

Capital Region PRISM AIS Detect & Monitor Report

Rensselaer Lake, Albany County

About This Waterbody

Rensselaer Lake embodies 35.5 acres and a depth averaging 11 feet, with a maximum depth of 24 feet. Located near the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, the waterbody is owned and managed by the City of Albany and the Albany Water Department.

The lake is regularly utilized for fishing activities. The shoreline is left relatively natural, with two fishing platforms. Additionally, the highway runs over a section of the waterbody. Public access to Rensselaer Lake is provided at a turn-around area. Motorized watercraft of any kind are not permitted. The bottom cover of the lake is primarily comprised of macrophytes and woody debris. Many fish species inhabit this waterbody, a full list can be found on the Rensselaer Lake [DEC webpage](#).



Invasive Species Recorded at Rensselaer Lake

Common Name	Scientific Name	Location (GPS)	Growth Type	Phenology	Abundance
Water chestnut	<i>Trapa natans</i>	Multiple locations	Floating	Fruit ripening	Sparse/Dense
Eurasian water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Multiple locations	Submerged	Vegetative	Sparse/Dense
Curly-leaved pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Multiple locations	Submerged	Vegetative	Dense
Goldfish	<i>Carassius auratus</i>	N/A	Animal	Animal	Single species
Chinese mystery snail	<i>Cipangopaludina chinensis</i>	42.699005, -73.830805	Animal	Animal	Small group

Growth Type: Tree, Shrub, Vine, Ground Cover, Herbaceous, Riparian, Submerged, Floating, Emergent, Wetland, Pest, Animal

Phenology: Flowering, Leaf unfolding, fruit ripening, leaf color change, dormant, swarming, spawning, emergence (insects), migrating, in seed, senesce

Distribution/Abundance: Trace (single plant/clump), Sparse (scattered plants/clumps), Dense plants/clumps, linearly scattered, Monoculture

Water chestnut

- New York Non-Native Plant Invasiveness Ranking – 82
- https://nyis.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/61a2d_Trapa-natans-NYS.pdf

Eurasian watermilfoil

- New York Non-Native Plant Invasiveness Ranking – 94
- https://nyis.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/5cdc8_Myriophyllum.spicatum.NYS_.pdf

Curly-leaved pondweed

- New York Non-Native Plant Invasiveness Ranking – 79
- https://nyis.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/7223b_Potamogeton.crispus.NYS_.pdf

Goldfish

- New York Non-Native Animal Invasiveness Ranking – 81
- https://nyis.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/abbe9_Carassius-auratus-Ecological.pdf

Chinese mystery snail

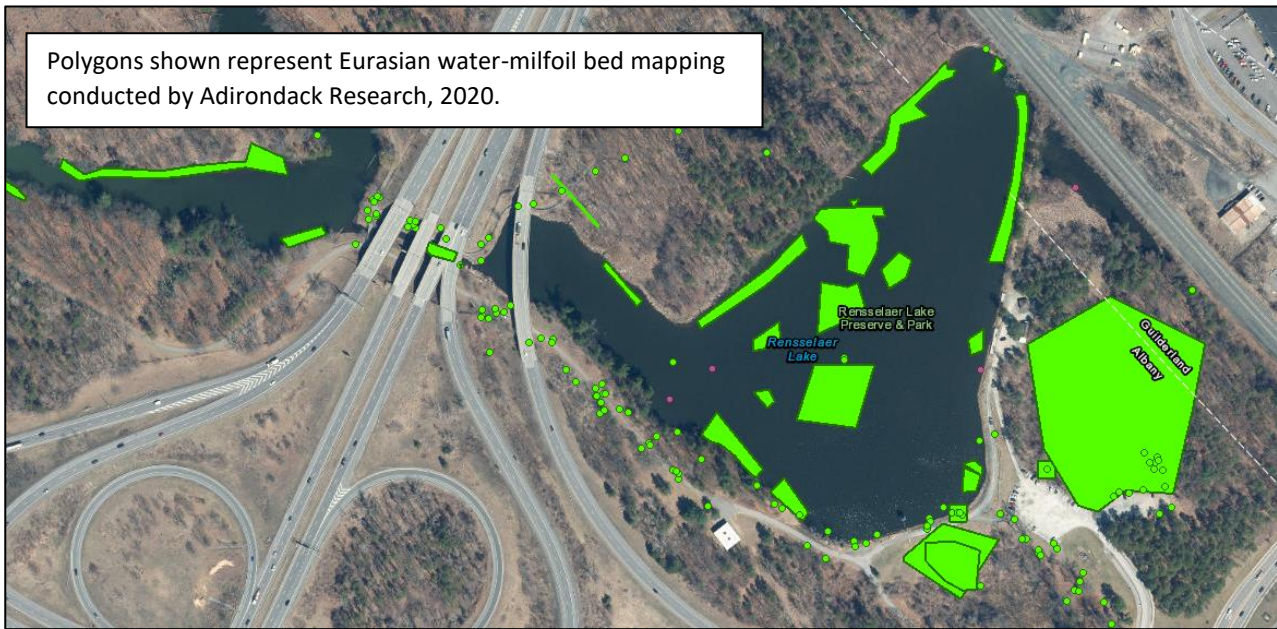
- New York Non-Native Animal Invasiveness Ranking – 83
- https://nyis.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/55afa_Bellamya-chinensis-Ecological.pdf



**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.

iMapInvasives Confirmed Aquatic Invasive Species Observations



Capital Region PRISM AIS Early Detection Survey

On June 15th 2023, the Capital Region PRISM conducted an aquatic survey on Rensselaer Lake located in Albany County. This survey only was conducted to the highway bridge line. The survey focused on early detection of Tier 1 and 2 aquatic invasive species. Upon completion of the surveys it was determined that Eurasian water-milfoil, water chestnut, curly-leaved pondweed, Chinese mystery snail, and goldfish are present in Rensselaer Lake. Aquatic plant species range in density, with Eurasian watermilfoil showing the greatest populations (above image).

General Information	
Waterbody Name: Rensselaer Lake	Date of Survey: June 15 th , 2023
Survey Lead: Hannah Coppola	Time to Conduct Survey: 2.5 hours
Team Members: Hannah Coppola, Anna Trombetta	Address:
iMapInvasives User ID: 21052	County: Albany
Property Owner Contact: City of Albany and the Albany Water Department.	Coordinates: 42.697673, -73.832613
Date of Last Survey: 2020 by Adirondack Research	Waterbody Acreage: 35.3acres
Recommended Date of Next Survey: 2026	Average Depth: 11 feet
Has This Site Received Previous Management? N/A <i>If so by who, when, what?</i>	

Survey Techniques

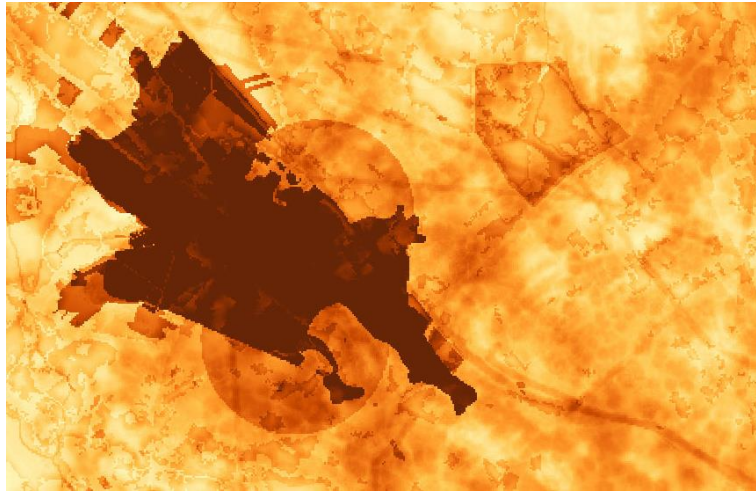
This survey was conducted using top side visual and meandering rake toss methodology.



New York State Invasive Species Prioritization Model

Rensselaer Lake is located near an area with a high to very high comprehensive score on the NYS Invasive Species Prioritization Model. Locations with high comprehensive scores have high ecological significance, a high risk of spread of invasives into the area, and high value according to their protected status. Rensselaer Lake outflows into the Hudson River, which has multiple aquatic invasive species infestations. Early detection is important in these locations to ensure timely management of new infestations if detected.

[NYS Invasive Species Prioritization Model](#)



Summary of Recommendations

Prevention

Prevention efforts are recommended to reduce the chance of new aquatic invasive species introductions into Rensselaer Lake. Fishing is the most popular recreational activity on this waterbody, encouraging visitors to decontaminate equipment helps to reduce the chance of unwanted introductions of species such as spiny/fishhook waterflea and disposed live bait.

Identifying and reporting any suspected aquatic invasive species is encouraged to ensure early detection. Additionally, a strong presence of Eurasian water milfoil poses a risk to visitors unknowingly transporting this species to a different waterbody. Following clean, dry, dry protocol is always recommended.

Survey Photos



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