

Stop the Invasion - Protect New York from Invasive Species

See how you can help

The Finger Lakes PRISM Trail Survey An Opportunity to Volunteer - Can You Help?

What is the Finger Lakes PRISM?

The Finger-Lakes PRISM is one of eight Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management in New York State. Partnerships are comprised of diverse stakeholder groups created to address threats posed by invasive species across New York State and include federal and state agencies, resource managers, non-governmental organizations, industries, recreationists, and interested citizens. The NYS DEC provides financial support, via the Environmental Protection Fund, to host organizations that coordinate each of the eight PRISMs, resulting in statewide coverage.

What is an Invasive Species?

An invasive species is one that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause: economic harm - Impacts on agriculture, recreation, wood/forest products, trade/shipping, tourism, utilities (power plants) and management costs; or environmental harm - Impacts on bio-diversity, structural diversity, natural processes, aesthetics, ecosystem function and services; or harm to human health - Impacts on soil, water and air quality, flooding, injury, and disease/injury.

What is the Finger Lakes Trail Survey?

- Goal: Identify, survey for, and report invasive species in the #FLX
- Who can participate: Anyone with a smart phone or tablet
- Where does it take place: The GVG or another trail near you! Your choice
- How is data collected: Volunteers are asked to survey three times - June, July and August for 17-25 common invasive species, using ~50' intervals
- How is the data reported: Use the iMapinvasives mobile platform and select Finger Lakes PRISM Volunteer Trail Survey as the project

Hilary Mosher, Finger lakes PRISM Coordinator, recently hosted an overview of the survey program (See ppt here: [FLPRISM_Trail_Survey](#)). This presentation covers the material above and items like the recommended block method of surveying. However, this structure is not mandatory and participant are encouraged to freely map since every data point counts.

Another webinar, provided by the iMapinvasives team, was on iMap and use of the mobile app. An account must first be established on your computer, tablet or phone at <https://imapinvasives.natureserve.org/imap/login.jsp>. Use preference settings on your account to select "Finger Lakes PRISM Volunteer Trail Survey" as your project. You can also select FOGVG as your organization. You will need to download the imapinvasives mobile app to your phone or tablet if you have not already done so. Once you sign into your account on your mobile app, preferences should show your selected project and organization.

The iMap team also showed how to limit the species listing on your mobile app to only those 17-25 that are of interest on trails in the Finger Lakes Region. A recording of this webinar is at [iMap FLPRISM](#).

Recommendations from Hillary Mosher include:

- Pick a trail, any trail! Start at beginning of trail or desired start point
- Use an imaginary circle with a radius of 50ft
- Identify and map the invasive species in the area (i.e., multiflora rose, buckthorn, honeysuckle)
- Using the iMapInvasives reporting tool, report size of infestation (up to 10sq ft., up to 0.50acr, up to 1 acre, more than 1 acre) and distribution (trace, sparse, dense, monoculture, linearly scattered)
 - o Example- if in one point there is garlic mustard, multiflora rose, buckthorn, and privet, you should have these four species recorded for this spot.
 - o Once you have recorded the invasives, move to next 50ft location
 - o If an infestation is throughout the trail (ie., garlic mustard), map the first location, click ‘more than 1 acre’ and then do not map garlic mustard again until the last portion of the infestation or where the infestation stops. This will give us a line for the amount of garlic mustard.

Also from Hilary: Here are the list of species and which month or block where you can sample them in bloom or when they are most noticeable. Please note- if you want to map your entire trail in one setting, please do! If you want to focus on one species such as tree-of-heaven, please do! The more data we get, the better off we are and certainly this is more data than we had previously. SO, every data point counts! The structure of this sampling in blocks is recommended, but certainly not mandatory to be in this group- so feel free to map, map, map! We are diving up the species so that our volunteers who may need a little more practice with species aren’t overwhelmed by the shear density of invasives in our area.

List of species to survey	June	July	Aug
Autumn olive	x		
Bull thistle			x
Canada thistle			x
Common barberry		x	x
Buckthorn spp.		x	x
Common periwinkle	x		
Common reed	x	x	x
Garlic mustard	x		
Japanese barberry		x	
Japanese knotweed	x	x	x
Shrub honeysuckle	x		
Mile-a-minute	X	X	X
Multiflora rose	x	x	x

Nepalese browntop (Japanese stiltgrass)		x	x
Oriental bittersweet	x	x	x
Porcelainberry		x	x
Privet		x	x
Purple loosestrife		x	x
Slender falsebrome		x	x
Swallowwort spp.		x	x
Tree-of-heaven		X	X
Wild parsnip		x	x

Some things to remember when going on trails:

- Avoid Poison Ivy!
- Practice social distancing or wear a mask!
- Pick a trail you are familiar with and know where to park, where it starts, how it ends
- Bring water, sunscreen, bug spray, and appropriate footgear and clothing
- BEWARE of ticks! Stay on trails and avoid tick-prone areas. Complete a tick check after you return from the trail- <https://nysipm.cornell.edu/whats-bugging-you/ticks/>
- Bring a friend or let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return

If you are interested in joining this project and are on Facebook, it is suggested that you like the “Finger Lakes PRISM.” You will then be added to the Survey group where posts include newsletter items, resources, guides, etc.... You could also contact Hilary Mosher using the email listed below or call her at 585-261-3178.

The websites, contact info, and social media for the Finger Lakes PRISM Trail Survey are:

(p): 315.781.4385,(e): mosher@hws.edu (w): fingerlakesinvasives.org
(w): <https://www.hws.edu/fli/>, listserve: cce-flprism-l-request@cornell.edu,
and Social Media [Twitter](#) * [Facebook](#) * [Instagram](#)