site where we recorded only 9 species (Table 1). Presence/absence by species for the five sites is presented in Table 1, and relative abundance data summarized Tables 2-6. In addition, maps of *iMapInvasives* location data were prepared for the five properties (Figures 1-5).

Table 1. Presence and absence by species for each of the five locations.

	Bike Route	The Crossings	Schuyler Flatts	Property with Stream	Colonie Golf Course
Amur Honeysuckle	X				
Autumn Olive	X	X	X		X
Black Locust	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Centaurea</i> spp.		X	X		
Bittersweet Nightshade					X
Colt's Foot					X
English Ivy		X			
Fireweed	X				
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	X	X	X		
Garlic Mustard	X	X	X	X	X
Giant Knotweed	X				
Great Mullein	X	X	X		X
Greater Celandine			X		
Japanese Barberry			X		
Japanese Knotweed	X	X	X	X	X
Japanese Maple		X	X		
<i>Lonicera</i> spp.	X	X	X	X	X
Morrow's Honeysuckle	X	X	X	X	X
Mugwort		X	X		X
Multiflora Rose	X	X	X	X	X
Norway Maple	X	X	X	X	X
Oriental Bittersweet	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	X	X	X		X
Tartarian Honeysuckle					X
Tree of Heaven	X		X		
Tufted Vetch					X
White Mulberry	X	X	X		X
Yellow Iris	X				
Total Species	19	18	20	9	18
Total Species (across all sites): 29					

Table 2. Number of observations by species surveyed at the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Trail (Town of Colonie section).

Species	Scientific Name	Total Observations per Species	Abundance
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	33	Common
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	8	Observed a handful of times in clumps
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	34	Very common
Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	56	Very common
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	42	Very common
Fireweed	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	1	Rare
Glossy Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	47	Very common
Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	1	Rare
Amur Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	7	Rare
Morrow's Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	56	Very common
Honeysuckle (species unknown)	<i>Lonicera spp.</i>	29	Very common
White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	8	Observed a handful of times as single trees
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	30	Common
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> <i>var. japonica: Fallopia</i> <i>japonica var. japonica</i>	4	Observed a handful of times as dense clumps
Giant Knotweed	<i>Reynoutria</i> <i>sachalinensis: Fallopia</i> <i>sachalinensis</i>	1	Rare
Common Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	66	Very common
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	17	Common
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	60	Very Common
Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	1	Rare
Total Species: 20			
Total Observations		502	

Table 3. Number of observations by species surveyed at The Crossings of Colonie.

Species	Scientific Name	Total Observations per Species	Abundance
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	3	Rare
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	5	Observed a handful of times in clumps
Common Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	6	Somewhat rare
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	7	Observed commonly in dense clumps
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	1	Rare
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	11	Common
Glossy Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	5	Observed a handful of times
Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	10	Common
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera spp.</i>	2	Rare
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> <i>var. japonica: Fallopia japonica</i> <i>var. japonica</i>	2	Observed rarely in dense clumps
Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	1	Rare
Knapweed	<i>Centaurea spp.</i>	9	Observed commonly in clumps
Morrow's Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	32	Very common
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris var. vulgaris</i>	5	Observed a handful of times in clumps
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	7	Somewhat common
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	10	Common
Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	47	Very common
White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	8	Somewhat common
Total Species: 18			
Total Observations		172	

Table 4. Number of observations by species surveyed at Schuyler Flatts Cultural Park.

Species	Scientific Name	Total Observations per Species	Abundance
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	3	Rare
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	7	Common
Common Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	11	Very common
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i> <i>ssp. australis</i>	2	Rare
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	14	Very common
European Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	10	Very common
Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	2	Rare
Greater Celadine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	1	Rare
Honeysuckle (species unknown)	<i>Lonicera spp.</i>	1	Rare
Japanese Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	1	Rare
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> <i>var. japonica : Fallopia</i> <i>japonica var. japonica</i>	2	Rare
Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	1	Rare
Knapweed (species unknown)	<i>Centaurea spp.</i>	1	Rare
Morrow's Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	8	Very common
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris var.</i> <i>vulgaris</i>	8	Very common
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	7	Very common
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	10	Very common
Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	13	Very common
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	6	Observed in clumps
White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	17	Very common
Total Species: 20			
Total Observations		130	

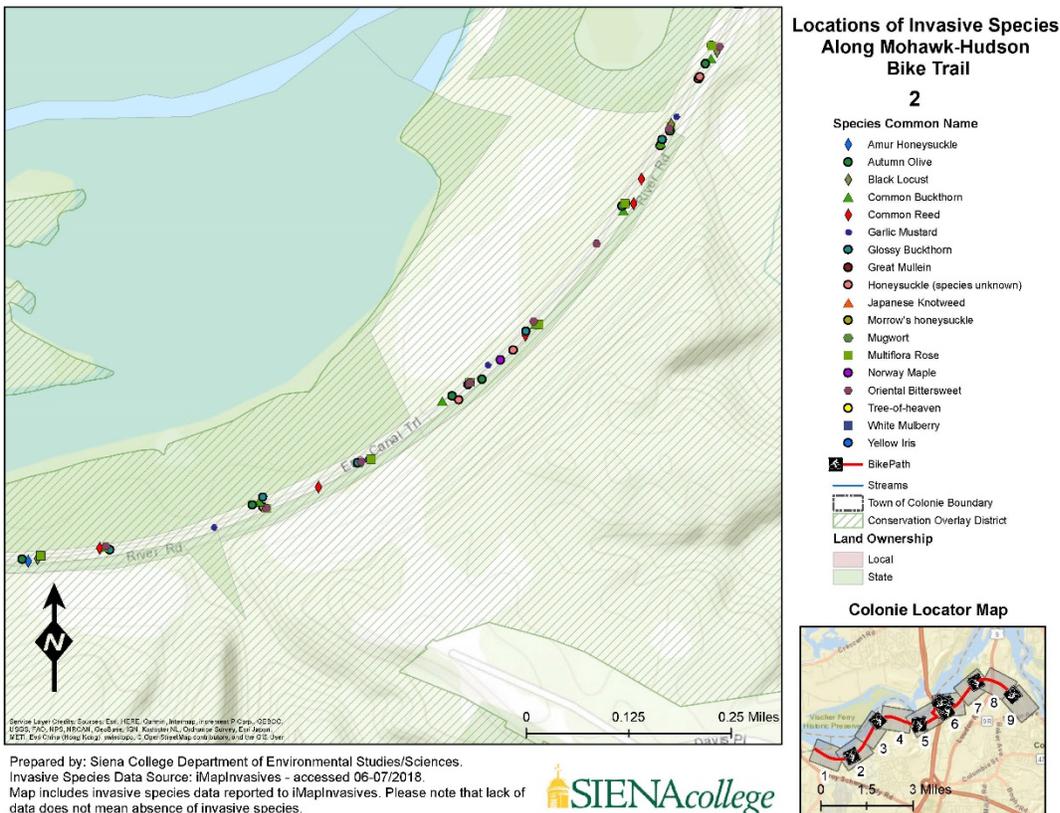
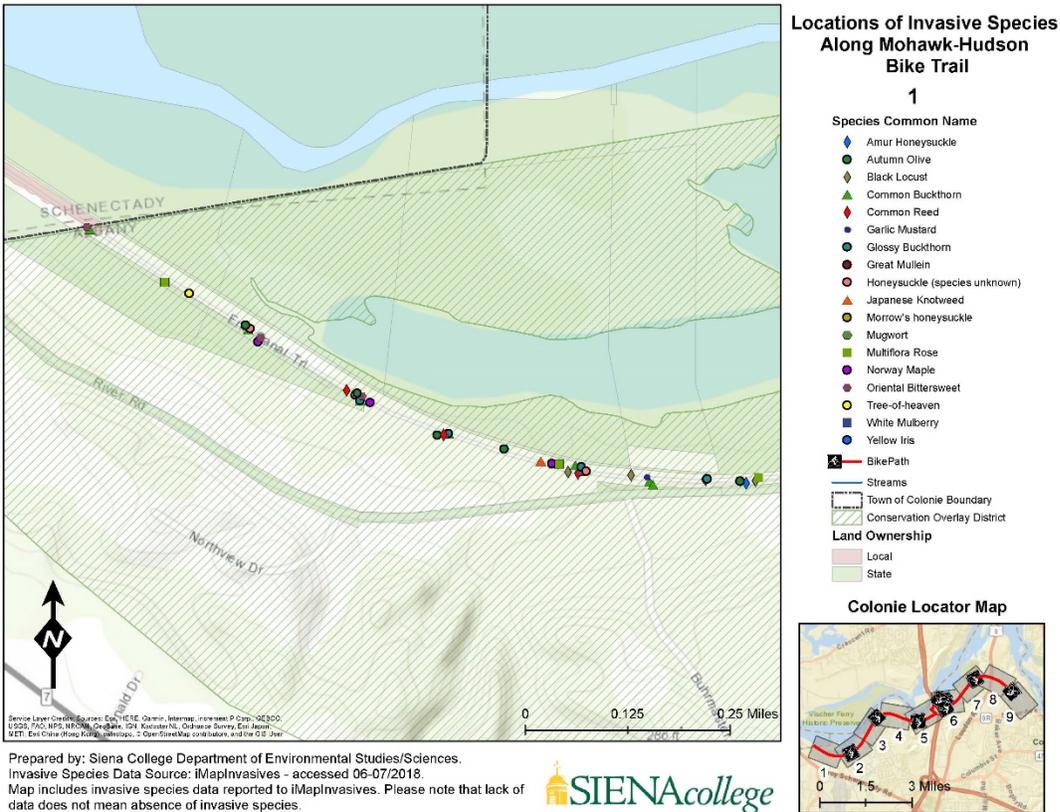
Table 5. Number of observations by species surveyed at the new property with stream (newly acquired property; located within a conservation overlay district).

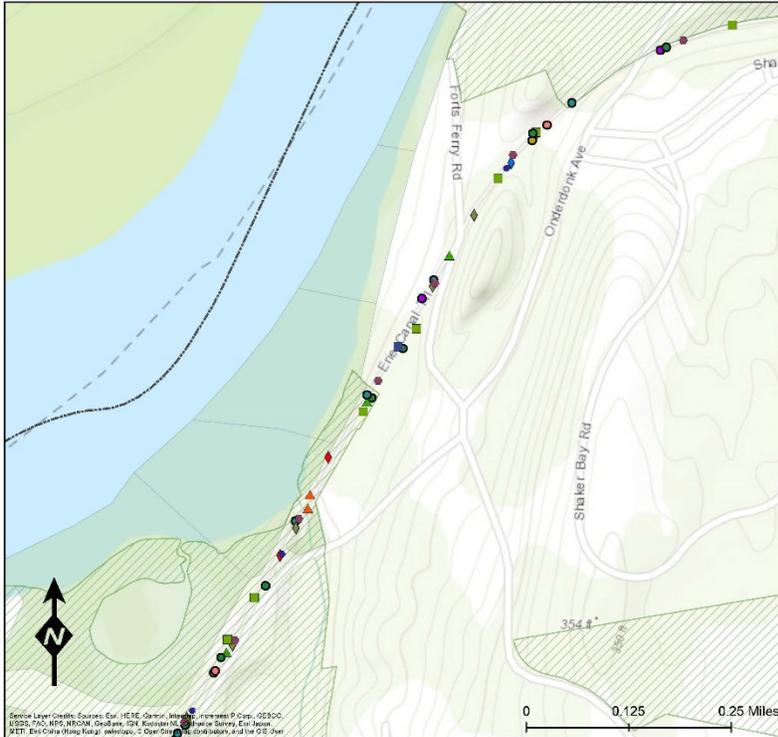
Species	Scientific Name	Total Observations per Species	Abundance
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	2	Rare
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	2	Observed rarely in dense clumps
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	2	Somewhat common
Honeysuckle (species unknown)	<i>Lonicera spp.</i>	1	Rare
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> <i>var. japonica: Fallopia japonica var. japonica</i>	2	Observed in clumps
Morrow's Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	5	Very common
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	2	Rare
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	1	Rare
Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	6	Very common
Total Species: 9			
Total Observations		24	

Table 6. Number of observations by species surveyed at the Town of Colonie Golf Course.

Species	Scientific Name	Total Observations per Species	Abundance
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	1	Rare
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	2	Rare
Bittersweet Nightshade	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i> <i>var. dulcamara</i>	4	Rare
Colt's Foot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	1	Rare
Common Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	36	Very Common
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	9	Common
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	17	Very common
Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	1	Rare
Honeysuckle (species unknown)	<i>Lonicera spp (species unknown)</i>	3	Rare
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> <i>var. japonica: Fallopia japonica var. japonica</i>	2	Rare
Morrow's Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	35	Very common
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris var. vulgaris</i>	7	Common
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	32	Very common
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	18	Very common
Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	30	Very common
Tartarian Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	1	Rare
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca ssp. cracca</i>	2	Rare
White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	2	Rare
Total Species: 18			
Total Observations		203	

Figure 1. Invasive species locations for the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Trail (Town of Colonie section).





Locations of Invasive Species Along Mohawk-Hudson Bike Trail

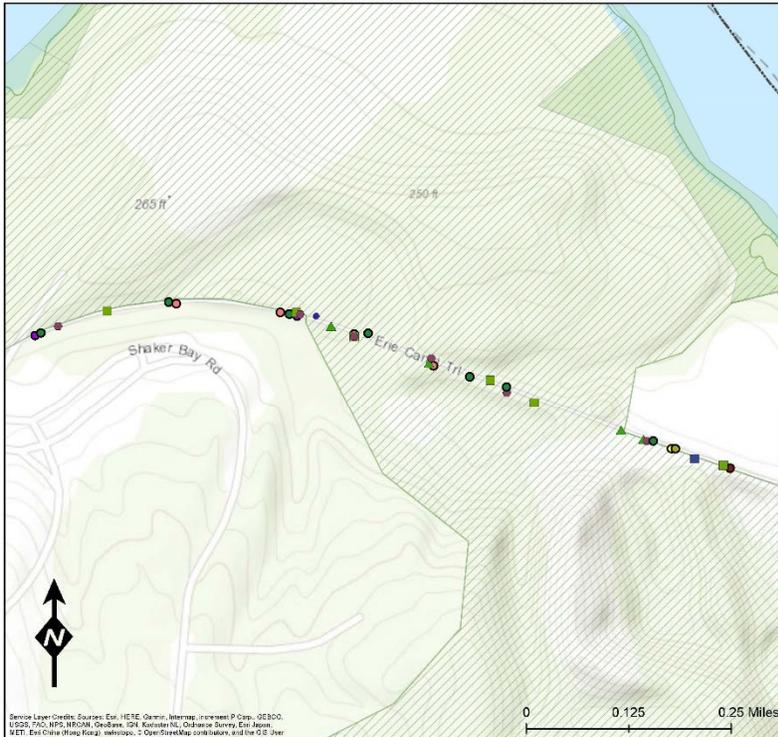
3

- Species Common Name**
- ◆ Amur Honeysuckle
 - Autumn Olive
 - ◆ Black Locust
 - ▲ Common Buckthorn
 - ◆ Common Reed
 - Garlic Mustard
 - Glossy Buckthorn
 - Great Mullein
 - Honeysuckle (species unknown)
 - ▲ Japanese Knotweed
 - Morrow's honeysuckle
 - Mugwort
 - Multiflora Rose
 - Norway Maple
 - Oriental Bittersweet
 - Tree-of-heaven
 - White Mulberry
 - Yellow Iris
- Land Ownership**
- Local
 - State

Colonie Locator Map



Prepared by: Siena College Department of Environmental Studies/Sciences.
 Invasive Species Data Source: iMapInvasives - accessed 06-07-2018.
 Map includes invasive species data reported to iMapInvasives. Please note that lack of data does not mean absence of invasive species.



Locations of Invasive Species Along Mohawk-Hudson Bike Trail

4

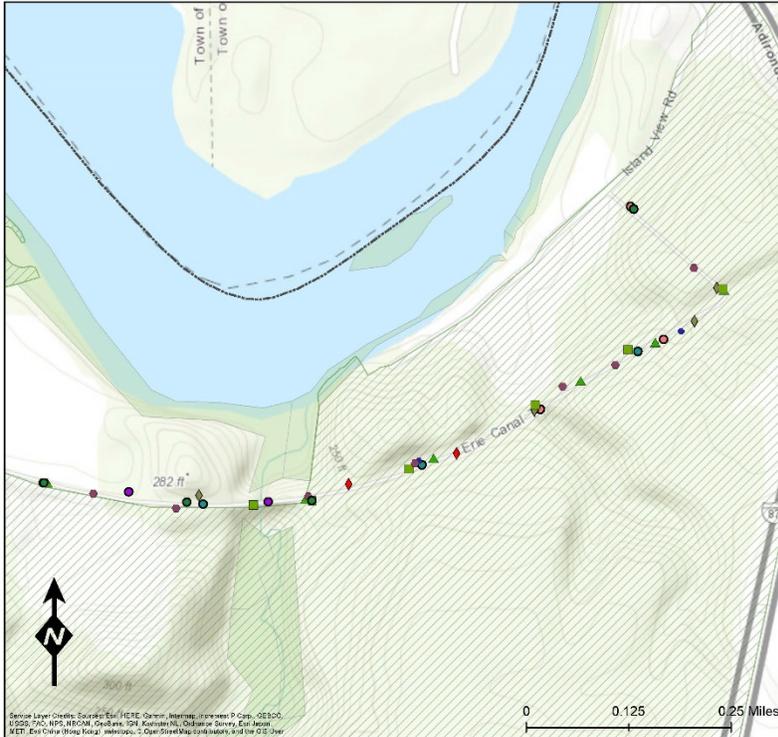
- Species Common Name**
- ◆ Amur Honeysuckle
 - Autumn Olive
 - ◆ Black Locust
 - ▲ Common Buckthorn
 - ◆ Common Reed
 - Garlic Mustard
 - Glossy Buckthorn
 - Great Mullein
 - Honeysuckle (species unknown)
 - ▲ Japanese Knotweed
 - Morrow's honeysuckle
 - Mugwort
 - Multiflora Rose
 - Norway Maple
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 - Tree-of-heaven
 - White Mulberry
 - Yellow Iris
- Land Ownership**
- Local
 - State

Colonie Locator Map



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Locations of Invasive Species Along Mohawk-Hudson Bike Trail

5

Species Common Name

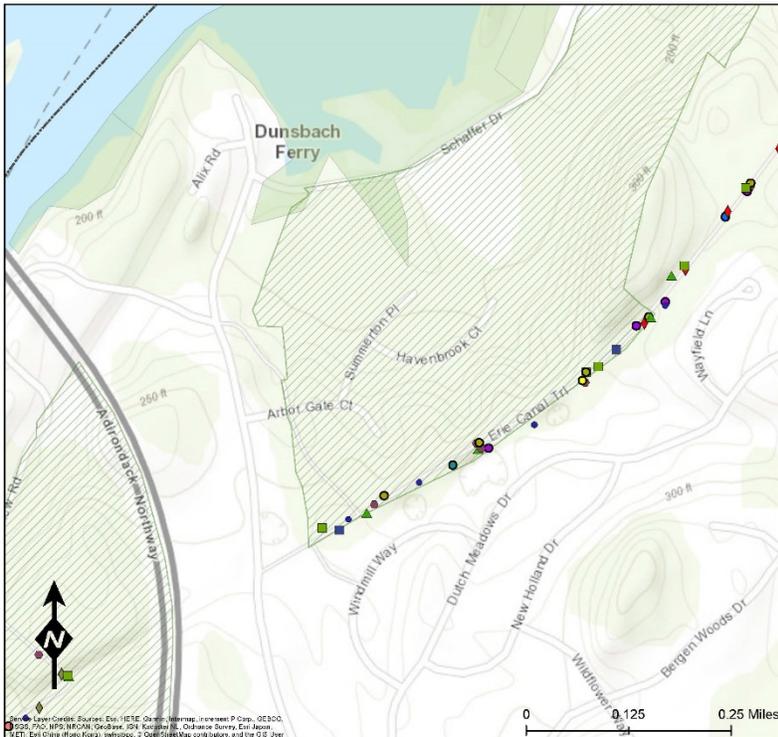
- ◆ Amur Honeysuckle
- Autumn Olive
- ◆ Black Locust
- ▲ Common Buckthorn
- ◆ Common Reed
- Garlic Mustard
- Glossy Buckthorn
- Great Mullein
- Honeysuckle (species unknown)
- ▲ Japanese Knotweed
- Morrow's honeysuckle
- Mugwort
- Multiflora Rose
- Norway Maple
- Oriental Bittersweet
- Tree-of-heaven
- White Mulberry
- Yellow Iris

- ◆ BikePath
 - Streams
 - Town of Colonie Boundary
 - ▨ Conservation Overlay District
- Land Ownership**
- Local
 - State

Colonie Locator Map



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Locations of Invasive Species Along Mohawk-Hudson Bike Trail

6

Species Common Name

- ◆ Amur Honeysuckle
- Autumn Olive
- ◆ Black Locust
- ▲ Common Buckthorn
- ◆ Common Reed
- Garlic Mustard
- Glossy Buckthorn
- Great Mullein
- Honeysuckle (species unknown)
- ▲ Japanese Knotweed
- Morrow's honeysuckle
- Mugwort
- Multiflora Rose
- Norway Maple
- Oriental Bittersweet
- Tree-of-heaven
- White Mulberry
- Yellow Iris

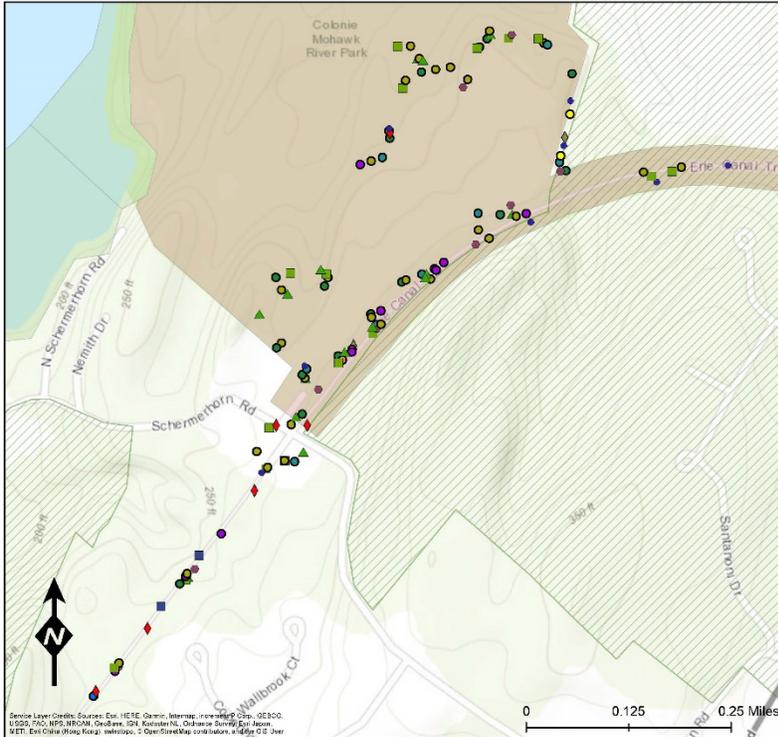
- ◆ BikePath
 - Streams
 - Town of Colonie Boundary
 - ▨ Conservation Overlay District
- Land Ownership**
- Local
 - State

Colonie Locator Map



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Locations of Invasive Species Along Mohawk-Hudson Bike Trail

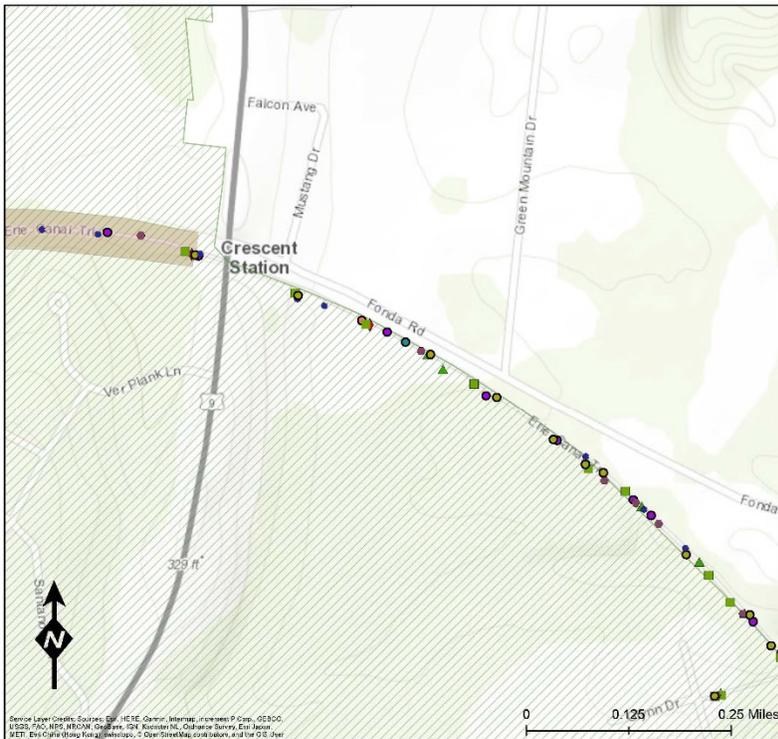
7

- Species Common Name**
- ◆ Amur Honeysuckle
 - Autumn Olive
 - ◆ Black Locust
 - ▲ Common Buckthorn
 - ◆ Common Reed
 - Garlic Mustard
 - Glossy Buckthorn
 - Great Mullein
 - Honeysuckle (species unknown)
 - ▲ Japanese Knotweed
 - Morrow's honeysuckle
 - Mugwort
 - Multiflora Rose
 - Norway Maple
 - Oriental Bittersweet
 - Tree-of-heaven
 - White Mulberry
 - Yellow Iris
- Legend:**
- ◆ BikePath
 - Streams
 - Town of Colonie Boundary
 - ▨ Conservation Overlay District
- Land Ownership**
- Local
 - State

Colonie Locator Map



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 Invasive Species Data Source: iMapInvasives - accessed 06-07/2018.
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Locations of Invasive Species Along Mohawk-Hudson Bike Trail

8

- Species Common Name**
- ◆ Amur Honeysuckle
 - Autumn Olive
 - ◆ Black Locust
 - ▲ Common Buckthorn
 - ◆ Common Reed
 - Garlic Mustard
 - Glossy Buckthorn
 - Great Mullein
 - Honeysuckle (species unknown)
 - ▲ Japanese Knotweed
 - Morrow's honeysuckle
 - Mugwort
 - Multiflora Rose
 - Norway Maple
 - Oriental Bittersweet
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 - White Mulberry
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- Legend:**
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 - Streams
 - Town of Colonie Boundary
 - ▨ Conservation Overlay District
- Land Ownership**
- Local
 - State

Colonie Locator Map



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 Invasive Species Data Source: iMapInvasives - accessed 06-07/2018.
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Figure 3. Invasive species locations for Schuyler Flatts Cultural Park.

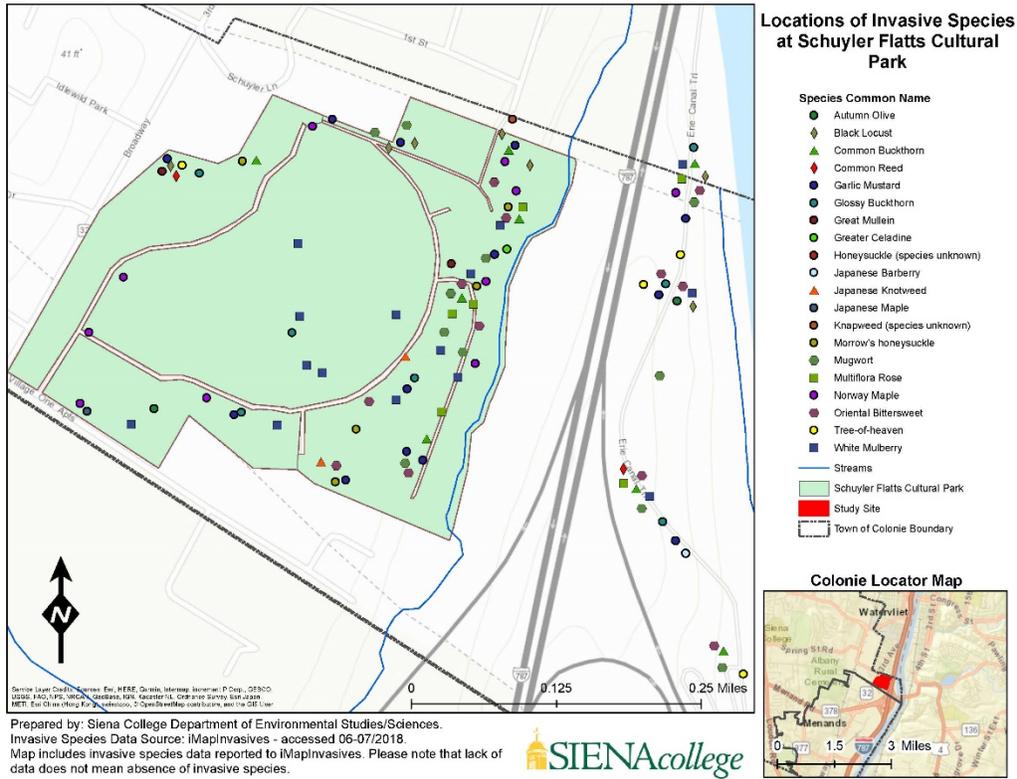


Figure 4. Invasive species locations for new property with stream (newly acquired property; located within a conservation overlay district).

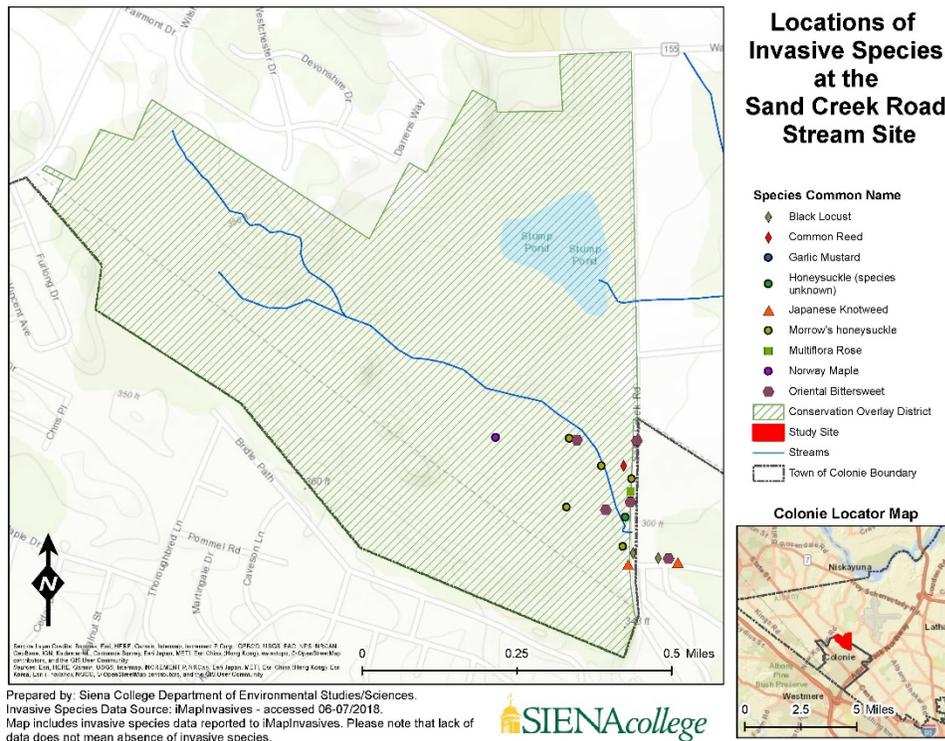
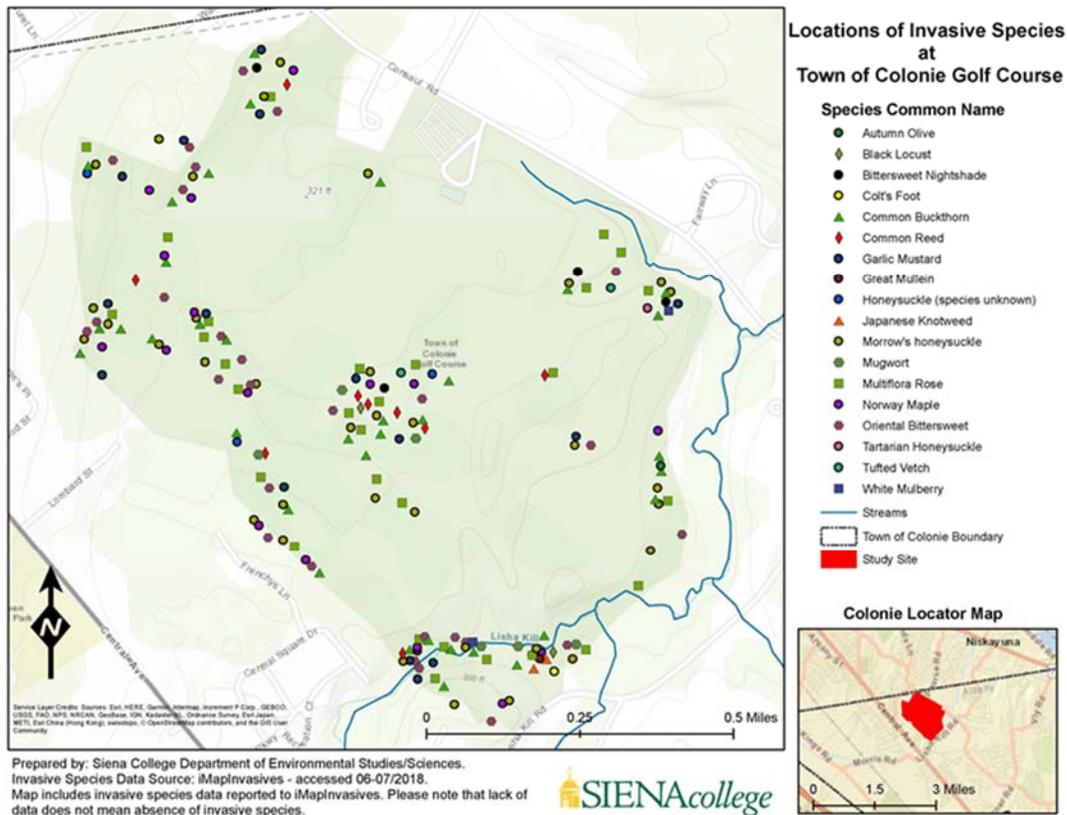


Figure 5. Invasive species locations for the Town of Colonie Golf Course.



The most widespread and abundant invasive species encountered were: Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbicularis*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), and Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*). These species were found at all sites and in high abundance (Tables 1-6). Additional species that were found at all sites and in moderately-high abundance: Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Rounding out the top ten most commonly encountered species were: Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Common Reed (*Phragmites* sp.), White Mulberry (*Morus alba*), and Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*).

All but two of the invasive plant species we documented are ranked Tier 4 (Local Control) by the Capital Mohawk Partnership for Invasive Species Management (PRISM). Tier 4 species are well-established invasive species that have high or very high impacts. Eradication efforts are not feasible for Tier 4 species, but localized management over time may be desired to contain, exclude, or suppress, if justified to meet local management goals. Those should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

We documented two Tier 2 (Eradication) species: Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) and English Ivy (*Hedera helix*). The Tier 2 status indicates that those species are a higher priority for management efforts than Tier 4 species (Local Control). Tier 2 species are high or very high impact species with low enough abundance to make eradication feasible within the PRISM. This warrants the highest level of response efforts, as well as delineation surveys to determine the full extent of the invasion.

English Ivy was found growing up a tree at The Crossings. It was in one location in an open area, with no other occurrences observed. It is feasible to eliminate the English Ivy from that location. In contrast, Amur Honeysuckle was documented at Siena College and at 7 locations along the Bike Path. Amur Honeysuckle was typically found adjacent to other invasive plant species (including *Lonicera* spp.) and recommended action is less clear than for the English Ivy. With the new records of Amur Honeysuckle in the region, it is likely that the tier status will change in the near future (Jennifer Dean, personal communication).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

We summarized notes on the distribution of key infestation sites and identified potential management options. It is important to note that these conservation actions can be limited due to financial and personnel limitations. Some actions may be feasible community service projects, led by local organizations and volunteers, or other entities (e.g., Siena Environmental Club). The potential management options, by site and by species, are summarized below.

Bike Trail

Japanese Knotweed.

- There are two very large monoculture areas along the Mohawk River of Japanese Knotweed.
- Close to these large monoculture areas along the bike trail, there are small and scattered Japanese Knotweed plants.
- Japanese Knotweed spreads very rapidly and can grow through the bike path. These scattered plants should be considered for removal so they do not spread further down the trail.

Yellow Iris.

- Just off the bike trail about 30ft in the interior, there is a single Yellow Iris plant.
- This should be removed to limit Yellow Iris from spreading elsewhere.

Tree of Heaven.

- Along the entire bike trail, there are a handful of areas that contain clumps of Trees-of-Heaven.
- Most of these trees are saplings and should be considered for removal due to their small size. There are very few that have a diameter of greater than 6 inches.

Norway Maple.

- The bike trail contains many Norway Maple's scattered along the entire pathway.
- Norway Maples provide immense shade and are able to outcompete other trees and plants for sunlight. The small saplings should be considered for removal so they do not grow to be large and outcompete other species.
- On one section of the bike path, specifically to the east of the Colonie Town Park and Pool, there are vast amounts of large Norway Maples that are providing too much shade and outcompeting other species.

The Crossings

English Ivy.

- Near the edge of the property close to residential houses, there are multiple trees with English Ivy growing on the trunks.
- The English Ivy is extremely dense and is growing very high on the tree trunks, ultimately choking out the tree. This is especially important because English Ivy is a Tier 2 invasive species.
- This English Ivy should be removed so it does not kill the trees which it is invading and so it does not spread to other trees. It can also loosen bark and hold moisture against the tree trunk, encouraging fungus and decay.

Multiflora Rose.

- Off of one of the trails in the woods, there is a single plant of Multiflora Rose.
- This Multiflora Rose should be removed so it does not continue to spread elsewhere.

Schuyler Flatts

Garlic Mustard.

- On the trail which is located on the back side of Schuyler Flatts, there are a few Garlic mustard plants located in the interior of the woods.
- This Garlic mustard was not located on the edge of the trail, so it should be removed to limit the spread.

New Property with Stream

- The interior of this property only consists of Oriental Bittersweet, Morrow's Honeysuckle, and Common Reed. These invasive species were located very randomly, usually as scattered single plants.
- However, the edge of the property which we surveyed included many more invasive species that were scattered as multiple plants.
- We do not recommend any type of invasive species removal at this time; however, future efforts might be focused on making sure that the invasive species on the edge do not move into the interior.

Golf Course

Japanese Knotweed.

- By the maintenance facility, there is a very dense area of Japanese Knotweed. Very close to this dense area, there is a smaller plant beginning to grow.
- This Japanese Knotweed is important because it is relatively close to the environmental conservation area near the golf course. Japanese Knotweed grows very rapidly and can take over other native plants quickly.
- We recommend removing the large area of dense Japanese Knotweed along with the smaller plant so it does not spread into the environmental conservation area.

Bittersweet Nightshade.

- Bittersweet Nightshade is located in a handful of areas on the golf course
- It is very capable of taking advantage of disturbed, moist habitats and out-competing native shrubs and even small trees such as willows and alders.
- Bittersweet Nightshade should be removed so native plants are not disturbed.

Coltsfoot.

- Close to the maintenance facility near the fence, there is a small area that contains scattered patches of Coltsfoot.
- Since it was only found in one very small area, we recommend that each plant is removed so it does not spread elsewhere.
- This coltsfoot is especially important because it is in close proximity to the environmental conservation area.

ADDITIONAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES/PRODUCTS

In addition to completing the invasive species surveys, mapping, and products identified in the original proposal, we led a public program, presented a poster on the project, and prepared outreach materials.

Public Program.

In July 2018, we held a public outreach event “Invasive Species Walk and Talk” at The Crossings at Colonie. Despite the rain, we had about 25 people attend. Two of the students working on the projects (Lexie Lill and Joseph DeMarco) co-led the program.

Poster Presentation.

The three students that worked on this project (Joseph DeMarco, Lexie Lill, and Kate Scimeca) prepared and presented a poster “Invasive Species in the Town of Colonie” at the Siena College Summer Research Symposium in September 2018.

Brochures.

Two products were prepared and in the final stages of completion. One is a small pamphlet that provides images and brief accounts on the top ten invasive species in natural areas in the Town of Colonie. The second product is a large postcard size that highlights the top six invasive species that we found. These products will be printed and used for some of our outreach events. We will also provide copies to the Town of Colonie CAC (both hard copy and digital).

Upcoming Event – Conservation Day (Town of Colonie).

At the November 2018 meeting, the Town of Colonie CAC invited us to display the project poster at the upcoming Town of Colonie CAC’s Conservation Day that will be held in May. In addition, Siena’s Environmental Interpretation class researched and prepared posters on invasive species for a course project in Fall 2018. The instructor, Dr. Jean Mangun, will print and display those posters at the upcoming Conservation Day in May 2019. We are very excited to show our work and “spread the word” about invasive species issues to the community.

PRESENTATION TO THE TOWN OF COLONIE CAC/FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

We gave a presentation on the project to the Town of Colonie CAC in November 2018. We outlined the project, our findings, and recommendations for priority conservation actions. Students that worked on the project (Lexie Lill and Kate Scimeca) attended. The students actively participated in the meeting by answering questions and providing their perspective and other ideas. We discussed potential next steps for addressing invasive species issues in the town, as well as broader opportunities to work together in the future. For example, we discussed how Siena College may be able to work with the Town of Colonie CAC in terms of internships, incorporating projects into courses, summer research assistants, involvement with Siena's student Environmental Club in environmental stewardship work, and other potential research or public outreach opportunities.

This project supported a new working relationship between Siena College and the Town of Colonie CAC. The project involved using the expertise of faculty and undergraduate students to collect on-the-ground baseline data and translate it into priority conservation actions. We identified potential avenues to continue to work with the Town of Colonie CAC to advance invasive species conservation (and overall biodiversity conservation) at the local level. This project was an important step forward in exploring and capitalizing on this potential. We are committed to continue to work with the Town of Colonie CAC to advance invasive species conservation in the town.