



## News

## November 2021

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Summary of the October 27 CWIO Meeting.

- PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR SURVEYS. Thanks to students from the Cornell Institute of Public Administration (CIPA) who have agreed to help CWIO with a review of local laws, plans, and policies that municipalities have on the books within the watershed. This information was included as part of the [2000 Cayuga Lake Watershed Characterization](#)<sup>1</sup> (see page 315), but since then, many municipalities have enacted more regulations that are protective of water quality. Updating this information would be helpful to identify gaps in regulations/plans/policies that can positively impact water quality.
- CWIO approved the submission of a grant application that would bridge the gap in funds between what is needed to hire a Watershed Manager and what CWIO brings in from dues. If successful, CWIO envisions hiring a full-time Watershed Manager in 2022.
- Darby Kiley from Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability gave a presentation on regulatory tools available to municipalities to protect stream buffers and riparian corridors. Her presentation will be emailed. Resources provided:
  - [Town of Ithaca Stream Setback Regulations](#)<sup>2</sup>
  - [Town of Ulysses Standards for buffer areas](#)<sup>3</sup>
  - Tompkins County: [Enhancing Water Resources in Tompkins County: Benefits of Riparian Areas and Stream Buffers](#)<sup>4</sup>
  - Tompkins County: [Model Stream Buffer Ordinance](#)<sup>5</sup>
- Land Preservation: A large parcel of land owned by the Scouts of America in the Town of Covert (Seneca County) is still evolving. Camp Barton with ~2,600 feet of lake frontage is roughly 129 acres which includes Frontenac Creek and an impressive waterfall. The Baden-Powell Boy Scout Council has decided to sell approximately 39 acres of the property along Route 89. Another 6-11 acres will be sold for development along the lakeshore. The sale of the remaining ~90 acres is under tentative negotiation in a combined effort between the Village of Trumansburg and the Towns of Covert and Ulysses to purchase the land and allow for both scouting and other public uses.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cayugawatershed.org/documents/CLW\\_characterization\\_2000.pdf](http://www.cayugawatershed.org/documents/CLW_characterization_2000.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup> <https://ecode360.com/16064379>  
<sup>3</sup> <https://ecode360.com/35597697>  
<sup>4</sup> <https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/files2/planning/water-resources/EnhancingWaterResources.pdf>  
<sup>5</sup> [https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/files2/planning/water-resources/Tompkins\\_Co\\_Model\\_Stream\\_Buffer\\_Ordinance04-09.pdf](https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/files2/planning/water-resources/Tompkins_Co_Model_Stream_Buffer_Ordinance04-09.pdf)

## FUNDING AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)<sup>6</sup> works in partnership with waterfront communities across the State to address waterway issues, improve water quality and natural areas, guide development to areas with adequate infrastructure and services away from sensitive resources, promote public waterfront access, and provide for redevelopment of underutilized waterfronts. [See more.](#)

**Congratulations to the Village of Union Springs** for its completed plan, and to the **Village of Cayuga** for its current work to complete a plan.

### Funding Available for Water Infrastructure Upgrades

\$400 million is available for critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades through the [Water Infrastructure Improvement Act](#) (WIIA) and the [Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant Program](#) (IMG). Information and application documents are available on the [Environmental Facilities Corporation's website](#), If you have questions, e-mail [NYSWaterGrants@efc.ny.gov](mailto:NYSWaterGrants@efc.ny.gov) or call 518-402-6924.

### USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Invests \$11 Million on Partnerships to Restore Wetlands and Support Historically Underserved Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$11 million in five Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP) projects to bring together partners and landowners to voluntarily return critical wetland functions to agricultural landscapes. These partnerships are part of USDA's broader efforts to mitigate climate change by restoring wetlands while also prioritizing assistance to underserved communities. [Read more](#)<sup>7</sup>

## TRAININGS and EDUCATION

### 11/10, 3:00-4:45 Headwater Streams: Mapping and Planning.

In this session of the webinar series, the presenters demonstrate how to use online resources to identify mapped headwater streams and how to analyze topographic maps and aerial photos to find unmapped streams. They will walk through examples of map analysis to predict the occurrence of streams and discuss how newly identified streams can be incorporated into local conservation planning. There will also be a presentation exploring the role of headwater streams in densely developed cities and villages. [Register for the 11/10 webinar here.](#)

### 11/15 at 10:00: Developing Resilient Stormwater Systems with a Municipal Downspout Disconnect and Green Infrastructure.

This, 90-minute webinar provides an opportunity for municipalities to learn about the regulatory, financing, and implementation of coupled municipal downspout disconnection/Green Infrastructure projects from experts who have experience working with municipalities. Downspout disconnection and green infrastructure projects provide cost savings for wastewater utilities, decreased combined

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<sup>6</sup> <https://dos.ny.gov/local-waterfront-revitalization-program>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/easements/acep/?cid=nrcseprd1459249>

sewer overflow events, reduced demand on already stressed and aging pipes, and reduced storm water runoff in neighborhoods and local waterways. For more information, visit the [SU EFC website](#). [Register Here](#).

#### 11/17, 3:00-4:45 Headwater Streams: Protection

In this session of the series, our presenters will discuss state and federal regulatory protections for streams, the potential for local regulations, how to address stream issues in environmental reviews of land development projects, and approaches for crafting and adopting local laws and zoning for wetland protection. The session will end with a case study of a local stream protection law. [Register for the 11/17 webinar here](#).

#### 11/18/21 Hydrilla Monitoring and Treatment Around Cayuga Lake in 2021

Kathryn Monacelli from Finger Lakes PRISM program will report on 2021 hydrilla monitoring and control on Cayuga Lake and across the Finger Lakes. Michael Greer Regional Technical Specialist U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District Mike will report on the 2021 hydrilla projects in Ithaca at the south end of Cayuga Lake and on the east shore at Aurora.

To sign up, email [programs@cayugalake.org](mailto:programs@cayugalake.org).

#### 11/3: Headwater Streams: Values and Threats

The first session of this webinar series was held on 11/3. Presenters discussed the physical components, benefits of, and threats to intermittent and perennial headwater streams. Additional topics will include a discussion of vegetated streamside buffers and an introduction to basic protection methods.

[Click here](#) to view a recording of the webinar. [Click here](#) to view or download PDFs of the webinar presentation slides, as well as these links mentioned during the webinar:

- Model Local Laws: [click here](#)
- Life at the Water's Edge: [click here](#).
- The Scientific Imperative for Defending Small Streams and Wetlands: [click here](#).
- Best Management Practices for Priority Invasive Plants in the Lower Hudson Valley: [click here](#).
- Living in Harmony with Streams: A Citizen's Handbook to How Streams Work: [click here](#)

For more on benefits of headwater streams, check out the **virtual field trip** of the Mill Brook Preserve in New Paltz, NY to see the physical characteristics, habitats, water resource values, and effects of nearby land uses on the Mill Brook and its small tributaries: [click here](#)

## WATERSHED PROJECTS, PLANS, and MODEL LEGISLATION

### Drinking Water Source Protection Plans Underway

The [City of Ithaca](#), and a consortium of municipalities that provide drinking water for a large part of [Tompkins County](#), and [Cornell University](#) are all working to develop Drinking Water Source Protection Plans (DWSP2s). The NYS DEC and NYS Department of Health recently launched this new initiative to assist municipalities with proactively protecting their drinking water sources. Preparing a drinking water source protection plan involves forming a stakeholder group, inventorying potential sources of contamination, establishing critical areas to be protected, and creating an implementation

timeline. Following the plan completion, protection measures can be implemented to mitigate the risk of water supply contamination. [See more](#)<sup>8</sup>. [See the Town of Dryden's completed DWSP2](#)<sup>9</sup>.

**Congratulations to Dryden!**

Communities interested in working with a technical assistance provider, at no cost, to develop a DWSP2 plan for their source of drinking water are encouraged to visit the [DWSP2 webpage](#) and complete an [application online \(PDF\)](#).

## NEWS AND REPORTS

### Cayuga Lake Watershed Network News – Fall Issue

The [fall issue of the Network News](#)<sup>10</sup> is full of great articles:

- Incoming CLWN Board Chair, David Wolfe, speaks about priorities for 2021-22
- Network 2021 election & annual meeting report
- Statement of support for protection of the Bell Station land as a public-access preserve
- Defining Waters of the US (WOTUS) - comments submitted to US EPA.
- What is NY Proposal 2, Environmental Rights Amendment?
- Thanks to Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District for their help in the Lake Friendly Living program.
- Membership information
- Upcoming Events in the Cayuga Lake Watershed

### DEC and Village of Union Springs Announce Acquisition of 1.4 Acres on Cayuga Lake to Protect Water Quality.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and [Village of Union Springs](#) acquired a critical 1.4-acre parcel in Cayuga County. The parcel will help protect Cayuga Lake's public water supplies, which serve more than 9,000 households. The acquisition was supported by a \$259,600 Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grant from DEC that targets the protection of source waters.

"New York's Water Quality Improvement Project investments are further proof of the State's sustained efforts to prioritize protecting clean drinking water," DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said. "By working with partners like the village of Union Springs, DEC is safeguarding public health and the environment while ensuring a healthier lake and healthier communities. "

"The Village of Union Springs is excited about the completion of the water remediation project" Village of Union Springs Mayor Bud Shattuck said. "It is the only major stream that goes through the Village and buffers the properties between Frontenac Park and our local private marina. In cooperation with the New York State DEC, it enables the Village to enhance the water quality of Cayuga Lake. As New York State DOS recently approved our Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, the Village is committed to water quality in our streams and especially in Cayuga Lake."

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/115250.html>

<sup>9</sup> [http://dryden.ny.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Dryden\\_DWSP2\\_Plan.pdf](http://dryden.ny.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Dryden_DWSP2_Plan.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.cayugalake.org/wp-content/uploads/clwn\\_nn\\_i3\\_2021.pdf](https://www.cayugalake.org/wp-content/uploads/clwn_nn_i3_2021.pdf)

Albeit small in size, this critical parcel adds to the growing number of lands acquired to protect the lake. A stream runs through this lakefront property and empties into Cayuga Lake. The property will be mowed to allow for natural vegetation to grow, establishing a riparian buffer for both the lake and stream to protect the lake's water quality. In addition, the village will remove an existing structure on the parcel and prevent potentially harmful development and associated pollutants from entering the lake.

#### Lake Levels Surge by More than a Foot in Hours

[Article](#)<sup>11</sup> by Peter Mantius gives some of the reasons the lake is so high.

## RELATED WATER NEWS FROM OTHER REGIONS

### OWASCO: DEC and The Nature Conservancy Announce Acquisition of 161 Acres in Owasco Lake Watershed to Protect Water quality.

The NYS DEC and the Nature Conservancy have recently acquired 161 acres in the **Town of Sempronius** in the Owasco Lake watershed. The acquisition of the Ward property will help protect public water supplies and safeguard riparian buffers and wetlands. This critical acquisition is the second of several parcels the Conservancy is purchasing with funding from a \$1.1 million Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grant from DEC that specifically targets the protection of source waters.

Using the grant funds, the Conservancy has been identifying and protecting areas in the Owasco Lake watershed that have the most impact on the lake's water quality. The Ward property ranked in the top 10 in this assessment. The land will not be developed, allowing its natural features to help protect public water supplies by reducing sediment and nutrient loading, helping to reduce contributors to harmful algal blooms (HABs).

### OWASCO: Nutrient Monitoring in Tributaries to Owasco Lake

The Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA), Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division (OLWIPD) of the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC) and the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development (CCDP&ED) are working together on a project to collect certified water quality data from Owasco Lake tributaries this fall. This data will be used to support future Soil & Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) modeling as part of the Owasco Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan implementation. Funding for the watershed sampling program was provided to OWLA by Nucor Steel and the Columbian, Metcalf, and French Foundations. The OLWMC and CCDP&ED provided training and support to the OWLA volunteers who will be collecting the samples.

### ONONDAGA: Onondaga Lake Restoration Update

In a collaborative effort, the NYS DEC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Trustees for the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage settlement are overseeing implementation of a series of projects to restore and protect wildlife and water quality and increase recreational opportunities at Onondaga Lake. Project highlights include extending the Loop-the-Lake trail, creating 100 acres of native

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.fingerlakes1.com/2021/11/02/lake-levels-surge-by-more-than-a-foot-in-hours-docks-swamped-in-finger-lakes-as-rain-causes-worst-flooding-in-decades/>

grassland habitat, providing increased access to fishing and recreation, and preserving wetlands, restoring habitat, and conserving more than 1,400 acres within the Onondaga Lake watershed.

#### SENECA-KEUKA: Watershed Partnership News

This newsletter is full of accomplishments and updates. [See it here](#)<sup>12</sup>. Topics include:

- Progress on their Nine Element Plan. A Nine Element Watershed Management (9E) Plan is a type of clean water plan that details a community's water quality concerns and a strategy to address these concerns. 9E Plans are developed by people who live and work within the watershed with support from local and state agencies.
- Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program: A Citizen Science Success Story
- Agricultural projects: Seneca County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was awarded a Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) grant for the Seneca Lake Watershed. The CRF program helps farms reduce their operational impact on the environment and address the impacts of extreme weather events resulting from climate change.
- Voices from the Lake: Highlights people that spend an incredible amount of time and effort to protect and preserve the watershed.
- Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD): Managing the Rain
- Community outreach: The uninvited guest: Water chestnut
- Municipal voices: Green infrastructure in Downtown Geneva with funding from the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), this project will implement a number of green infrastructure practices. These include bioretention areas, permeable pavement, and rain harvest collection. Collectively these systems are expected to intercept and reduce 3.8 million gallons of stormwater runoff, and capture and treat an additional 2.8 million gallons on an annual basis. Multiple pollutants are found within stormwater runoff so reductions in sediment, salt, nutrient and metal loading are also be expected.
- Partnership Organizations: Features the Great Lakes Commission.

#### ONTARIO COUNTY: Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter

[Articles featured](#)<sup>13</sup> cover:

- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) treatment project: Ontario SWCD received \$50,000 to treat HWA in the county through a Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). This project addresses concerns from the loss of hemlock stands such as erosion leading to increased phosphorus deposition within lakes, increased water temperatures causing unfavorable conditions for aquatic species, and loss of native species and subsequent establishment of invasive species.
- Fishers Park Stream Stabilization in the Town of Victor to control erosion and sediment through Best Management Practices.
- Pasture Improvement Project: The Ontario County SWCD recently completed a project using funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Genesee River Watershed

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<sup>12</sup> [https://senecawatershedio.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/skwp\\_newsletter\\_210927.pdf](https://senecawatershedio.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/skwp_newsletter_210927.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [https://ce7ad8ca-6f47-43bd-b61b-](https://ce7ad8ca-6f47-43bd-b61b-3d519be4a464.filesusr.com/ugd/e6fc30_6375ed4df69144428e14ab1bf1350c7b.pdf)

[3d519be4a464.filesusr.com/ugd/e6fc30\\_6375ed4df69144428e14ab1bf1350c7b.pdf](https://ce7ad8ca-6f47-43bd-b61b-3d519be4a464.filesusr.com/ugd/e6fc30_6375ed4df69144428e14ab1bf1350c7b.pdf)

Phosphorus and Sediment Reduction Program. This project installed measures to control surface water runoff from a farm as well as set up a rotational grazing program to avoid denuding the soil. The project estimates savings of 12 tons of soil per year as well as nutrient savings through improved barnyard drainage.

- The Ontario County SWCD recently worked with a farm on an Erosion & Sediment Control Project aimed at managing erosive surface water flows on agricultural lands in the Canandaigua Lake watershed with funding from the FLX Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) program. A 1,700 ft. grassed waterway and 1/8th acre water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) with underground outlet were installed to control surface water and prevent soil loss. Before these projects, the fields had a loss of ~85 tons of soil per year through gully erosion. The grassed waterway now conveys the concentrated water flows across the field in a non-erosive manner with an estimated soil savings of ~50 tons of soil per year.

#### NEW MEXICO: EPA Responds to New Mexico Governor and Acts to Address PFAs Under Hazardous Waste Law.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it is acting upon a petition from Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico to tackle PFAS contamination under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). In responding to the petition, EPA outlined plans to initiate the rulemaking process for two new actions under the hazardous waste law, reflecting the agency's focus on using best available science and leveraging authorities to combat this shared challenge.

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, GenX, and many other chemicals. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States since the 1940s. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they do not break down, and they can accumulate over time. Evidence indicates that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.

Learn more about EPA's Council on PFAS: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epa-actions-address-pfas>.