

**2021**  
**Invasive Species**  
**Annual Work Plan**  
**SLELO - PRISM**

FINAL



*The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) serves as one of eight partnerships across New York State, whose mission is to protect the region from the negative impacts of invasive species. SLELO's 2020 work plan aligns with the PRISM's Strategic Plan and outlines ongoing activities and projects in which SLELO staff and partners are involved. Though prepared at the onset of the calendar year, actions may be adapted based on needs/opportunities identified throughout the course of the year.*

## Strategic Plan Goals

This work plan incorporates seven strategic goals identified by our partners which align with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's services agreement and which bring continuity across New York's PRISM network to include:

1. **PREVENTION** – Prevent the introduction of invasive species into the SLELO PRISM's Priority Conservation Areas.
2. **EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE** – Conduct early detection in all Priority Conservation Areas on a two-year rotation and strategically respond to low abundance introductions.
3. **COOPERATION** – Facilitate partner meetings and opportunities for sharing resources, including funding, personnel, equipment, information, and expertise and collaborate on projects utilizing staff and volunteers.
4. **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT** – Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring, and research.
5. **CONTROL:** Control invasives using three basic levels of control; **SUPPRESSION** – Reduce the density, area or boundary of established infestations. **CONTAINMENT/EXCLUSION** – Contain established infestations to prevent invasive species from spreading and/or to exclude their encroachment into Priority Conservation Areas. **ERADICATION**- to eliminate a species when and where achievable.
6. **RESTORATION** – Develop and implement effective ecological restoration methods by promoting native species for areas that have been degraded by invasive species and where suppression or control has taken place.
7. **EDUCATION** – Increase public awareness and understanding of invasive species issues.
8. **INNOVATION** - Develop and implement innovative technologies that help us to better understand, visualize, alleviate or manage invasive species and their impacts or that serve to strengthen ecosystem function and/or processes.

## Special Initiatives

**Pledge-To-Protect Marketing Initiative:** Partners of the PRISM will be developing a *Pledge-To-Protect* education and outreach marketing initiative designed to educate the public on the benefits of protecting our lands and waters from the effects of invasive species and to gain a commitment to take action to protect these places by taking a pledge.

**Eastern Lake Ontario Tributary Assessment and Recommendations:** In 2021, we will be implementing recommendations made by Rootz, LLC as part of the Aquatic and Riparian and Invasive Species Inventory and Habitat Assessment. This may include invasive species suppression and critical habitat restoration of Sandy Creek, South Sandy Creek, and Deer Creek near their confluences with Lake Ontario.

**Black River Trail Feasibility Study and Recommendations:** Upon completion of a feasibility study, recommendations to suppress invasive species and to conduct ecological restoration will be considered for implementation.

**Urban Forest Sustainability:** This effort is to encourage cities in the SLELO region to include a climate adaptability and forest pest resiliency component into their existing or proposed Street Tree and Community Preparedness Plans to protect and manage healthy street trees for posterity.

**Expanded Watercraft Inspection and Stewardship:** SLELO PRISM will continue with expanded WISP program to include 20 high-use boat launches, from as far north as Massena and south to Rome. This will more than double the number of stewards previously staffed at launches, to 10 stewards rotating between sites.

**Environmental DNA:** In 2021, SLELO PRISM will continue to conduct innovative environmental DNA sampling to improve our aquatic early detection work both in Lake Ontario and inland waters. Eight species including native and invasive aquatic plants and animals will be this year's focus.

**Aquatic Invasive Plant Nutrient Analysis:** An effort to better understand the nutrient and carbon content of invasive aquatic plants, to understand the potential implications on internal nutrient loading and harmful algal blooms and to inform management on proper disposal techniques of harvested, including hand-harvested, plant material.

Lead Person /Team	Description of Activity	Location / Date	Notes <span style="color: green;">■</span> =Completed <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> = Needs help <span style="color: red;">■</span> = Cancelled	Goal
<b>Early Detection Team</b> Terrestrial & Aquatic Coordinators	Conduct early detection surveillance for all SLELO PRISM <b>Tier 1 and Tier 2 species</b> (terrestrial and aquatic).			Early Detection
"	"	Delta Lake	Need Wend 't Fishin boat	Early Detection
"	"	Fish Creek WMA		Early Detection
"	"	French Creek WMA	Check with Irene	Early Detection
"	"	Little John WMA		Early Detection
"	"	Upper/Lower Lakes		Early Detection
"	"	Mud Bay		Early Detection
"	"	Guffin Bay		Early Detection
"	"	Tug Hill I.S.P.Z.		Early Detection
"	"	Upper Lower Lakes		
"	"	Whetstone Reservoir	Check with Parks dept delays	Early Detection
"	Conduct intensive forest pest surveillance for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid	Multiple Locations including Tug Hill and near water	December – March	Early Detection
"	Plant native seed at control sites as requested by control team	Multiple locations	As requested,	Restoration
"	Data Entry via SAS Pro, Program and iMMA program	As needed		Info. Mgmt.
"	Provide in-situ data to TNC Data Manager for creation of arc-info maps	As needed	Zack	Info. Mgmt.

“	Utilize underwater ROV video surveillance	as needed		Innovation
<b>Rapid Response &amp; Control Terrestrial Coordinator &amp; Contractor</b>	Control of Giant Hogweed at multiple sites using multiple techniques.	All sites	Coord. With State Program	Control
Millers Turf	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow wort	Chaumont Barrens		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of swallow-wort & knotweed	Deer Creek		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort, phragmites, knotweed	Eldorado - Black Pond		Control
“	Chemical Control of Phragmites	Sandy Pond North Spit	Coord. With David Klein (he gets permits)	Control
“	Chemical/manual Treatment of Swallow-wort	Lakeview WMA	Coord. with Irene	Control
“	Chemical/manual Treatment of Swallow-wort	Black River Bay Boat Launch DEXTER MARSH		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort	Mud Bay Boat Launch	3-sites only	Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort	Upper/Lower Lakes WMA's		Control
“	Swallow-wort control on Couch Easement	Three Mile Creek OBI-Couch Easement		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort	Carleton Island/ tentative	Coord. with TILT	Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort	Three Mile Bay WMA		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort	Three Mile Creek		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow wort	Limerick Cedars Psrv		Control
“	Phragmites treatment	Little John WMA. 1-site only	Ck w Bonnie Pardon	Control
“	Oriental Bittersweet & knotweed	Oneida Lake PCA	See Robert Smith	Control
“	Swallow-wort	Point Peninsula	“	Control
“	Chemical Treatment Phragmites - new site identified in 2019 along G&W Road.	G&W Road on Tug Hill	Need permission from DEC	Control
“	Treat other priority early detections as needed as determined by SLELO	Priority Areas		Control
<b>Terrestrial Coordinator Special Projects</b>	Implement Urban Forest Sustainability Program			Prevention
	Obtain & liberate biological controls	As many as possible		Control

	Implement Recommendations from the Black River Trail Feasibility Study		With Brittney	Restoration
	Coordinate ecological restoration/multiple techniques			Restoration
	Expand and Implement Eastern Lake Ontario Swallow-wort Collaborative - ELOSC			E&O
	Implement restoration effort on Carleton Island	Carleton Island	As appropriate	Restoration
	Implement restoration effort on Grenadier Island	Grenadier Island	As appropriate	Restoration
	Implement restoration efforts on Grindstone Island	Grindstone Island	As appropriate	Restoration
	Identify restoration efforts on treatment sites as needed.		As appropriate	Restoration
	Attend and present at Central US Division Stewardship Conference		With Megan	Info. Mgmt. and sharing
<b>Aquatic Coordinator Special Projects</b>	Coordinate Watercraft Inspection & Stewardship Program			Prevention
	Implement Inland eDNA Project			Innovation
	Implement recommendation by Rootz for ELO restoration and subcontract requirements			Restoration
	Assist with implementing Recommendations from the Black River Trail Feasibility Study		With Robert	Restoration
	Develop informed management of AIS nutrient analyses, white paper and PowerPoint		Time permitting	Innovation
	Utilize Submersible ROV as needed			Innovation
	Implement Whetstone Reservoir I.S.P.Z	tentative	Coord. W Parks Dept.	Prevention
	Develop and install Whetstone ISPZ Interpretive sign.	tentative	Fossil graphics	E&O
	Attend and present at NAISMA Conference			Info. Mgmt. and sharing
<b>Educator/Outreach</b>	Implement P2P marketing contract and recommendations			E&O
	Plan and implement an Eastern Lake Ontario Invasive Species Symposium			E&O
"	Coordinate six Education Committee meetings	e/o month		E&O
	Begin writing a white paper on E&O Metrics		Time permitting	E&O
"	Assist with iMap Spring Training Events (iMap)	May?		Innovation
"	Promote the SLF Spotters Program (on the ground if COVID permitted; enhance social media outreach for program if no brochures can be distributed).		2021	E&O

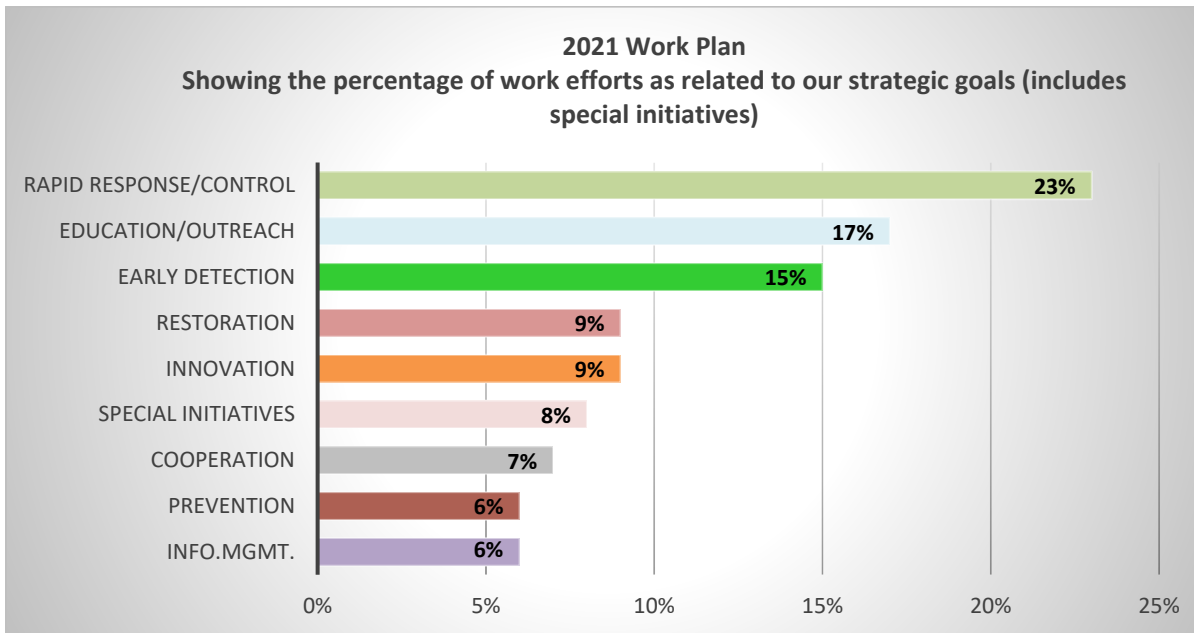
“	Promote Invasive Species Awareness Week	June 6 to June 13		E&O
	Shoulder off Guffin Bay water chestnut survey to local volunteers or ED Committee	July		Early Detection
“	Assist with water chestnut pulls and volunteers	July?	Pending social distancing requirements	Cooperation
“	Activate and Coordinate all <b>volunteer surveillance networks</b>	EAB, HWA, Fanwort, Tench, Spotted Lanternfly		Early Detection
“	Coordinate, prepare and disseminate quarterly newsletter	n/a	Coord. w Ed. Comm.	Cooperation
“	Arrange and implement at least 2- citizen science events.	TBA	virtual	Cooperation
“	Attend events w SLELO display/exhibit mtl. Provide PowerPoint presentations as requested and make available for partner use.			Cooperation
“	SLELO Exhibit at Salmon River Fish Hatchery for National Hunting & Fishing Day Open House. Coordinate with volunteers		Work with Mary Ripka	E & O
“	Local Government Conference Display – Tug Hill Commission	Watertown		E & O
“	Local Government Conference Display – Potsdam	Potsdam		E & O
“	Assist with other education committee initiatives including the development and dissemination of educational mtl		As needed	E & O
“	Facilitate and implement species specific workshops as needed, requested or as deemed appropriate by the E&O Committee	PRISM wide	virtual	E & O
“	Strategize and implement marketing initiatives as needed on various platforms: SLELO website & social media outlets.			E & O
	Attend and present at Central US Division Stewardship Conference		With Robert	Info. Mgmt. and sharing
<b>GIS Specialist</b>	Upload early detection metrics into field report form.			Innovation
	Develop maps and metrics for Black River Trail Feasibility Study			Innovation
	Create a master map of SLELO Priority Conservation Areas using iMaps ecologically sensitive areas as base map and add a treatment layer			Innovation

	Develop/conceptualize a way for VSN people to upload findings into our ED field report form.			Innovation
<b>Volunteers</b>	Hand Pulling Water Chestnuts with Oswego SWCD Partner	Salmon River @Port Ontario		Control
"	Hand Pull Water Chestnuts with DEC Region 6 partners	Lakeview WMA	Coord. w Irene	Control
"	Assist with Volunteer Monitoring Networks (VSN's) x 4			Prevention
"	Assist with water chestnut surveillance and hand pull in coop. with seasonal ED team at Guffin Bay	Guffin Bay		Cooperation
"	SLELO Exhibit at Salmon River Fish Hatchery for National Hunting & Fishing Day Open House	Salmon River Fish Hatchery		Cooperation
<b>Contractual &amp; Special Projects</b>				
"	ELO Dune and Wetland Management Plan	ELO Dunes Foundation		Restoration
<b>SLELO Education Committee</b>	Support education and outreach efforts within the PRISM region as needed.		Committee	E & O
	Assist with the ELO Symposium			E&O
<b>I.S.P.C. &amp; others</b>	Oversee the implementation of annual SLELO Workplan	PRISM wide		n/a
"	Coordinate SLELO Partner meetings, activities, etc.	n/a		n/a
"	Coordinate / supervise SLELO team and all activities	n/a		n/a
"	Oversee all subcontracts	n/a		n/a
"	Serve on the NYS Invasive Species Advisory Committee			Prevention
"	Serve on TNC's North American Inv. Spp. Advisory Board			Prevention
"	Coord. Activities with other PRISM's and statewide partners			Cooperation
"	Attend and present at NAISMA Conference			Info. Mgmt. and sharing



**Special Initiatives in 2021**

- ◆ P2P Marketing Initiative
- ◆ Urban Forest Sustainability
- ◆ Aquatic Invasive Plant Nutrient Analysis
- ◆ Expanded Watercraft Inspection and Stewardship
- ◆ Black River Trail Assessment & Feasibility Study
- ◆ Eastern Lake Ontario Tributary Assessment Implementation
- ◆ Environmental DNA
- ◆ Submersible ROV Surveys
- ◆ ELO Dune and Wetland Management Plan



**A total of 98 activities.**  
**With help from employees,  
partners and volunteers.**