

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization

CWIO Priority Focus Areas

The focus areas below were determined in 2022 through polling of CWIO Member Municipalities in an effort to be able to maintain the concentration of CWIO work by focusing on specific areas of concern. These general areas were derived from the Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Plan.

When possible, CWIO efforts in 2023 should keep these priorities in mind:

Agriculture	address actions that will help reduce farm runoff and sediments from reaching waterways.
Ditches	Develop best management practices for municipal ditch systems to mitigate impacts from agriculture, high stormwater events, and salinization of the lake. Consider how tiling practices affect ditch water loads and how to mitigate. Offer training and education on this subject.
Land Use	Work with municipalities to understand the link between allowable land uses and water contamination. Develop materials for municipalities such as how and why to preserve critical environmental areas, importance of preserving farmlands and forests, wetlands protections, preserving vegetation along streams, protecting steep slopes. Provide training and model policies/legislation.
Drinking water	Take actions to protect both surface and ground water including topics such as information on the impacts of development, recommend protective measures and best management practices, assist in plans that outline protective measures, help find funding for efforts that protect drinking water, and provide model polices and regulations.
Stormwater	Increase awareness of impacts of improperly managed stormwater and promote best management practices. For example: explore disconnecting downspouts, sediment and retention ponds, rain gardens, ditching practices, watershed-wide stormwater management strategies, and other measures that slows large stormwater events.
Wetlands	Provide outreach about the importance of preserving wetlands in relation to flooding, sedimentation, and water quality. Assist to map and inventory local wetlands to be more accurate than state and federal maps. Provide model polices/regulations/practices to improve protections of wetlands and riparian corridors/buffers.