



Watercraft Steward Present at Hilton Park Boat Launch

Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day Weekend

As part of the Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management's (PRISM) Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Program (AISSPP), hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County, an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Watercraft Steward will be stationed at Hilton Park boat launch during the 2021 boating season

The Capital Region PRISM provides invasive species management efforts in 11 counties surround the Capital Region focusing on early detection and rapid response of high and very high threat invasive species. The Capital Region PRISM is in the final year of a three-year contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Environmental Protection Fund to conduct outreach and education about AIS at boat launches along the Mohawk and Hudson River regions.

Through the AISSP Program, AIS Watercraft Stewards educate the public and boaters on the threats of AIS and methods for preventing the spread. Stewards collect data from the public through a survey form and complete voluntary watercraft inspections.

The voluntary watercraft inspection process does not impede launch use. Public participation in watercraft inspections is completely voluntary. While stationed at the boat launch, Stewards are responsible for the following activities:

- Complete voluntary watercraft inspections following a standardized protocol;
- Engage boaters in dialogue about AIS, highlighting AIS impacts on the environment and providing spread prevention recommendations;
- Provide AIS educational materials; and
- Collect metrics on public participation in following recommended AIS spread prevention measures and aquatic invasive species data.

AIS Watercraft Stewards will maintain a highly visible station where the public can collect AIS educational materials and inquire about the AISSP Program.

Placements of an AIS Watercraft Stewards at Hilton Park boat launch will be in effect from May 28, 2021 through September 6, 2021.

We look forward to working with the City of Rensselaer, the residents, and visitors to minimize the spread of aquatic invasive species in New York State waters.