



# Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management Detection & Monitoring Report

## **Purpose:**

The Invasive Species Survey Report will provide an overview and help identify baseline site composition and guide potential invasive species response actions (control/treatment, post-treatment monitoring, adaptive management, restoration, and research) at a specific site over time.

This form can be found online as "Detect & Monitor Survey Report Template" at <https://www.capitalregionprism.org/reports-and-products.html> or with a request. Please consult the Capital Region PRISM if there are any questions at (518)-885-8995. Please capture and collect data using [iMapInvasives](#). The online software platform and associated mobile application are free and open sourced.

## **Section 1: Survey Summary**

This section provides an overview of the site, contact information, etc. Save the report for your records and to guide potential future management decisions.

To determine site value, we recommend using a [Framework of Response](#). Resources the Capital Region PRISM recommends are the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) [Prioritization Model](#), the [New York Protected Area Database \(NYPAD\)](#) and the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Resource Mapper](#). These models and databases will allow you to assess your site's value based on a few factors. Sites should receive a comprehensive evaluation that includes ecological considerations such as ecosystem health and composition, invasive species present on site, and conservation targets. Other factors to consider are the significance of a site's cultural, social, or recreational value to the public. Although the Capital Region PRISM cannot directly assist with all projects, we can provide consultations to determine how to begin assessing ecosystem health and invasive species present on the property as well as provide best management practices regarding invasive species response.

## **Section 2: Survey Result Summary**

The survey summary section will contain the goals, site description, survey methods, and maps generated from your survey efforts. Please fill out the provided table and insert screen shots of iMapInvasives maps and other relevant maps or documents. This form will serve as a record of your efforts and is intended to guide future management decisions.

## **Section 3: Summary of Recommendations**

The recommendation section contains treatment calendars and post-season summaries. Most sites need to be revisited on a regular basis to document successes/failures, identify any changes needed, and update future treatment calendars.



## Section 1: Survey Summary

General Information	
<b>Date Survey Conducted:</b> 10/03/2024	<b>Property Owner Name, Title, and Contact:</b> Michael Echtner, Margaret Burke WMA Land Manager (607) 652-2182, <a href="mailto:Michael.echtner@dec.ny.gov">Michael.echtner@dec.ny.gov</a>  Michael Clark, Regional Wildlife Manager Stamford Office: (607) 652-2373 Schenectady Office: (518) 357-2152
<b>Site Name:</b> Margaret Burke Wildlife Management Area	
<b>Site Address (if different):</b> Co Rd 254, Altamont, NY 12009	<b>Survey Leader Name, and Contact:</b> Sam Schultz, Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator (518) 885-8995 ext. 2211, <a href="mailto:ss986@cornell.edu">ss986@cornell.edu</a>
<b>Latitude/Longitude:</b> 42.6747017°N, 74.085701°W	<b>County:</b> Albany
<b>Total Parcel Size (acres):</b> 245 acres	<b>Team Member Name(s):</b> NA
<b>Worksite Size (acres):</b> 70.4 acres	<b>Permit(s)/Permission(s) Acquired?</b> Yes, DEC Temporary Revocable Permit
<b>Report Author:</b> Sam Schultz	<b>Data Recorder &amp; iMapInvasives ID:</b> Sam Schultz, 2994

**\*\*\*Remember to obtain proper permissions before completing any detection & monitoring project. Please attach any permits/permissions completed for this project as an appendix.**

### Conservation Goal:

- Delineate & assess a conservation value       To prevent and protect a conservation value  
 Local Eradication       Post-Treatment Monitoring       Containment  
 Suppression       Exclusion       Restoration

### Survey Type:

- Detection       Follow-up Monitoring       Detection Training       eDNA  
 Delineation       Highly Probable Areas       Volunteer Engagement

**Site Description:** Provide existing conditions of the site, current land use, landscape elements, historical uses, etc. This section should include information such as habitat composition, dominance of native species, list any known native species on site, any protected properties or larger landscape features that include site, etc.

The primary purposes of Margaret Burke Wildlife Management Area (WMA) are for wildlife management, wildlife habitat management, and wildlife-dependent recreation. This WMA consists of 245 acres of mostly upland habitat in Albany County and is bisected by Pleasant Valley Road. The land was donated to DEC in 1958. The site is on the Helderberg Escarpment and exhibits karst geology, with very thin soils and numerous rock outcrops displaying interesting cracks and fissures.

Margaret Burke WMA is included within the Helderberg [Bird Conservation Area](#), providing a variety of bird species to enjoy, including American woodcock, ruffed grouse, brown thrasher, eastern towhee, and several forest warblers and other songbirds.

Numerous habitat types can be found on the WMA on both sides of Pleasant Valley Road. Habitat east of the road consists primarily of mature mixed forest. Habitat west of the road is the former property of Burke farms and contains fields, shrubby areas, orchards, conifer plantations, and natural woodlands. One small area of shrub wetland exists along the western edge of the property. The variety of habitats offers ample opportunities to see a

diversity of wildlife.

There are a variety of old stone walls on the eastern parcel of the property suggesting historically the land was used for grazing. The forest on the eastern side of the property is a mixed age, secondary forest with a mix of white pine, red oak, hemlock, sugar maple, ash and some beech. Many of the hemlocks have lost their lower branches but seem to be relatively healthy. The story lacks much of an understory but does appear to have a lot of sugar maple saplings throughout the parcel. Common buckthorn has taken advantage of the trails throughout the property and appears along the entirety of the trail on the eastern parcel.

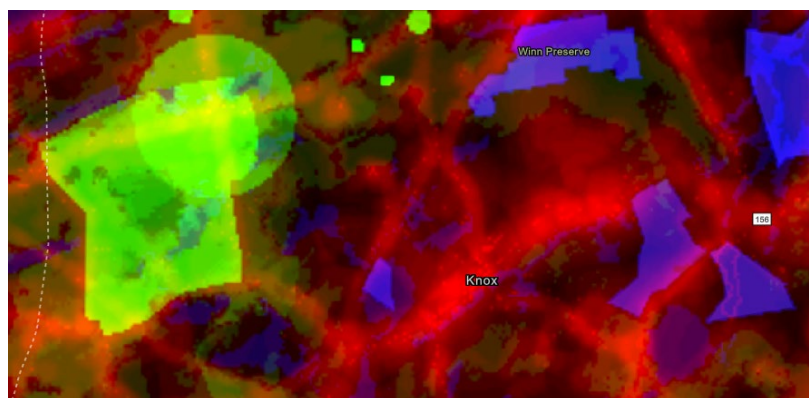
A variety of species were detected on the property including: calico aster (*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*), gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), a variety of goldenrod species (*Solidago sp.*), *Rubus sp.*, American elm (*Ulmus americana*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), ash species (*Fraxinus sp.*), white wood aster (*Eurybia divaricata*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), hay scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*), white baneberry (*Actaea pachypoda*), herb robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), Hepatica species (*Hepatica sp.*), cherry saplings (*Prunus sp.*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), red-berried elder (*Sambucus racemosa*), Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), broadleaf goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*), Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), grape species (*Vitis sp.*), wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), American hog peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*), Virginia waterleaf (*Virginia waterleaf*), wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*), lesser burdock (*Arctium minus*), Virginia wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), dogbane (*Apocynum sp.*), wild basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*). On the western parcel of the property additional species detected included: New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*), staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), and white oak (*Quercus alba*).

**Survey Techniques:** Provide a clear and concise description of the work to be conducted, target species, and any survey methods used (i.e. Highly probable area search, rake toss, transect, etc.).

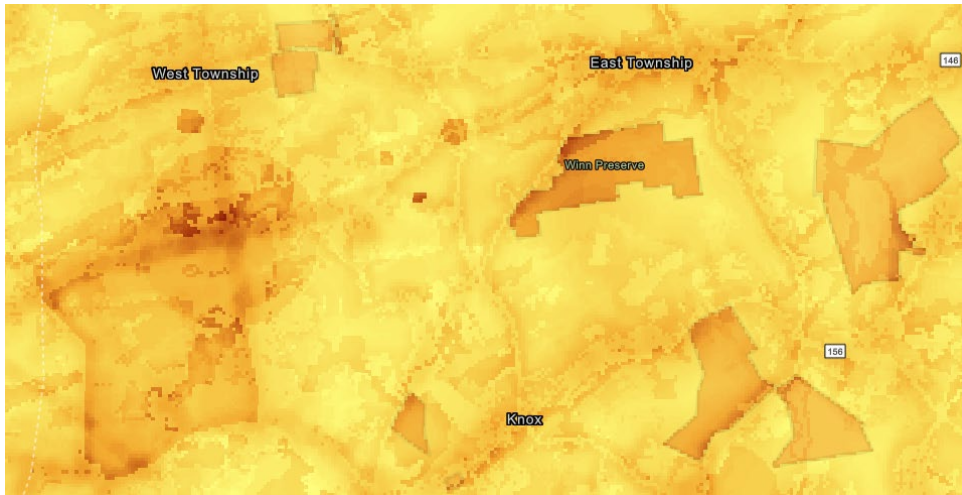
For this survey, a detection and delineation survey was conducted along the main trail of the eastern parcel and the administrative road was followed on the western parcel to establish a basis of overall ecosystem health, native species, and any invasive species present.

**Site Significance:** Some recommended resources to identify high priority sites include: the CR-PRISM Framework of Response, the NYNHP Prioritization Model, the NYS DEC Environmental Resource Mapper? Please provide screenshots of any maps and/or models used to determine the site is a priority and describe why they show the site is a priority. What other reason is present for conducting the survey (rare, threatened, endangered species, partner property, significant habitat present, etc.)?

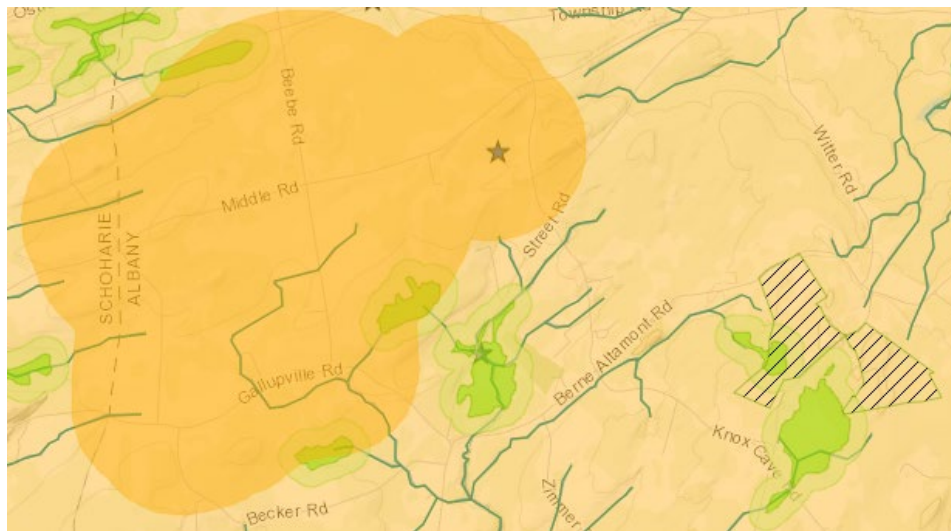
This site was selected as an initial delineation survey site for the PRISM since it has never been surveyed. This is part of the process of evaluating state owned parcels within the PRISM for updates to be made to the current Priority Conservation Areas. This parcel is also within the Helderberg Bird Conservation Area and has surrounding parcels with high ecological significance making this an important area for migration and additional habitat.



**Figure 1:** Multiband iMap Prioritization Scores (Red=risk of spread, Blue= protected area status, Green=ecological significance)



**Figure 2:** Comprehensive score map from NYNHP Prioritization Mapper (darker orange is a higher score)



**Figure 3:** Screenshot from NYS DEC Resource Mapper (Green=freshwater wetland, Orange= in the vicinity of rare species, Star=unique geological features, Knox Cave)

## Section 2: Survey Result Summary

Common Name	Scientific Name	Tier Rank	Threat Ranking	Growth Form	Phenology/ Life stage	Percent Cover (%)	Distribution/ Abundance	Area Infested (acres/ miles if linear)
Common buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	4	Very High	Shrub/ Tree	Fruit	75%	Eastern parcel-sparse Western parcel-dense	22.82 acres
Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	4	Very High	Vine	Fruit	30%	Dense clumps	0.06 acres
Morrow's honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	4	Very High	Shrub	Vegetative	50%	Sparse	11.3 acres
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe spp.</i>	4	High	Herb	Flowering	30%	Sparse	7.8 acres
Brown knapweed	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	4	Moderate	Herb	Mowed, vegetative	<5%	Sparse	0.02 acres
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	4	Very High	Shrub	Fruit	25%	Sparse	1 acre
Autumn olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	4	Very High	Shrub/ Tree	Vegetative	10%	Sparse	0.06 acres
Wild parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	4	Moderate	Herb	Vegetative	20%	Sparse	0.06 acres
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	4	Very High	Herb	Vegetative	5%	Sparse	0.04
Bristly lady's thumb	<i>Persicaria longiseta</i>	Untiered	Moderate	Herb	Flowering	10%	Sparse	1.4 acres
Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Untiered	NA	Herb	Vegetative	10%	Dense plants/clumps	0.04 acres

\*If a specific species is surveyed for and not detected please state that clearly in the table above.

### Growth Form:

**Terrestrial:** Ground Cover, Herb, Vine, Shrub, Tree, Insect, Animal

**Aquatic:** Submerged, Floating, Emergent, Riparian, Animal

### Phenology/Life stage:

**Plants:** Vegetative, Flowering, Fruit/In Seed, Dormant, Dead

**Insects:** Egg, Larvae, Pupae, Crawler, Sisten, Adult, Dormant, Dead

**Animals:** Egg/Newborn, Fledging, Molting, Mating, Emerging, Feeding, Swarming, Migrating, Dormant, Dead

### Percent Cover:

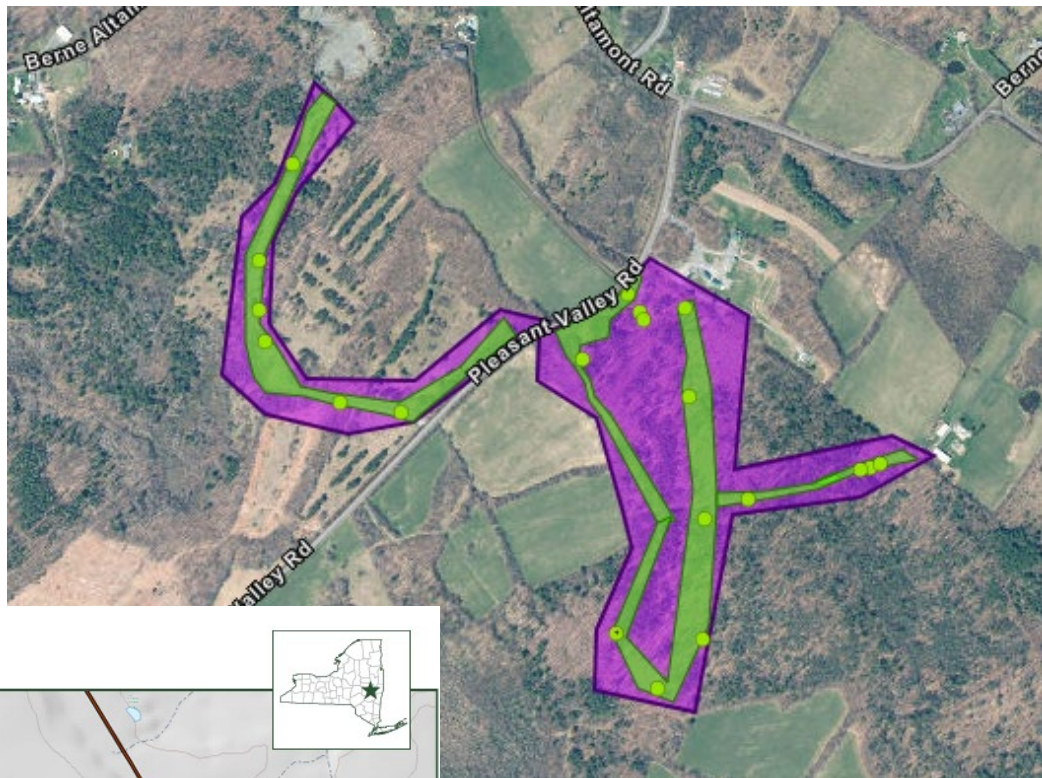
iMapInvasives Percent Cover Ranges: <5%, 5%-25%, 26%-50%, 51%-75%, 76%-100% or use a specific percentage

### Distribution/Abundance:

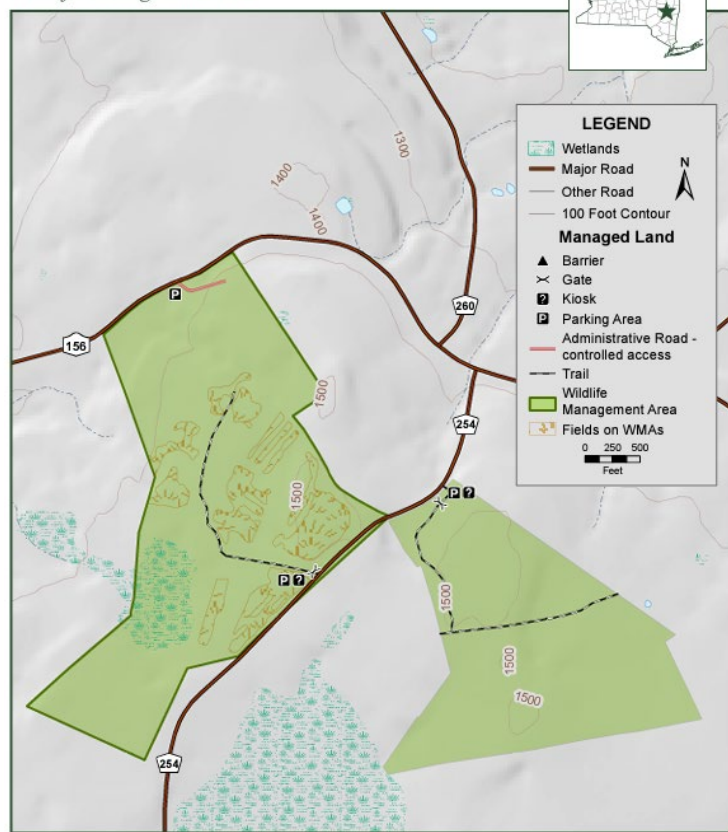
Trace (single plant/clump), sparse (scattered plants/clumps), dense plants/clumps, monoculture, linearly scattered

**Map:** Develop a map of the survey area that has the searched area, any iMapInvasives points, polygons and/or lines for presence or non-detection. Multiple maps may be added for multiple species or locations. All searched areas, detection and non-detection data should be uploaded to the CR-PRISM SharePoint Tracker and iMapInvasives.

- Insert Survey Map(s):



**MARGARET BURKE**  
Wildlife Management Area



### **Section 3: Summary of Recommendations**

This section provides recommendations of any response methods, monitoring methods, and restoration efforts based on the survey.

**Additional Notes:** Provide any additional information that is not included above regarding species surveyed for or about the survey itself. Were there any barriers or issues that arose before or during the survey? Provide any advice that could limit barriers or issues in the future.

There were no limitations to this survey, but it should be noted that orange blaze is recommended for this time of year. Especially at this location, there were multiple hunters out looking for and shooting pheasants.

**Response:** Briefly describe any recommendations for future response methods, why they are recommended, and any alternatives to consider. Please use abundance and site-specific factors in your recommendation. If conducting a highly probable area survey, please list any response actions taken while on-site. Optional: Attach or reference BMP guidance document. Consider state and local permitting requirements.

It is recommended that NYS DEC identify priority locations and manage invasive species to improve bird habitat. Not only would this be advantageous for access on the property, but it will also increase the bird diversity on the property and possibly provide additional habitat for rare, threatened and endangered birds in the area. PRISM is happy to work with the NYS DEC Land Manager and provide best management practices and a framework of response.

**Post-Survey Monitoring:** Briefly describe the monitoring procedure, when it will occur, and who will complete it. Consider the phenology of species when suggesting timelines. If a response goal such as eradication, suppression, containment and/or exclusion is selected, will a management plan be drafted? If a plan is needed, please contact the CR-RPISM office for a template of our Invasive Species Management Plan.

This site is a lower priority for the PRISM compared to some other properties within the PRISM due to the high number of invasive species already present on site. However, PRISM is happy to assist if NYS DEC wants to manage invasive species on the property. This site will be monitored on a rotational basis for any Tier 1 or Tier 2 species.