



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

Section 1: Survey Summary

General Information	
Date Survey Conducted: August 4 th , 2025	County: Albany
Site Name: Tubbs Pond (Partridge Run WMA)	Permit(s)/Permission(s) Acquired? Yes TRP/public WB
Address (if different): Tubbs Pond Truck Trail, Berne, NY 12023	Time Spent on Site (Hours)/# of Staff on Site: 2 hours/1 staff
Parking Lot Latitude/Longitude: 42.567725, -74.176085	Property Owner Name, Title, and Contact: DEC Region 4 Schenectady Office, (607) 652-2182; Wildlife.r4@dec.ny.gov
Total Waterbody Size (acres): 15.5	
Worksite Size (acres): 9.6	Survey Leader Name, Title, and Contact: Alexa Howansky—AIS Program Manager: ajh363@cornell.edu
Average Depth (ft): UNK	Team Member Name(s) and Title(s): N/A
Report Author: Alexa Howansky	Data Recorder & iMapInvasives ID: Alexa Howansky—iMap ID 28804
# of Volunteers (if applicable): 0	Total Volunteer Hours (# of Volunteers x Hours on site): 0

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 Delineation Follow-up Monitoring Detection Training
 Volunteer Engagement Crew Assistance Program Project eDNA

Launch Description:

The launch is located on the southeastern shore of Tubbs Pond. It is a small hand launch with a dock and is a roughly 300-foot walk from the parking lot—lightweight packboats (i.e. Kevlar Hornbecks) are ideal for ease of carrying. The walking path to the launch is through tall grasses; be mindful of tick safety.

Site Description:

Tubbs Pond is one of many ponds/small lakes located within the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Berne, Albany County. The WMA is open to the public year-round, free to utilize, and offers activities such as hiking, hunting/trapping, freshwater fishing, and wildlife watching. The pond is approximately 15 acres in surface area, though only about 9 – 10 acres of that is accessible in the summertime due to expansive emergent wetland growth in the upper 5 – 6 acres of the pond (Fig.3). The pond is shallow and eutrophic, and is one of 5 ponds in a row that are formed by impoundment of the Switz Kill—Becker Pond, Tubbs Pond,





Woods Pond, Fawn Lake, and White Birch Pond. There are also two 1 – 2 acre seasonal ponds, the Newt Ponds, between Tubbs Pond and Fawn Lake. Tubbs Pond and the others are most commonly used for recreational fishing and paddling, with the only AIS documented in the WMA’s ponds being Banded Mysterysnail, Brittle Naiad, and Water Chestnut.

Tubbs Pond does not have any known Water Chestnut, and Brittle Naiad was discovered in Tubbs for the first time during this survey (previous detections of Brittle Naiad were in only the Newt Ponds; Water Chestnut is currently only known to be in Fawn Lake). Like the other ponds, Tubbs is dominated by a robust community of native macrophytes and emergent wetland plants. The bottom cover is largely comprised of macrophytes, with some woody debris and a few spots of cobble/rocky substrate (these rocky pockets are where the Banded Mysterysnails can be found). There is a small dam/spillway at the southern tip of the pond, creating a moderate southward current that weakens with increased distance from the dam.

Survey Techniques:

Top-water survey techniques were utilized, including top-side (visual) following a meandering pattern around the littoral zone as well as limited rake toss (Cornell method). Just two (2) total rake tosses were performed—one at the southern end of the pond, and one toward the northern end—in order to avoid excessive disturbance of the present native macrophyte community (the shallow water also allowed for a vast majority of plants to be easily visible from the surface).

A tablet was used to document both native and invasive species via the Simple Aquatic Survey Pro (SAS_Pro) form in the Survey123 application.

Site Significance:

Tubbs Pond holds both ecological and recreational significance. Ecologically, the pond hosts a robust and diverse community of native macrophytes, fish, and more. At least 11 different species of native plants are present in the pond, despite its small size at just 15 acres. Currently, the native species majorly dominate the invasive species, with just 1 invasive plant and 1 invasive animal confirmed in the waterbody. It is important that the native community remains abundant and resilient to prevent further

invasion/fouling. As seen in Fig. 1, the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) ranks Tubbs Pond in the 71st percentile for risk of introduction/establishment and 96th percentile for impact in their AIS Pond and Lake Vulnerability Prioritization mapper. In other words, Tubbs Pond is at a higher risk for AIS introduction than a vast majority (71% or more) of New York’s lakes, and the impacts of such invasion would be greater than in 96% or more of the state’s lakes.

Recreationally, Tubbs Pond and the others in the Partridge Run WMA are used for recreational paddling and fishing. A strong native plant and animal community in and around the pond is important to those who utilize it for such recreational activities—invasion by AIS could cause the waterbody to become difficult to paddle through, difficult to fish, and could cause it to become unsightly with algal blooms and/or acceleration of its eutrophication.

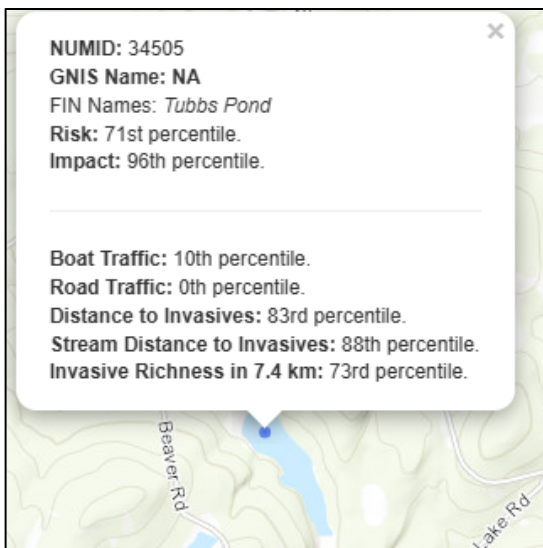


Figure 1. AIS Pond and Lake Vulnerability Prioritization. Tubbs Pond is in the 71st percentile for risk and the 96th percentile for impact.





Section 2: Survey Result Summary

Invasive Species Present:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Tier/Threat Rank	Growth Form/Lifecycle	Phenology/Life stage	Percent Cover (%)	Distribution / Abundance	Area Infested (acres/miles if linear)
Banded Mysterysnail	<i>Viviparus georgianus</i>	4/High	Animal (mollusk)	Mixed age classes present	5 – 10%	Sparse to Dense	< 0.1 mi eastern shoreline
Brittle Naiad	<i>Najas minor</i>	4/Moderate	Submerged	Vegetative	< 5%	Trace	UNK
Water Chestnut *	<i>Trapa natans</i>	4/Very High	N/A—none detected	N/A—none detected	0%	Absent	0

*Water Chestnut is confirmed to be present in the other (connected) waterbodies within the WMA but was **not** detected in Tubbs Pond during this survey.

Native/Other Non-native Species Present:

Common name (*Latin name*)—growth form

- Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)—submerged
- Unknown stonewort (*Nitella sp.*)—submerged macroalgae
- Northern snailseed pondweed (*Potamogeton spirillus*)—submerged + floating
- Ribbonleaf pondweed (*P. epihydrus*)—submerged + floating
- Largeleaf pondweed (*P. amplifolius*)—submerged + floating
- Floatingleaf pondweed (*P. natans*)—floating
- Flatstem pondweed (*P. zosteriformis*)—submerged
- Nuttall’s waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)—submerged
- Unidentified peaclam/fingernail clam (subfamily Sphaeriinae)—animal (mollusk)
- Slender naiad (*Najas flexilis*)—submerged
- Greater duckweed (*Spirodela polyrhiza*)—free floating
- Softstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*)—emergent
- Unidentified bur-reed (*Sparganium sp.*)—emergent

Survey area map on next page.





Map:

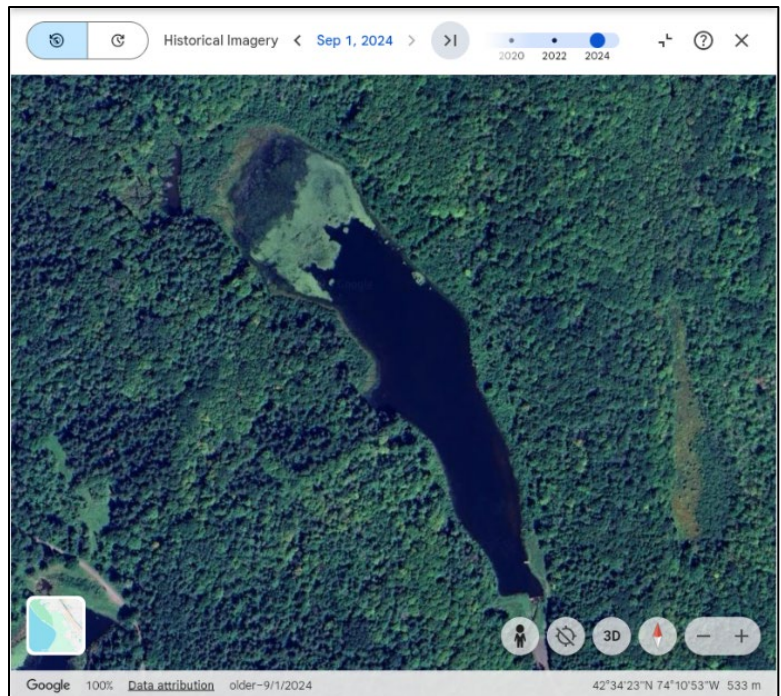


Figure 3 (right). *Aerial imagery during growing season.* Google Earth aerial imagery from September of 2024 shows the wetland growth at the northern end of Tubbs Pond that limits the ability to survey the entire 15 acres.



Photos:



Figure 4. *Nitella macroalgae*

Figure 5. Brittle Naiad—note the toothed leaf margins

Figure 6. Banded Mysterysnail (+ Slender Naiad to its right)

Figure 7. Northern Snailseed Pondweed bed—note the little floating leaves visible at the top and bottom of the frame!

Figure 8. Unidentified Peaclam/fingernail clam shells



Section 3: Summary of Recommendations

Response:

There are currently no known effective population control methods against Banded Mysterysnail once it is established in a waterbody. Only one specimen of Brittle Naiad was found, floating/broken off from an unknown point source that could not be located. For these reasons, no specific response actions are recommended for Tubbs Pond at this time.

Should additional trace/sparse Brittle Naiad plants be detected in the future, they can be gently removed by the base of the stem where it meets the substrate, carefully removing roots where possible. Caution should be exercised as Brittle Naiad easily breaks into fragments, which are viable for regrowth and contain seeds that may then be dispersed. Subsequently, manual/mechanical methods are not recommended for established populations of any more than a few sparse plants.

Post-Survey Monitoring:

Since Tubbs Pond is largely unfouled and highly ecologically/recreationally significant, continued surveying is recommended to occur on a regular basis to monitor for Brittle Naiad population growth and for new introductions of Water Chestnut or other AIS. Every other year should be sufficient, though annually could be justifiable if time allows.

Additional Notes:

- Partridge Run WMA is **very remote**, and there is **little to no cellular reception**—plan accordingly with offline map downloads, navigation, and ensure that somebody knows exactly where you plan to be and when you plan to return (i.e. create a float plan). Bring a survey partner when possible.
- There are **no restrooms or outhouses** nearby. Wear appropriate field clothing that will allow you to safely venture into the woods if necessary.
 - *i.e.: long pants tucked into socks/tick protection; high-vis hat or vest during hunting seasons.*

