

Peck's Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Adaptive Management Plan
January 2024
Version 1.0

[The Peck's Lake Protective Association](#) (PLPA) is the local organization working on the stewardship of Peck's Lake. Starting in 2021 the PLPA has been in communication with the [Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program](#) (APIPP) about aquatic invasive species issues. Peck's Lakes has two aquatic invasive species (AIS) documented in the lake. The invasive zooplankton spiny waterflea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) was reported in 2009 and the invasive plant variable leaf milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) was reported in 2015. APIPP is working with the PLPA to help them create and implement this AIS adaptive management to give the association a document that they can use as a guide to plan and implement actions.

Goals:

- 1) Continue annual efforts on prevention outreach and making sure everyone follows clean, drain, dry procedures to prevent the spread of spiny waterflea to other waterbodies and prevent new species from being introduced to Peck's Lake.
- 2) Conduct annual early detection monitoring ([APIPP Lake Protectors](#)) to be on the lookout for potential AIS introductions and to catch any while the populations are still low in abundance.
- 3) Monitor select areas of Peck's Lake ([APIPP Lake Management Tracker](#)) with variable leaf milfoil for a four to five year period to assess the trends in abundance and spread to inform future decisions.

Objectives and action steps: There are three main objectives that will help the PLPA meet their goals.

1. Prevent AIS introductions to Peck's Lake due to educational and outreach efforts that let lake association members and visitors know what steps they can take to prevent the spread of AIS. Prevention follows the old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."
 - a. PLPA will ask that all members and visitors follow the [Clean, Drain, Dry](#) (CDD) principles for any boats or equipment that enter or leave the lake.
 - b. PLPA will have regular educational updates in newsletters, emails, and social media about the importance of following CDD and how to take easy steps to follow CDD. The association will encourage members to talk to their friends and neighbors about the importance of CDD.
 - c. Work with the marina to ensure that boats launched in the lake have been decontaminated before entering Peck's Lake if they have been in another waterbody in the past 14 days.
2. Monitoring for early detection of AIS. The goal is to prevent AIS from being introduced to Peck's Lake, but if a species does get in we want to detect it early to increase the likelihood of successful management and reduce the cost of management.

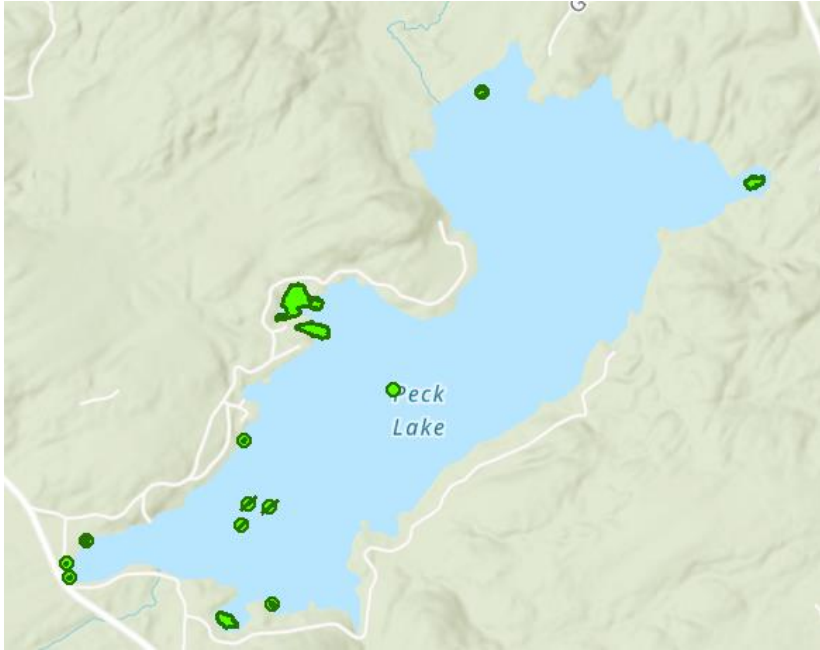
- a. PLPA will encourage members to annually participate in [APIPP's Lake Protector](#) program that trains volunteers how to identify and report AIS. The PLPA will work with volunteers to ensure coverage of the lake and timely submission to APIPP.
3. Monitoring variable leaf milfoil abundance and locations in select bays.
 - a. PLPA will form a small group to work with APIPP and follow [the Lake Management Tracker Program monitoring protocols](#). Volunteers will be trained to monitor set locations once a year (August/September) and track trends over time. PLPA will start off with 2-3 bays to monitor and evaluate if more locations are needed in the future.

Monitoring:

It is critical to monitor the activities done and the condition of the lake in quantitative ways so that we can compare data from year to year and make decisions on how to manage the lake.

- 1) Prevention efforts and outreach - Keep track of the outreach that the PLPA does to inform members and visitors about clean, drain, dry approaches.
 - a. Key indicators – Number of stories in the newsletters/social media about CDD
- 2) Lake Protectors early detection monitoring – Keep track of the early detection efforts and the results of the surveys.
 - a. Key indicators – Number of volunteers monitoring, number of surveys, percent/area of lake covered, number of new AIS observations.
- 3) Lake Management Tracker monitoring of variable leaf milfoil abundance – A yearly survey of the invaded bays will keep track of the amount and locations of variable leaf milfoil.
 - a. Key indicators – Number/percent of monitoring locations with invasive species, the abundance of invasive species, change over time of data.

Review and adjust: Every winter the PLPA and APIPP will review the results of the prevention outreach and monitoring and revisit if this plan needs to be updated. Updated adaptive management plans will be tracked as different versions and shared with all members of the PLPA.



Map of invasive species observations from Oct. 2023 in www.imapinvasives.org