



**INVASIVE SPECIES  
MANAGEMENT**  
LOWER HUDSON

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*Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (LH PRISM) is hosted by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and is dedicated to protecting the Lower Hudson region's biodiversity and ecosystems with a focus on controlling the harmful impacts of invasive species.*

## **Stewardship Newsletter | July**



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# Lower Hudson PRISM Strategic Plan



After months of hard work and collaboration, we are excited to release the Lower Hudson PRISM Strategic Plan! Within these pages, **you will find a comprehensive look at what we plan to accomplish in the next 5 years** (and beyond!) including our updated vision, mission, and goals. We are so thankful for the work our staff and partners put into this project, and look forward to **living up to our mission**: to support a vibrant network of partners and volunteers who work collaboratively and inspire others in the community to mitigate the harmful impacts of invasive species and foster healthy ecosystems.

[View Strategic Plan](#)

Season Outlook



## Trail Steward Program

We are excited to announce that **the 2024 Conservation Corps Trail Steward Program season is off to a great start!** Crew leaders Anthony Torres and Madison Reszek joined the program in early April. In May, they welcomed the rest of their crew members. Catskill Summit Stewards Anthony, Tori, Sav, and Anna will be stationed at summits and viewpoints across the Catskill Forest Preserve. Hudson Valley Trail Stewards Madison, Stephen, Samantha, John, Samantha, Jack, Rosetta, Jaime, Molly, Henry, and Jenna will be stewarding at locations across the Hudson Valley and Shawangunks. All stewards received certifications in Wilderness First Aid and Leave No Trace during May and June.

The **Catskill Summit Stewards will be stationed at key locations in the Catskill Forest Preserve** including Slide, Cornell, and Wittenberg Mountains; Giant Ledge and Panther Mountain; North Point; and the Blackhead Range. These stewards will enhance visitors' hiking experience by providing valuable outreach and education while protecting these cherished wilderness areas from overuse and environmental damage.

Similarly, the **Hudson Valley Trail Stewards will be positioned at popular and scenic destinations** such as Breakneck Ridge, Croton Gorge Unique Area and the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail, Gertrude's Nose at Minnewaska State Park Preserve, and the Verkeerder Kill Falls Trailhead at the Sam's Point Area of Minnewaska. The stewards will assist hikers, offer educational insights, and help maintain the trails, ensuring they remain safe and enjoyable for all.

**Both steward crews will also be actively involved in various trail improvement projects** throughout their respective regions. Throughout the season, they will collaborate with Trail Conference volunteers and local partners to repair and upgrade trail infrastructure and enhance sustainability. These efforts are vital in maintaining the trails' long-term viability and in providing hikers with a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience. We look forward to the positive impact these stewards will have on our natural landscapes and the hiking community.

## Upcoming Events



### Join the Habitat Helpers

Come help us care for the native plant landscape at the Trail Conference headquarters!

Join volunteers from the Bergen - Passaic chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey to care for the native plant habitat at the Trail Conference headquarters. We learn about native plants and care for the habitat by weeding, planting, pruning and mulching.

**Tuesday, July 9th, 9:00 am**

[Register](#)

**Sunday, July 14th, 9:00 am**

[Register](#)

**Sunday, July 21st, 9:00 am**

[Read more](#)

**Sunday, July 28th, 9:00 am**

[Read more](#)

## Invasive Species Removal Workday | Protecting Native Habitat

Sunday, July 28  
9:00 am  
Pyramid Mountain, Montville, NJ

Do you enjoy birds, butterflies, and wildflowers? Would you like to help protect them? Come help us remove invasive plants from this beautiful park!

Anyone can participate. No experience is necessary; we provide on-the-job training.

You will need to bring leather work gloves and plenty of water. We provide the tools.

[Register](#)



## Forest Vitals | Learn How to Monitor the Health of Our Woods

Tuesday, August 20th  
9:30 - 11:30 am  
Clearpool Model Forest, Carmel, NY

Speakers: Jessica Alba & Tyler Van Fleet  
of the [Watershed Agricultural Council](#)

Forests clean the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, and provide habitat for native species. They are an important resource to both our ecosystems and our wellbeing that rely on our active stewardship.

Join us as we explore Clearpool Model Forest to learn how to spot the signs of a healthy woodland habitat.



On this approximately 1.5 mile guided walk, Watershed Agricultural Council staff will share resources, techniques, and tools you can use to assess and address the health of your woods. Topics will include forest regeneration, invasive species, native plant diversity, and more!

[Register](#)



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