*i*MapInvasives

Sharing information for strategic management

SURVEY RECORD

A survey record in iMapInvasives indicates that a section of Lake Wilhelm in Mercer County was surveyed to detect possible new infestations of water chestnut *(Trapa natans)*.

Conservation staff are continuously surveying vast spans of Pennsylvania to determine the location of invasive species. *Credits: PA Natural Heritage Program*

A survey provides information on the search for a particular species or set of species including whether or not the species was found (presence or absence). Examples include simple surveys (casual inventory of a local park), systematic surveys (grid), linear surveys (along a road or trail), and host tree surveys (looking at ash trees in search of the emerald ash borer).

How do I enter survey data?

To enter survey data into *i*MapInvasives, you must first register for a free login account from a participating state or province in the *i*MapInvasives network. Visit *www.iMapInvasives.org* and click on "Login Now" for more details. Only users that are 'Level 4' and higher are permitted to enter survey data. To increase your user level, contact the Pennsylvania iMapInvasives administrator at imapinvasives@paconserve.org.

How is survey data represented on the map?

Survey records are displayed on the map using blue polygons. A survey polygon outlines the shape of a site where a survey has taken place. Each polygon depicts either the presence of one or more invasive species found at a particular site, or if species were searched for and not found (absence data). A goal is always associated with each survey record. Goals can include: 1) Find new infestations, 2) Pre-treatment survey, 3) Post-treatment survey, 4) Find potential ED/RR (early detection rapid response) locations, and 5) Campground survey.

What basic information is captured in a survey record?

Required fields (*highlighted pink in record*) include:

- Survey type (*simple, systematic, host tree, linear, etc.*)
- Lead contact
- Goal (*see options listed in section above*)
- Start and end dates
- Scientific name(s) of species searched for

Optional fields include detected species and general comments. The 'Advanced Survey Fields' tab has six categories of additional data to enter including: Who, What, When, Where, Weather, and Photos/Sketch Maps. These fields allow for extra details to be entered about the survey effort. Choose categories that fit your specific effort and fill in those that are most appropriate. When finished, submit your record to save it in the database.
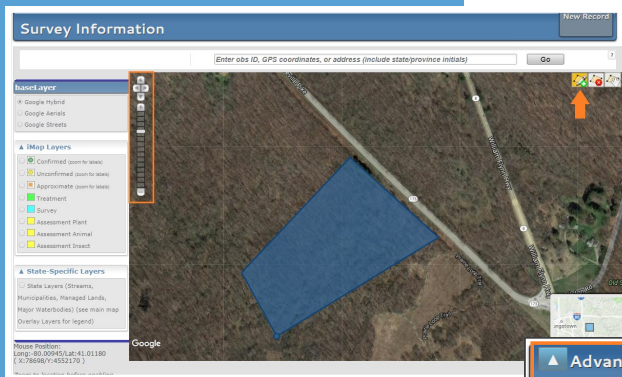
Surveys can be conducted for a variety of reasons including pre– and post-treatment, recording critical populations that require rapid response efforts, and documenting absence data in places where target species were not detected. *Credit: PNHP*

(*Top*) Draw a polygon around an area searched for invasive species by using the drawing tools in the upper right hand corner.

(*Right*) Data entry screens associated with survey data entry.

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The Pennsylvania *i*MapInvasives Program is a partnership of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program.

Online Data Entry

To enter survey data using the online interface (desktop computer or laptop), follow the instructions outlined below:

- Once logged into iMapInvasives, click on Enter Data —> Survey.

- To begin, select what type of survey you are entering data for. Then, in the map portion of the Survey Data Entry screen, draw a polygon around the area surveyed.

- Fill in all fields that are applicable to your survey project. If needed, hover over the "?" of each field for more details. **Required fields are highlighted in pink.**

- For presence sightings, create at least observation record and document the observation ID# into the "Resulting Obs IDs" section.

- For absence sightings, select "None detected" in the "Detected Species" field and do not enter anything in the "Resulting Obs IDs" field.

- To save your survey to the database, select 'Update Main Survey' at the bottom on the page.

- To view your survey record, search for it in the Survey Table using your user name or record ID#   OR on the map by turning on the Survey layer and zooming into the area where you know your survey to be located. Turn on map reference layers as needed.

Helpful Links

- 'Contribute Data' tab on Pennsylvania *i*MapInvasives website: *https://www.paimapinvasives.org/copy-of-reference-guides*