

NEW WATER QUALITY TOOL SHOWS LOCAL TESTING, POTENTIAL POLLUTANTS



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The Hudson River from Haviland's Cove Beach.

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QUEENSBURY – NYS Senator Chuck Schumer (D) and the environmental organization Riverkeeper this week launched a revamped water quality portal that shows whether certain bodies of water are safe to swim, boat, and fish in, and how clean local drinking water is.

The portal shows data for the Hudson River watershed and the communities along the river, from the NY Harbor all the way through the Adirondacks.

The portal allows you to enter a town or street address and find the data for that home or municipality. For example, when searching Queensbury, the portal shows the population served in the water district (21,200), the water source (surface water), and whether the Queensbury Water District had any health-based violations in the last three years (it did not). However, while it shows the water quality reports for 2021, 2022, and 2023, it did not list the most recent, from 2024, which is available on the Queensbury Water Department website.

The portal highlights local “remediation” sites, areas known to be contaminated from past industrial activity, similar to the county’s cache of GIS data. The closest remediation site to Queensbury and Glens Falls is the old Niagara Mohawk manufactured gas plant site at 14 Mohican Street, Glens Falls, which was considered a state Superfund Site. The portal lists the known contaminants at the site, including coal tar, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (pahs), benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (btex), benzo(a)pyrene. According to the DEC Environmental Remediation Databases, the site is still considered “active.” Its new owner, National Grid, was tasked with the cleanup.

The portal also lists active and inactive landfills in the area. All of the landfills near the Queensbury Water District are listed as inactive.

Other features include a map of “critical environmental areas,” which include places considered to have “unique natural or cultural value, are environmentally sensitive to disturbance, or could affect human health.” When selected, the portal highlighted the area around Glen Lake, as well as some smaller waterbodies near the lake. However, aside from Lake George, most of the waterbodies were not labeled.

Streets and other geographic indicators are also omitted, making orientation a bit difficult when the end user attempts to get more granular with the location of the sites listed.

Another feature highlights “environmental justice and disadvantaged community areas.” This selection pulled up portions of Glens Falls and Hudson Falls.

For anyone who likes to swim or kayak in the Hudson, the fecal bacteria pass/fail data in the portal might be of interest. It shows several legs of the river failing to meet safe levels. Luckily, Haviland’s Cove was not one of them. You can also toggle on areas with sewer overflows and wastewater treatment plants, which for some areas also align with locations showing failed fecal testing.

Those who like to fish can also have access to various fishing advisory rules by area; some state fishing holes set limits on the number, size, and types of fish you can catch in a day. That information is also available on the DEC website. One relatively unique feature of the fish health category in the portal is the invasive species

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DEC to hold statewide invasive species expo at Saratoga Spa State Park

SARATOGA SPRINGS – The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on Friday announced the 2025 New York State Invasive Species Expo at the Saratoga Spa State Park, a three-day event held Sept. 14 through 16.

Hosted biennially by DEC, with state partners Agriculture and Markets (AGM), and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks), the expo is billed as “an opportunity to bring natural resource professionals and practitioners together with the public to discuss invasive species and the impact they have on New York’s environment and communities.”

DEC Commissioner Amanda Leffton said, “Empowering New Yorkers with the knowledge, tools, and partnerships to respond to invasive threats to our lands and waters is critically important to prevent introduction and spread. Through collaboration, education, and action, DEC

and our valued partners are safeguarding New York’s ecosystems and preserving the health and resilience of our communities and the second New York Invasive Species Expo once again offers hands-on, engaging experiences for professionals and the public alike.”

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, “The New York State Invasive Species Expo is a true testament to the incredible partnerships we have here in New York State to help stop the spread of harmful invasive species, with our state agencies, organizations like Cornell’s Integrated Pest Management Program, and New Yorkers all representing a critical part of this effort. This expo is a great opportunity to learn more about what we can all do to stop the spread of harmful pests like spotted lanternfly, the Asian longhorned beetle, the European cherry fruit fly, and



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A spotted lanternfly nymph.