



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Great Lakes Program Updates

June 8th, 2022

Black River Watershed Conference

Emily Fell; Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator

NYSDEC, in partnership with Cornell Water Resources Institute



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Great Lakes Program Report

PROTECTING, CONSERVING, RESTORING,
AND ENHANCING NEW YORK'S GREAT LAKES

2018-2020

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor | Basil Seggos, Commissioner



Program Mission

“To protect, restore, conserve and enhance the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters and associated natural resources within the Great Lakes basin for sustainable use and enjoyment by the people of New York”.



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NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda (2014)



Clean Up Pollution Sources and Restore Beneficial Uses

1. Virtually Eliminate Discharges of Persistent Toxic Substances
2. Control Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loadings
3. Accelerate the Delisting of New York's Areas of Concern



Conserve Natural Resources

4. Combat Invasive Species
5. Conserve and Restore Native Fish and Wildlife Biodiversity and Habitats
6. Conserve Great Lakes Water Supplies



Promote Resilient Communities & Sustainable Development

7. Enhance Community Resiliency and Ecosystem Integrity
8. Promote Smart Growth, Redevelopment and Adaptive Reuse
9. Enhance Recreation and Tourism Opportunities
10. Plan for Energy Development

NEW YORK'S GREAT LAKES BASIN: *Interim ACTION AGENDA*



Coordinated by
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Great Lakes Watershed Program

*In partnership with state and federal agencies, municipalities, academic institutions,
non-profits, and community partners throughout NYS's Great Lakes basin*



Andrew M. Cuomo - Governor



Joe Martens - Commissioner



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Cross-Cutting Priorities

- Promote Partnerships and Coordinated Action
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- Enhance Coordinated Science, Monitoring and Information Management
- Support Environmental Education and Outreach Initiatives

Climate Smart Communities

Earn Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience



800
Climate Smart
Communities



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Black River Initiative

- Black River Initiative Progress report was released in 2020
- Annual newsletter for 2021 developed in partnership with Tug Hill Commission
- Early fall will be compiling articles for 2022 newsletter

Winter 2021



Black River Trail.
Photo by Emily Fell.

Black River Initiative

Accomplishments and Challenges of 2021

In 2021, watershed stakeholders eased into a "new normal" for watershed coordination and found opportunities to continue advancing progress despite the myriad of challenges faced during the pandemic. Virtual connections substituted for past in-person meetings; outdoor meetings replaced conference rooms; and, collective individual actions have been shared as part of group efforts. Through our ability to adapt, progress was able to continue towards meeting the ambitious goals of the Black River Initiative, and advance additional recommendations as identified in the [10 Year Progress report](#) released by the Tug Hill Commission and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Great Lakes Program in 2020. The continued progress made in 2021 to sustain the Black River watershed land and water resources are highlighted in this newsletter. Please take a moment to reflect on this year's accomplishments and challenges, and consider what we can do by working together in 2022. We thank you all for your involvement and support of the Black River Initiative, and hope to see you soon! Happy New Year!

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Black River in Watson. Photo by Emily Fell.



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DEC awards for Water Quality Improvement Projects in the watershed

- \$7.8 million was awarded for 15 projects in 2021
- Includes wastewater treatment improvements, and a vacuum truck to improve stormwater management in Jefferson County
- Implements actions in the Black River 9 Element Plan



Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange

- Working with k-12 teachers and engaging students to promote Great Lakes literacy and stewardship in partnership with NY Sea Grant and other environmental educators
- Day in the Life of Lake Ontario- St. Lawrence River project planned for 2022, with funding from EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative



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Looking to implement projects? There are grants for that!

- NYS Dept of Agriculture and Markets
- US Department of Agriculture
- US Dept. of Homes and Community Renewal
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- NYS Consolidated Funding Application – due July 29th

The screenshot shows the 'Consolidated Funding Application Resources' website. The header includes the NYS logo and navigation links for Services, News, Government, and COVID-19. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area is titled 'Available Resources' and features three columns of information:

Regional Economic Development Councils	Standalone CFA Programs	Workforce Development Initiative
 See the programs available through the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative. resources.ny.gov/regional-economic-development-councils	 See the programs available through New York State.	 See the programs available through the Workforce Development Initiative.



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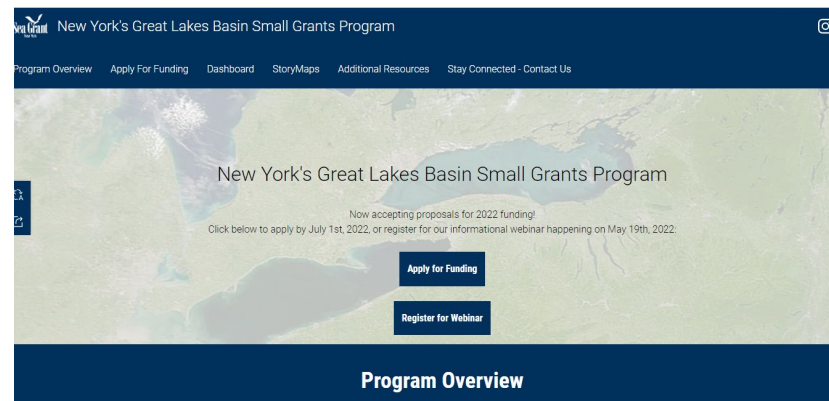
DEC Water Quality Improvement Program

- Wastewater treatment improvements (up to \$10,000,000)
- Non Ag Non Point Source Abatement
- Salt Storage (50% match required)
- Aquatic Connectivity Restoration
- Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection
- Non Ag Non Point Source Planning
- Due Under CFA July 29th



NY Great Lakes Funding opportunities

- NY Sea Grant Great Lakes Small Grants – Due July 1st, \$50,000 available, no match required. Implements actions under GLAA and other plans.



Other Upcoming funding:

- Cornell Water Resources Institute Competitive RFP



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Thank You

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