



2024 SLELO PRISM Early Detection Program Report



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2024 Highlights: Surveyed 159 Highly Probable Areas within nine Priority Conservation Areas
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Protecting our lands and waters through a changing climate must include a focus on invasive species prevention. Second to prevention is early detection – or the ability to detect new invasive species while in low abundance – which provides land managers an opportunity to limit the species spread and associated impacts to the environment, economy, or human health.



The SLELO PRISM Restoration and Resiliency Coordinators along with volunteers conduct invasive species surveys inside and outside of Priority Conservation Areas (PCA's) on a year-round basis. Various invasive species are more observable at different times of the year making seasonal early detection more efficient.



The following report summarizes PCA surveys and findings by the Restoration and Resiliency Coordinators that occurred in 2024. This report may not include all invasive species present at a site, only what was found in 2024.

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Summary

During the 2024 field season, SLELO staff visited nine Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) and surveyed approximately 243.4 acres of 159 highly probable areas (HPAs) for aquatic and/or terrestrial invasive species. A total of 37 different species were found during the surveys. Overall, pale swallowwort was the most reported species, present at 54 HPAs. Eurasian watermilfoil was the most frequently encountered aquatic invasive species, present at 25 HPAs (Figure 1). No new infestations of tier 1 species were detected in 2024.

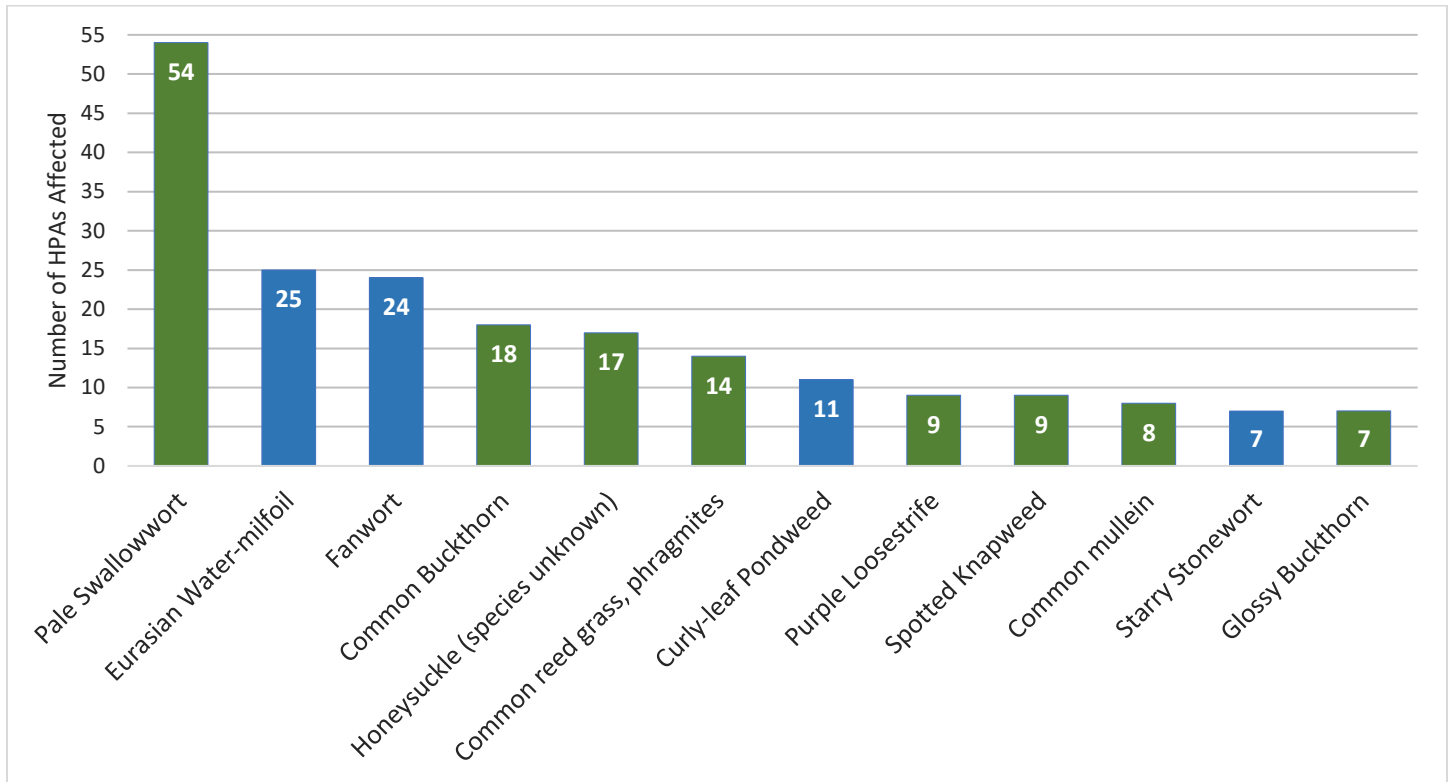


Figure 1. Top 12 most reported invasive species reported by number of HPAs affected.

Black Creek

Black Creek was surveyed for aquatic invasive species in August 2024 by Brittney Rogers and Megan Pistolese-Shaw. SLELO staff surveyed 24 aquatic HPAs using visual surveys and rake tosses. Four additional terrestrial HPAs were surveyed using visual surveys (Map 1). Data was recorded using the iMapInvasives Mobile Advanced (iMMA) and Simple Aquatic Survey (SAS) applications.



Map 1. Map of Black Creek HPAs examined by SLELO staff in 2024.

The following **Invasive Species** were found:

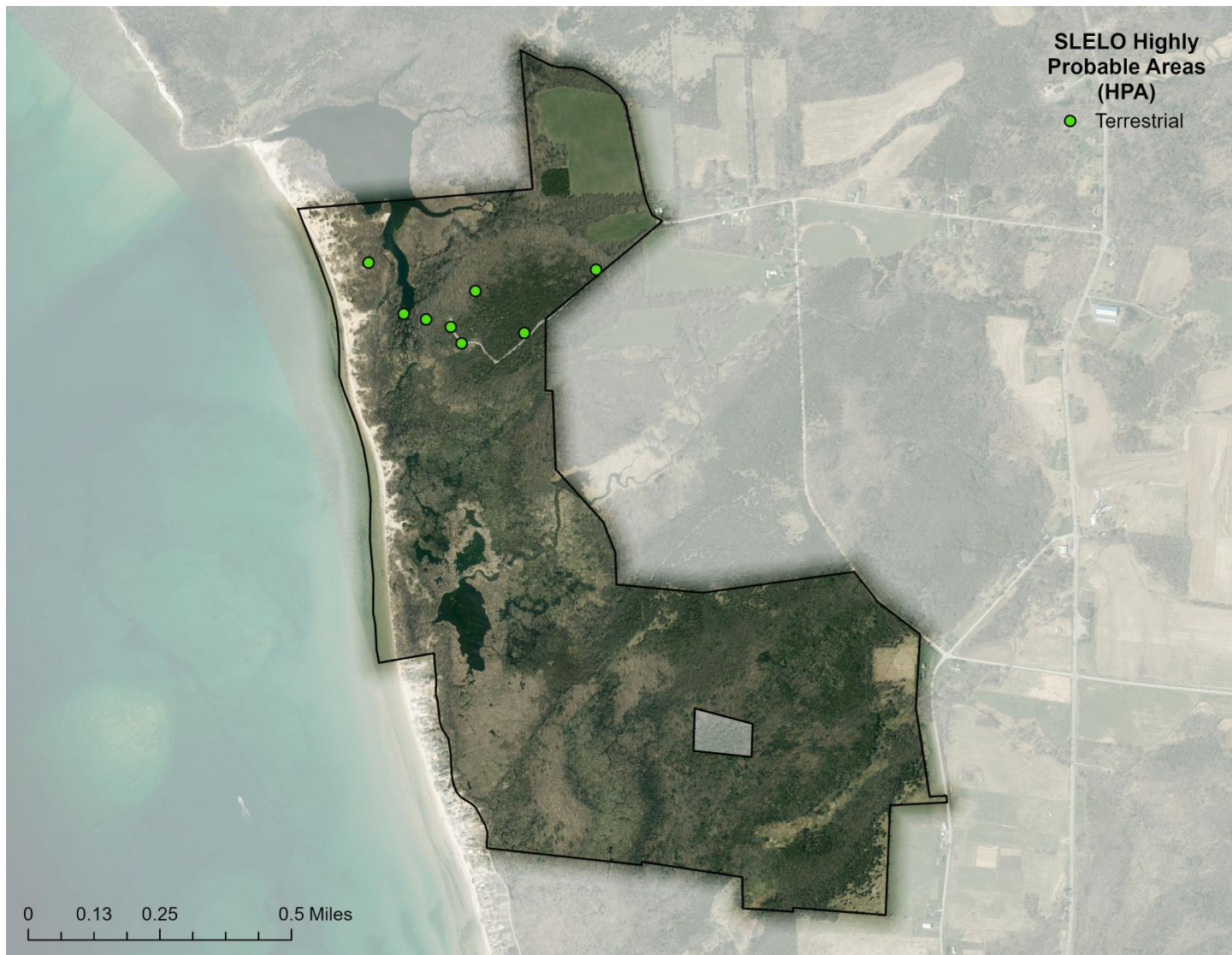
Invasive Species	Tier Ranking	HPA's Affected
Fanwort	2	24
Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Bamboo	3	2
Oriental Bittersweet	3	1
Water Chestnut	3	1
Eurasian Water-milfoil	4	6

European Frogbit	4	2
Purple Loosestrife	4	1

NO NEW TIER 1 SPECIES WERE DETECTED IN 2024

Black Pond WMA

Black Pond WMA was surveyed for terrestrial invasive species in May, July, and August by Robert Smith and Brittney Rogers. SLELO staff surveyed 17.7 acres of 8 HPA's for terrestrial invasive species using visual surveys (Map 2). Data was recorded using the iMapInvasives Mobile Advanced (iMMA) application.



Map 2. Map of Black Pond WMA HPAs examined by SLELO staff in 2024.

The following **Invasive Species** were found:

Invasive Species	Tier Ranking	HPA's Affected
Common reed grass, phragmites	3	1
Pale Swallowwort	3	5
Yellow Iris	3	1
Common Buckthorn	4	2

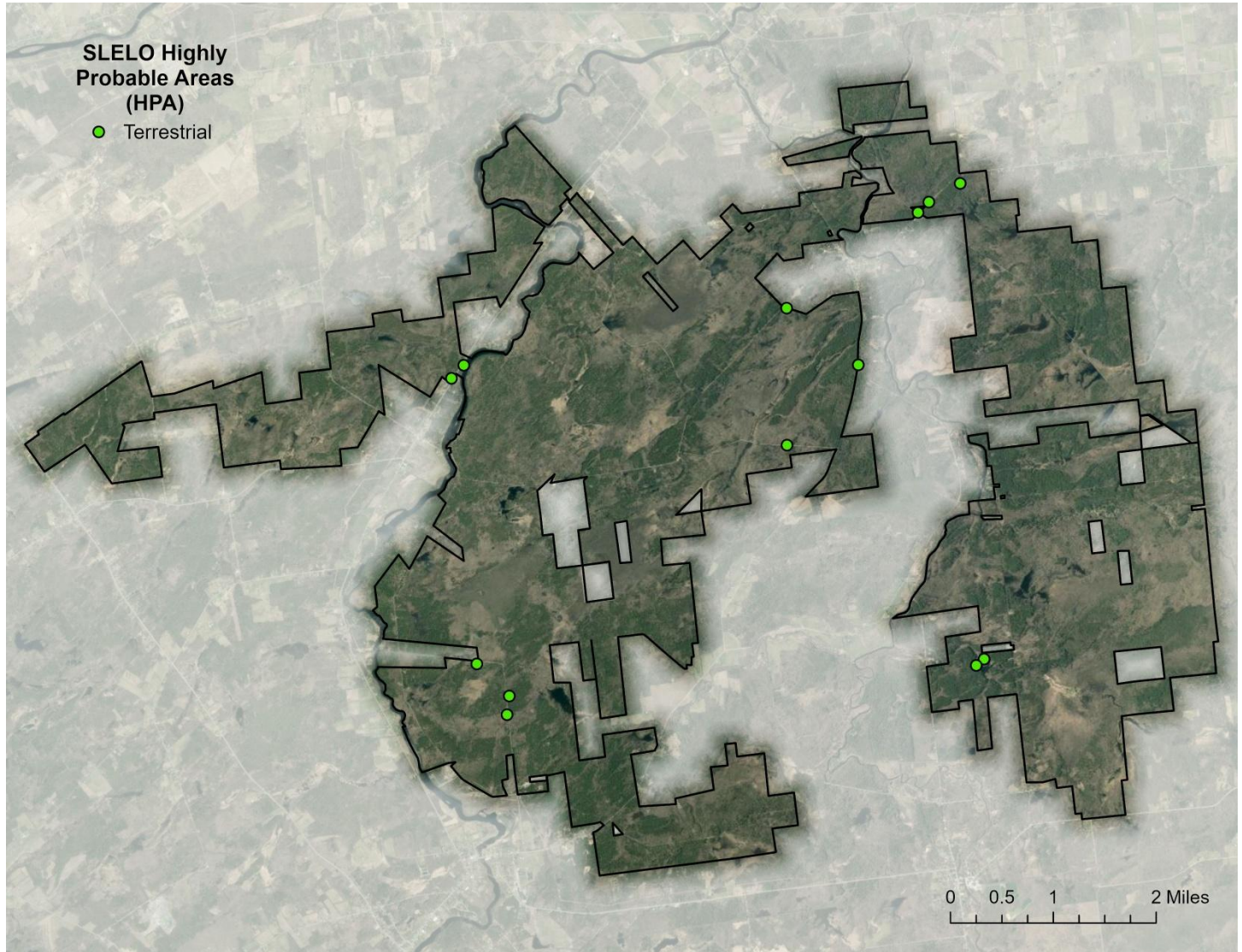
Honeysuckle (species unknown)	4	2
Purple Loosestrife	4	1
Bittersweet Nightshade	*	1
Creeping Jenny, Moneywort	*	2

* Species is not currently tier ranked

NO NEW TIER 1 OR TIER 2 SPECIES WERE DETECTED IN 2024

Brasher State Forest

Brasher State Forest was surveyed for terrestrial invasive species in June by Brittney Rogers and Robert Smith. SLELO staff surveyed 28.7 acres of 13 HPA's for terrestrial invasive species (Map 3) using visual surveys. Data was recorded using the iMapInvasives Mobile Advanced (iMMA) application.



Map 3. Map of Brasher State Forest HPAs examined by SLELO staff in 2024.

The following **Invasive Species** were found:

Invasive Species	Tier Ranking	HPA's Affected
Elm zigzag fly	2	1
Common reed grass, phragmites	3	3
Common Buckthorn	4	7
European Frogbit	4	3

Honeysuckle (species unknown)	4	3
Purple Loosestrife	4	1
Spotted Knapweed	4	3
Wild Parsnip	4	5
Coltsfoot	*	2
Common mullein	*	2
Eastern Helleborine	*	2
St. Johnswort	*	1
Tufted vetch	*	1

* *Species is not currently tier ranked*

NO NEW TIER 1 OR TIER 2 SPECIES WERE DETECTED IN 2024

Carleton Island

Carleton Island was surveyed for terrestrial invasive species in November by Robert Smith and Brittney Rogers. SLELO staff surveyed 20.1 acres of 1 HPA's for terrestrial invasive species using visual surveys (Map 4). Terrestrial data was recorded using the iMapInvasives Mobile Advanced (iMMA) application.



Map 4. Map of Carleton Island PCA HPAs examined by SLELO staff in 2024.

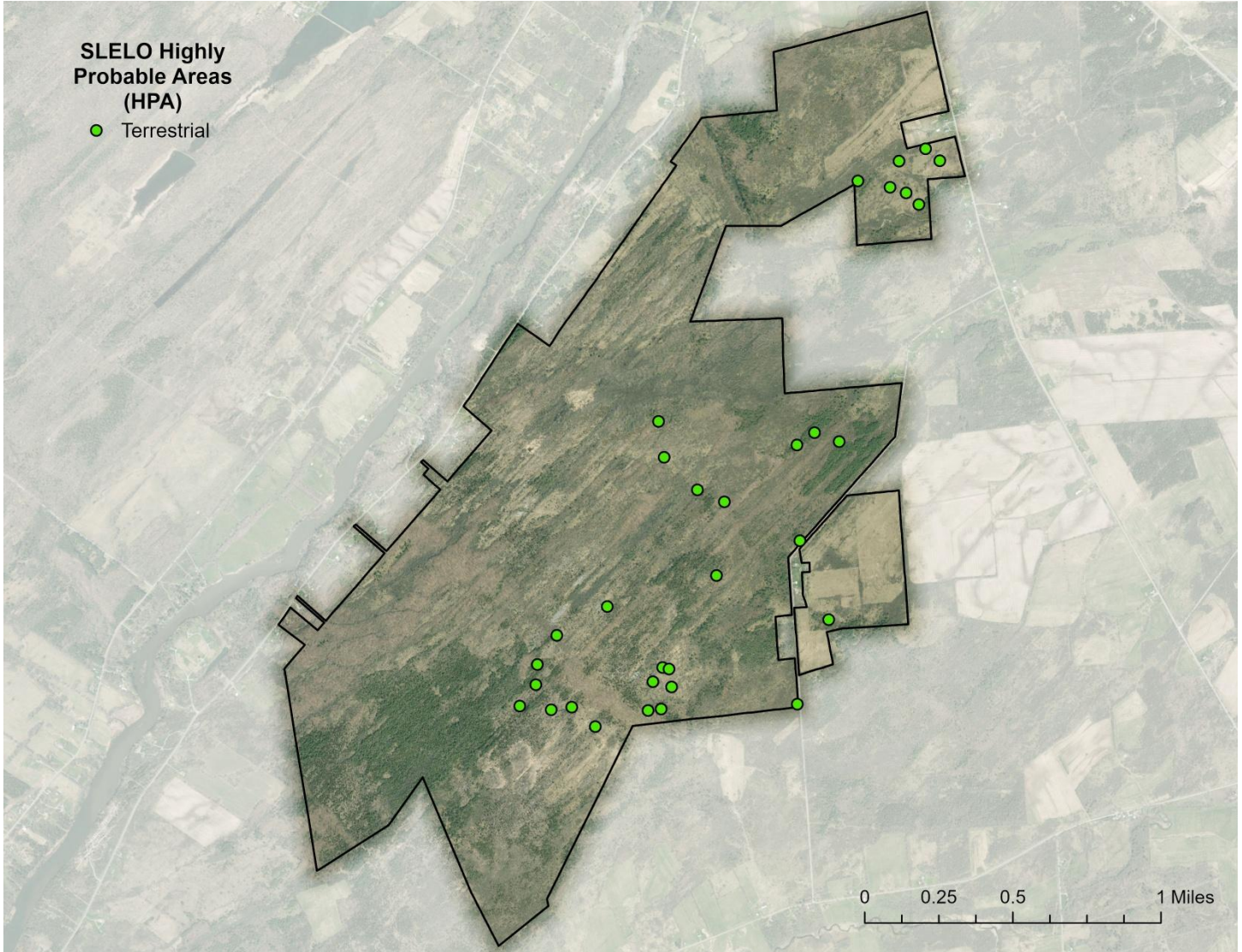
The following **Invasive Species** were found:

Invasive Species	Tier Ranking	HPA's Affected
Pale Swallowwort	3	1

NO NEW TIER 1 OR TIER 2 SPECIES WERE DETECTED IN 2024

Chaumont Barrens

Chaumont Barrens PCA was surveyed for terrestrial invasive species in June and July by Robert Smith and Brittney Rogers. SLELO staff surveyed 61.3 acres of 32 HPA's for terrestrial invasive species using visual surveys (Map 5). Terrestrial data was recorded using the iMapInvasives Mobile Advanced (iMMA) application.



Map 5. Map of Chaumont Barrens PCA HPAs examined by SLELO staff in 2024.

The following **Invasive Species** were found:

Invasive Species	Tier Ranking	HPA's Affected
Pale Swallowwort	3	29
Common Buckthorn	4	2
Honeysuckle (species unknown)	4	2
Spotted Knapweed	4	1

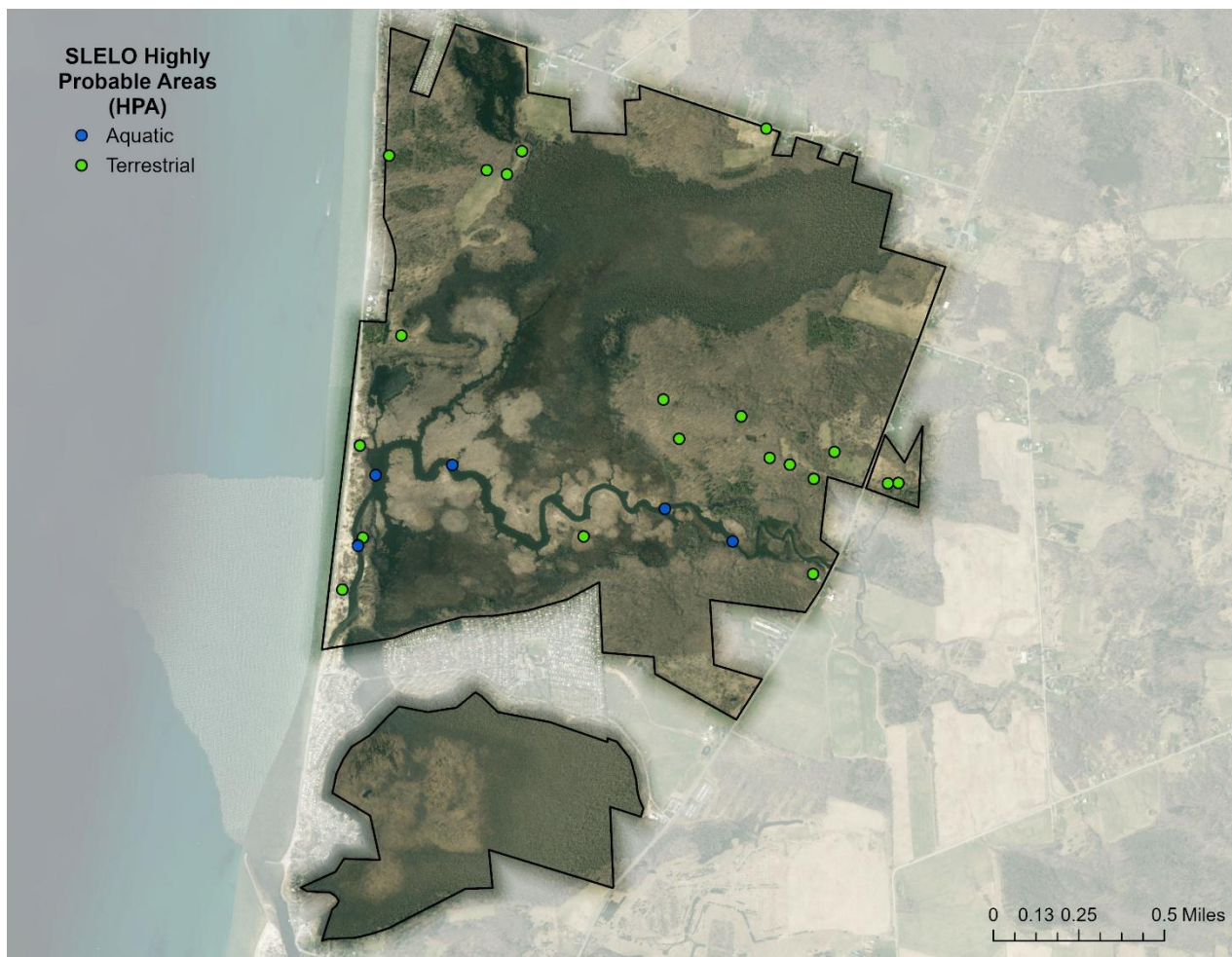
Common mullein	*	1
Eastern Helleborine	*	2

* *Species is not currently tier ranked*

NO NEW TIER 1 OR TIER 2 SPECIES WERE DETECTED IN 2024

Deer Creek Marsh WMA

Deer Creek Marsh WMA PCA was surveyed for terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in July, September, and October 2024 by Brittney Rogers, Robert Smith, and Carolyn Koestner. SLELO staff surveyed 65.6 acres of 20 HPA's for terrestrial invasive species using visual surveys. Five additional aquatic HPA were surveyed using visual surveys and rake tosses (Map 6). Data was recorded using the iMapInvasives Mobile Advanced (iMMA) and Simple Aquatic Survey (SAS) applications.



Map 6. Map of Deer Creek Marsh WMA PCA HPAs examined by SLELO staff in 2024.

The following **Invasive Species** were found:

Invasive Species	Tier Ranking	HPA's Affected
Common Reed Grass, Phragmites	3	4
Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Bamboo	3	2
Japanese Stiltgrass	3	1
Multiflora Rose	3	6
Pale Swallowwort	3	12
Water Chestnut	3	1

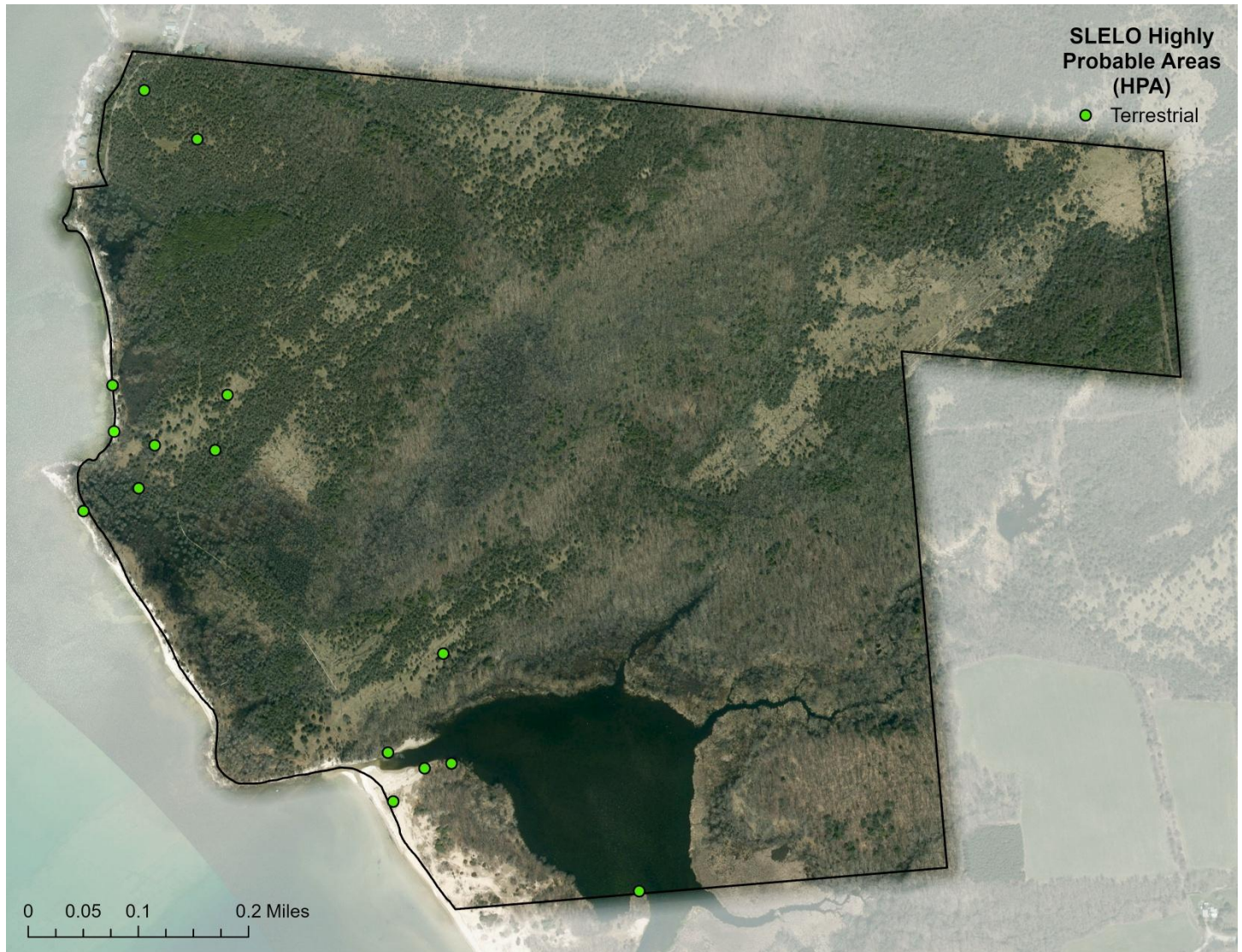
Yellow Iris	3	2
Common Buckthorn	4	3
Curly-leaf Pondweed	4	3
Eurasian Water-milfoil	4	5
Glossy Buckthorn	4	7
Honeysuckle (species unknown)	4	6
Purple Loosestrife	4	1
Spotted Knapweed	4	1
Black Locust	*	3
Butter-and-eggs	*	1
Bittersweet Nightshade	*	1
Common mullein	*	2
Dame's Rocket	*	1
Garlic Mustard	*	6
Japanese barberry	*	1
St. Johnswort	*	1

* Species is not currently tier ranked

NO NEW TIER 1 OR TIER 2 SPECIES WERE DETECTED IN 2024

El Dorado Preserve

El Dorado Preserve was surveyed for terrestrial invasive species in May and August by Robert Smith and Brittney Rogers. SLELO staff surveyed 30.6 acres of 15 HPA's for terrestrial invasive species using visual surveys (Map 7). Data was recorded using the iMapInvasives Mobile Advanced (iMMA) application.



Map 7. Map of El Dorado Preserve HPAs examined by SLELO staff in 2024.

The following **Invasive Species** were found:

Invasive Species	Tier Ranking	HPA's Affected
Common reed grass, phragmites	3	6
Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Bamboo	3	1
Pale Swallowwort	3	7
Yellow Iris	3	3

Common Buckthorn	4	4
Honeysuckle (species unknown)	4	3
Spotted Knapweed	4	4
Purple Loosestrife	4	5
Butter-and-eggs	*	1
Bittersweet Nightshade	*	1
Creeping Jenny, Moneywort	*	2
Coltsfoot	*	2
Common mullein	*	2

* Species is not currently tier ranked

NO NEW TIER 1 OR TIER 2 SPECIES WERE DETECTED IN 2024

Ironsides Island

Ironsides Island was surveyed for terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in July by Brittney Rogers, Robert Smith, and Megan Pistolese-Shaw. SLELO staff surveyed 19.4 acres of 1 HPA for terrestrial invasive species using visual surveys. Twenty additional aquatic HPA were surveyed using visual surveys and rake tosses (Map 8). Data was recorded using the iMapInvasives Mobile Advanced (iMMA) and Simple Aquatic Survey (SAS) applications.



Map 8. Map of Ironsides Island HPAs examined by SLELO staff in 2024.

The following **Invasive Species** were found:

Invasive Species	Tier Ranking	HPA's Affected
Curly-leaf Pondweed	4	2
Eurasian Water-milfoil	4	4
Honeysuckle (species unknown)	4	1
Quagga Mussel	4	1
Zebra Mussel	4	3
Brazilian Waterweed	*	1

Coltsfoot	*	1
Common mullein	*	1
Eastern Helleborine	*	1
Reed Canarygrass	*	1
St. Johnswort	*	1

* Species is not currently tier ranked

NO NEW TIER 1 OR TIER 2 SPECIES WERE DETECTED IN 2024

Lakeview WMA

Lakeview WMA PCA was surveyed for aquatic invasive species in September and October 2024 by Brittney Rogers and Robert Smith. SLELO staff surveyed sixteen aquatic HPAs using visual surveys and rake tosses (Map 9). Data was recorded using the Simple Aquatic Survey (SAS) application.



Map 9. Map of Lakeview WMA PCA HPAs examined by SLELO staff in 2024.

The following **Invasive Species** were found:

Invasive Species	Tier Ranking	HPA's Affected
Starry Stonewort	3	7
Water Chestnut	3	3
Curly-leaf Pondweed	4	6
Eurasian Water-milfoil	4	10
European Frogbit	4	1
Zebra Mussel	4	1
American Water Lotus	*	1

* Species is not currently tier ranked

NO NEW TIER 1 OR TIER 2 SPECIES WERE DETECTED IN 2024