

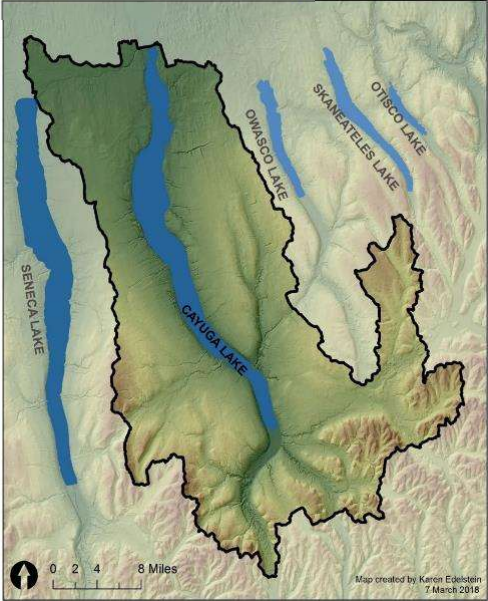


Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization

The purpose of the Intermunicipal Organization is to bring watershed municipalities together to work collectively and collaboratively on monitoring, protecting, and restoring the health of the watershed.




Cayuga Lake Watershed:

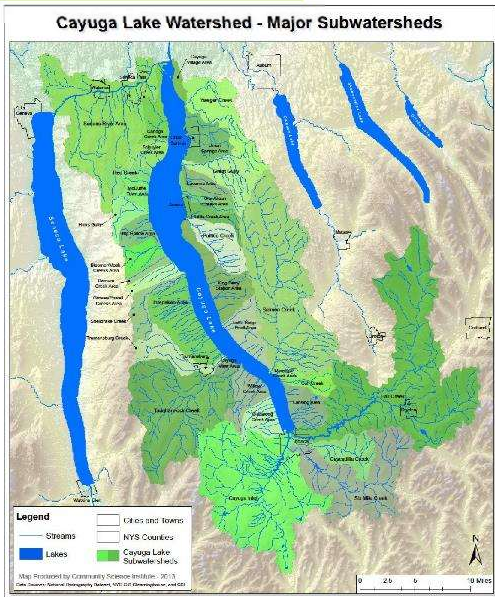


A watershed is an area of land where water from streams, springs, and wetlands all flow to a common larger body of water.

- Cayuga Lake Watershed covers 860 square miles or about 500,000 acres
- Largest Watershed in the Finger Lakes
- Part of the Lake Ontario Watershed

Attachment: TCCOG_CWIO_07-24-2025 (13449 : Updates from the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization)

Cayuga Lake Watershed:



Watershed Facts

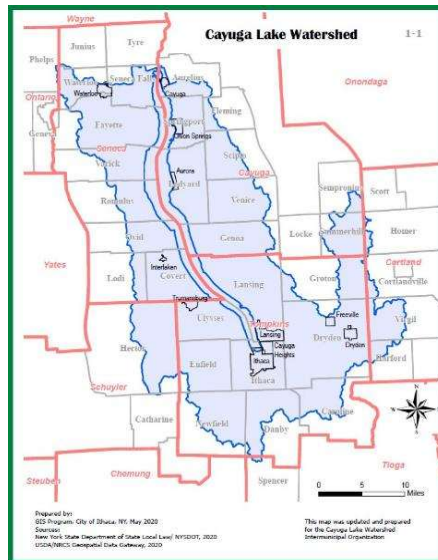
- Contains 46 major and minor sub-watersheds
- More than 140 permanent streams flow into Cayuga Lake

Lake Facts

- 95 miles of shoreline
- Extends 38 miles in length
- Average width is 1.75 miles

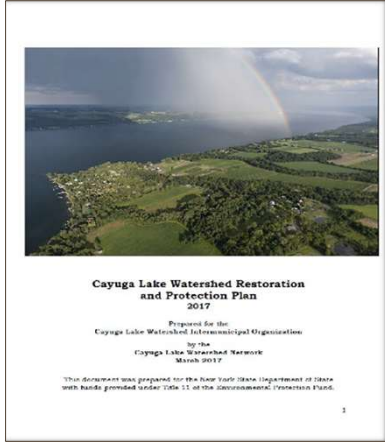
Cayuga Lake Watershed:

The watershed is spread over 7 counties and 50 municipalities

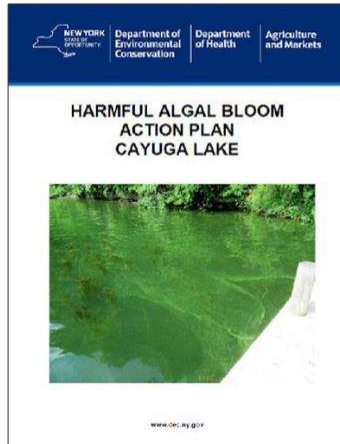


Guiding Documents

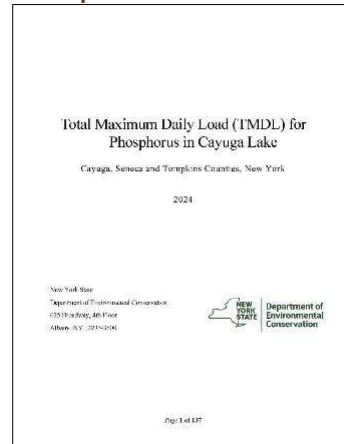
Restoration and Protection Plan



HABs Action Plan



Cayuga Lake TMDL for Phosphorus



Great Gully photo credit Bill Hecht

Threats:

Storm events increase runoff, sedimentation, pollutants, and damage from flooding



Photo credit: Rochester Dem & Chronicle, Interlaken



Cayuga Inlet, City of Ithaca



Photo credit: Ithaca Journal
Town of Ullyses, Jim Meeker
August 6, 2014

Threats:

Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) affect water quality making water undrinkable and unsafe for swimming and animals



HABs may make the water look bright green or like pea soup.



HABs may look like parallel streaks, usually green, on the water surface.



Wave at former Boy Scout Camp Barton, 2nd week of July
photo by Elise Skalwold, from Network HABs report & CSI data.



Shoreline of Goosewatch Winery, 2nd week of July, photo by
Thomas Bjorkman, Network HABs report & CSI data

Threats:

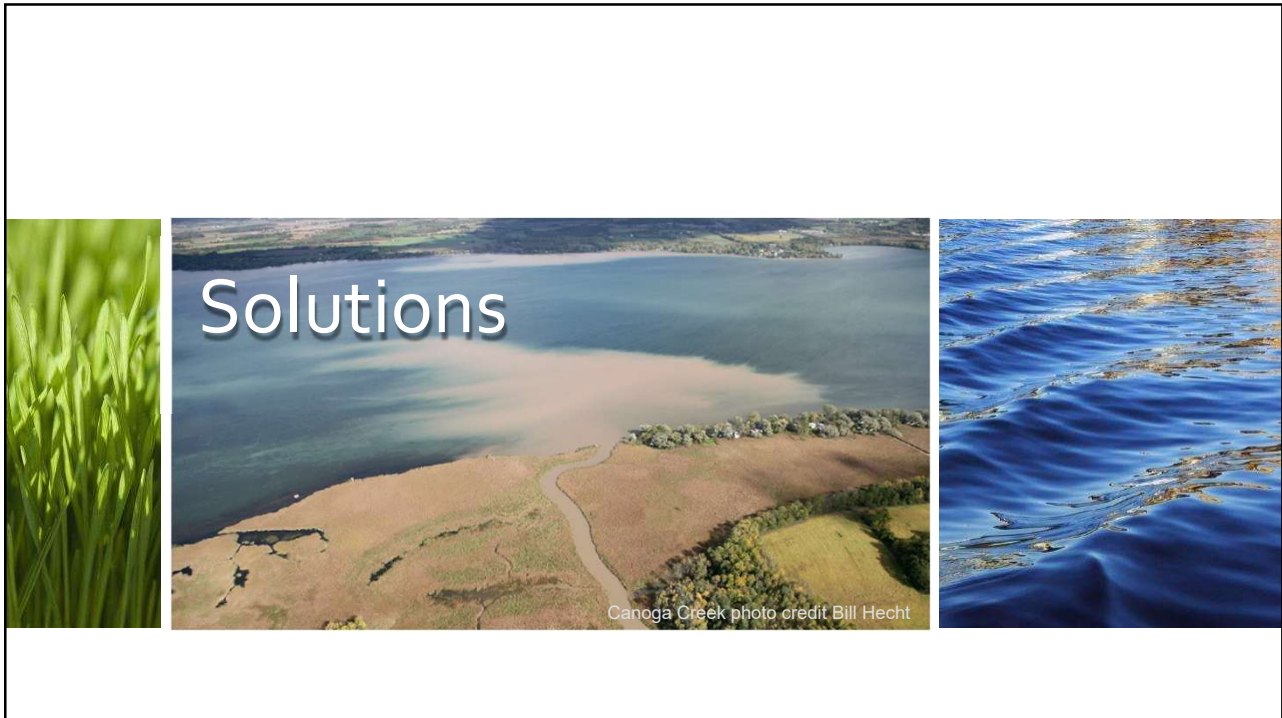
Invasive Species threaten biodiversity, impacts water quality and reduces accessibility to the water



Hydrilla



Zebra Mussel



Solutions

Canoga Creek photo credit Bill Hecht

Solutions 2024 Projects

Projects Highlighted in 2024

1. Town of Covert Salt Storage Facility
2. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment
3. Seneca County Road Ditch Assessment



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Solutions Municipal Representation:



Photo Credit: Finger Lakes Land Trust

Expressing support for efforts to better water quality

Our Watershed Manager and Executive Committee Members participate in groups representing municipal interests:

- Local task force on Hydrilla
- County level water quality committees, Cayuga county WQMA, Seneca and Schuyler County WQCC's, and Tompkins County WRC
- Cayuga Lake Watershed Network Issues Committee
- Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission DWSP₂ Advisory Committee

CWIO provides Letters of support and public comment for:

- Grant applications for local projects
- Research funding requests
- Environmental management and legislative proposals

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Solutions: Education



2019 Riparian Buffer Workshop
Photo credit: Tompkins County Water Resources Council

Outreach and Education are critical to implementing solutions

The CWIO partners with others to provide educational opportunities encouraging municipal to adopt practices that are protective of the lake.

The May 2024 and 2025 meetings offered trainings with a Certificate of Attendance for municipal board members.

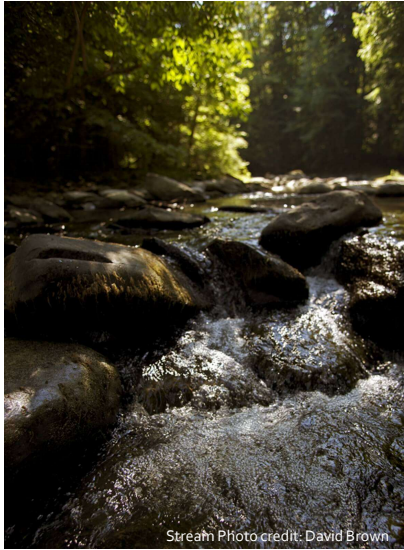
2025 CWIO Work Plan

The municipalities within the Cayuga Lake watershed recognize the enormous and irreplaceable ecological, economic and social value of Cayuga Lake, its tributaries, and its wetlands. The purpose of the Intermunicipal Organization is to bring the watershed municipalities together to work collectively and collaboratively on monitoring, protecting, and restoring the health of the watershed.

Village of Aurora photo credit Bill Hecht

2025 Work Plan

- Increase membership and engagement of municipalities
- Analyze financial needs
- Implement and pursue 3 projects
- Agriculture
- Watershed Manager Reporting and Oversight
- Communications
- Support Education and Training Events Occurring Throughout the Watershed
- State and Federal Connections
- Respond to Time Sensitive Issues of Relevance to the Watershed
- Monitoring



Stream Photo credit: David Brown

2025 Work Plan: Priority Focus Areas



Sediment Outflow at Taughannock. Photo credit: Bill Hecht

April 5, 2005 Taughannock Falls and Cayuga Lake view north photo by Bill Hecht

- Agriculture
- Ditches
- Land Use
- Drinking water
- Stormwater
- Wetlands

2025 Work Plan: Updated Funding Calculations

CWIO Dues Structure

Goal of total dues : \$130,000

Variables: shoreline, acreage in watershed, population density, taxable assessed value.

Phased approach: City of Ithaca Example

2026 : \$9,166

2027 : \$10,311

2028 : \$11,457



Canoga Marsh and Creek. Photo Credit: Bill Hecht

CWIO Goals:

	% of Payment	\$ Amt
Cayuga County	17.9%	\$7,760
Cortland County	5.7%	\$2,477
Ontario County	5.7%	\$2,455
Schuyler County	3.6%	\$1,573
Seneca County	20.7%	\$8,973
Tioga County	2.4%	\$1,055
Tompkins County	43.9%	\$19,039
<u>County Total</u>	100%	<u>\$43,333</u>

CWIO Goals:
Funding

Tompkins County

City of Ithaca	13.2%	\$11,457
Town of Caroline	1.0%	\$893
Town of Danby	1.5%	\$1,276
Town of Dryden	5.7%	\$4,935
Town of Enfield	1.8%	\$1,562
Town of Groton	1.2%	\$1,021
Town of Ithaca	8.1%	\$6,982
Town of Lansing	8.8%	\$7,633
Town of Newfield	1.7%	\$1,433
Town of Ulysses	4.3%	\$3,726
Village of Cayuga Heights	2.5%	\$2,161
Village of Dryden	1.0%	\$905
Village of Freeville	0.4%	\$349
Village of Lansing	2.4%	\$2,077
Village of Trumansburg	1.2%	\$1,030

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What can municipalities do?

- Support funding for a Watershed Manager
- Submit project ideas in 2025
- Keep in touch!



Questions?

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