

2024 APIPP HIGHLIGHTS

Almost 40 organizations and more than 150 volunteers share their ideas, time, and resources to advance the mission of the Adirondack Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), which is supported by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), hosted by The Nature Conservancy. Together, as these highlights of our collaborative 2024 work show, APIPP and its partners are making major advances in reducing the threats that invasive species pose to the Adirondack region.

GOAL 1: PROTECT ADIRONDACK LANDS



BIOCONTROL INSECTS for purple loosestrife and emerald ash borer were released to help suppress invasive species. This work was highlighted in an *Adirondack Explorer* feature story in their fall magazine.

NO NEW TIER 1 SPECIES were detected in the Adirondack PRISM, but 339 new infestations were mapped by APIPP staff and our Early Detection and Rapid Response Team. Together we worked to control more than 400 sites using integrated pest management.

VOLUNTEERS WITH APIPP'S FOREST PEST HUNTERS PROGRAM were out in both winter and summer looking for invasive pests like hemlock wooly adelgid and beech leaf disease. In 2024, 81 trails were adopted with the vast majority reporting no observations of the targeted species. Forest Pest Hunters have spent more than a collective 1,480 hours of their time with survey efforts since the program's inception in 2020.

GOAL 2: PROTECT ADIRONDACK WATERS



APIPP CREATED A NEW ADIRONDACK PRISM AIS DATABASE that combines iMapInvasives data with Lake Protectors surveys to track and report where AIS are distributed across the region. 70% of the 509 water bodies have no observed AIS from the species that APIPP tracks.

APIPP PARTNERED WITH LAKE ASSOCIATIONS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS to collect data on eDNA monitoring and invasive milfoil management influences on water quality. Collectively 190 samples were collected and will improve our future best management practices for monitoring and management.

LAKE MANAGEMENT TRACKER had the highest number of lakes ever participate in the program. Three new lakes joined and added important new management strategies to the program. This brought the total to nine lakes collecting 1,310 observations in 2024.

GOAL 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



APIPP RAISED AWARENESS ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES identification, prevention, and management by partnering with more than two dozen organizations in over 40 workshops and events that reached more than 1,500 people.

APIPP WAS MENTIONED OVER 50 TIMES in print, digital, radio, and television news stories and its social media reach continued to expand. APIPP's YouTube views soared, with over 6,166 views and more than 4,500 "watch hours" in 2024.

APIPP HELD ITS BIENNIAL INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMIT, called *Adirondack Invasive Species Summit 2024: New Science Offers Hope in a Warming Climate*, in North Creek in October. The event drew an audience of about 80 people who learned about climate change and how it affects the spread of invasive species and about three genetic technologies that could help detect or treat infestations of invasive species.

FOUR NEW PARTNERS joined the Adirondack PRISM: Champlain Area Trails, Eagle Lake Property Owners Inc., Friends of Moody Pond, and Pecks Lake Protective Association,

GOAL 4: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



THE SECOND YEAR OF THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN BOAT LAUNCH SPREAD REDUCTION PROJECT was completed, with active management at three boat launches in 2024. Extensive data collected by APIPP and Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute demonstrate reduced Eurasian watermilfoil at some boat launches, but high variability in boats leaving the launches with this species present.

HEMLOCK WORK CONTINUED TO ADVANCE through several projects, including the establishment of three long-term hemlock health monitoring plots and assisting with a state-wide HWA winter mortality study being conducted by the NYS Hemlock Initiative (NYSHI).

APIPP VOLUNTEERS

FOREST PEST HUNTERS

20

Forest Pest Hunters in 2024

549

Volunteer hours in 2024



LAKE VOLUNTEERS

177

Lake volunteers in 2024

379

Volunteer hours in 2024