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DEC Great Lakes Program and Black River Watershed Updates

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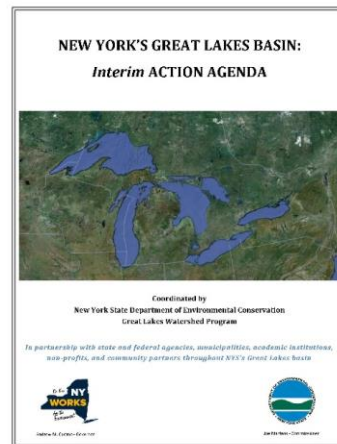
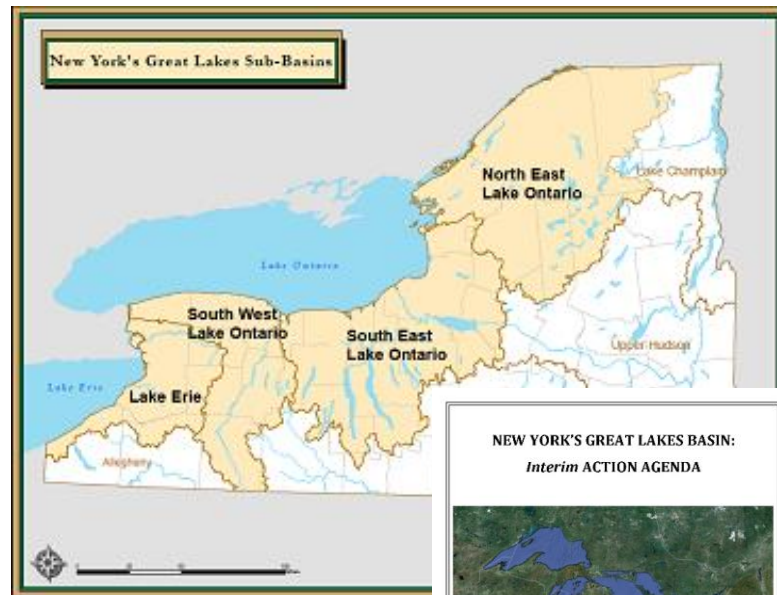
Whetstone Gulf

June 2016

DEC Great Lakes Program

Supporting coordination in the Black River and Great Lakes Watershed

- Northeast sub basin work group meetings
- Draft work plan developed
- State and Federal Agency coordination



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NY GLAA Highlights 2014-2016

- NY Natural Heritage Program/DEC Great Lakes Riparian Restoration (“Trees for Tribs”) Opportunity Assessment
<http://nynhp.org/treesfortribsgl>
- Community Risk and Resiliency Act
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/102559.html>
- DOS Geographic Information Gateway
<http://opdgig.dos.ny.gov/>
- NYSERDA wind energy siting tool:
<http://www.ebd.mapny.info/>

New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda Project Highlights

2014-2016

Advancing Ecosystem-Based Management in NYS's Great Lakes

In spring 2016, New York will celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the passage of the NY Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Act (OGLECA), which called for an innovative, holistic and participatory approach to environmental management called Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM).

Since 2010, New York State has received \$125 million in federal Great Lakes funds to support 271 projects.

DEC's Great Lakes watershed program is promoting an EBM approach by engaging stakeholders in collaborative efforts to identify and implement projects that achieve water quality and conservation, protect natural resources, promote sustainability, create resiliency to climatic changes, and promote state recreation and renewable energy goals in the Great Lakes basin.

A public workshop was held in early 2015 to announce the release of the Interim NY Great Lakes Action Agenda and to begin the implementation process. Since then, quarterly stakeholder work group meetings have been held in each of the four identified sub-basins (northeast, southeast and southwest Lake Ontario plus Lake Erie) of NY's Great Lakes. Diverse attendees, including federal and state agency partners, not for profit organizations, county soil and water conservation districts, county planners, educational and research institutions and many others, have identified regional needs and priority projects that can be addressed using an EBM approach. This regionally focused coordination will support stakeholder efforts to better engage and collaborate with local, state and federal partners, leverage existing resources and expertise, and attract additional state and federal resources to implement New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda. For more information, visit <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/98851.html>. To become involved with quarterly work group meetings, contact Great Lakes program staff at: GreatLakes@dec.ny.gov

EBM Opportunities Identified by NY Great Lakes Stakeholders

- Reducing beach closures and nutrient loading by promoting and incentivizing on-site septic maintenance and upgrades
- Implementing and incentivizing riparian buffers and other agricultural best management practices to achieve multiple benefits
- Engaging communities in planning to increase resiliency to potential climate change impacts and flood events
- Enhancing fish and wildlife habitat and connectivity through ecological restoration and culvert enhancement projects
- Working with Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) to better coordinate invasive species control efforts
- Advancing more natural (vs. structural) approaches to protect shoreline infrastructure and conserve and restore aquatic habitat



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NY GLAA Highlights 2014-2016

NY Sea Grant/DEC Great Lakes Program

- NY Great Lakes Clearinghouse
www.nyseagrant.org/nygreatlakes
- Small Grants
- Coastal outreach/ Nature Based Shorelines
- NY Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange (NYGLE3)



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Black River 9 element watershed management plan

- Compiles existing plans, resources, modeling, and information
- Meets the minimum 9 elements required by EPA for watershed management plans
- Can be used to identify projects and leverage state/federal funding
- State approved

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Black River
EPA 9 Element Watershed Management Plan:
Reducing Phosphorus, Nitrogen, and Sediment
Loading in Priority Sub Watersheds



View of Fulton Chain of Lakes, the headwaters of the Black River, from the summit of Rocky Mtn. Photo by Emily Sheridan.

Developed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, in cooperation with the Tug Hill Commission and Jefferson and Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, to meet EPA requirements for Watershed Management Plans.

Black River EPA 9 element Watershed Management Plan 3-14-15



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9 Element Plan requirements

- A. Pollution loads sources identified & quantified in watershed
- B. Identify target or goal to reduce pollutant load to reach water quality goal(s)
- C. BMPs to get reductions (estimated load reduction/BMP to achieve total reduction needed to improve WQ)
- D. How to pay for and implement BMPs identified in C
- E. Stakeholder input & getting help at local level to implement plan
- F. Schedule to implement C
- G. Progress on implementation of BMPs
- H. Criteria to assess water quality improvement due to implementation of BMPs
- I. Monitoring plan to collect water quality data to measure water quality improvement against criteria in H



Black River Initiative newsletter 2015



Partners continue progress to achieve goals in the Black River

Throughout 2015, partners in the Black River Watershed have been working collaboratively to advance [The Black River Initiative](#). Partners including Jefferson and Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Jefferson and Lewis County Planning, the City of Watertown, Tug Hill Commission, and the Department of Environmental Conservation have advanced actions identified by the



Black River Watershed Management Plan (WMP). Efforts have included the Black River Watershed Conference, an addendum to the existing Black River WMP, the Factory Street Reconstruction, invasive species management and green infrastructure projects. These efforts are essential to ensure the 1.2 million acres of land within the watershed continues to provide communities with quality natural resources.

Addendum to Black River Watershed Management Plan will meet federal guidance

Progress is underway, led by the DEC Great Lakes Program, DEC Division of Water, and the Tug Hill Commission, to update the existing Black River Watershed Management Plan (WMP). An addendum to the existing WMP will meet the Environmental Protection Agency's minimum 9 element guidance for watershed management plans, and allow for the plan to be used to leverage federal funding, as well

as target management actions to achieve measurable results in the most degraded sub-watersheds. The addendum identifies existing phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment loading in high priority sub-watersheds, identifies specific management actions needed to address loading issues, estimates load reductions that will be achieved by management actions, identifies lead organizations that will implement (cont. on p. 2)

| | | | |
|--|-----|--|---|
| Lead Organization | | | |
| Responsible for Black River Watershed Management | 1/2 | Black River Watershed | 8 |
| State of New York | 2 | State of New York Division of Water | 6 |
| Local Government | 2 | Lewis County Planning | 5 |
| Non-Profit | 3 | Black River Watershed Conference | 7 |
| Local Government | 3 | Tug Hill Commission | 4 |
| Local Government | 2 | City of Watertown | 9 |
| Local Government | 2 | Jefferson and Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation Districts | 3 |
| Regional Conservation Partnership Program | 8 | | |
| State of New York | 5 | | |

- Jefferson County Storm water Coalition
- DEC Great Lakes
- Village of West Carthage, Lyons Falls, City of Watertown
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Tug Hill Commission
- Let us know if you have projects to include for next year!



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Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators

Train the coordinator event held May 20th at Whetstone Gulf

- Citizen Scientists assess wastewater stream water quality through macroinvertebrate sampling
- Observed mayflies, caddisflies, and stoneflies- all indicators of **GOOD** water quality
- WAVE data informs statewide water quality monitoring and management

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/92229.html>



Culvert Assessments and enhancements

Protocols assess culverts for

- vulnerability,
- fish passage, and
- condition,

are uploaded to a statewide database at

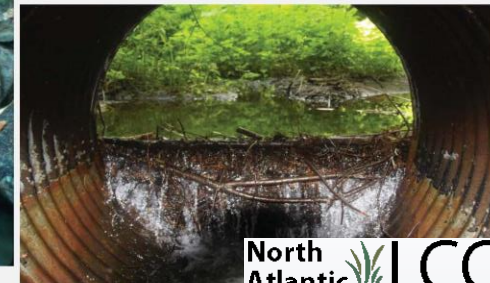
www.streamcontinuity.org

and used to identify and fund enhancement projects.



The North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative

Unified Stream Crossing Assessment Protocols



Funding and Assistance Programs

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Great Lakes Action Plan II 2015-2019

- Prevention and control of Invasive Species
- Reducing nutrient runoff that contributes to harmful and nuisance algae blooms
- Restoring habitat to protect native species
- Science based adaptive management
- <http://greatlakesrestoration.us/>



Sacket's Harbor



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Funding and Assistance Programs

NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

- Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program
- Climate Resilient Farming Soil Health Mini Grants
- www.grantsgateway.ny.gov



Black River in Pamela



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Funding and Assistance Programs

NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation

- Clean Water Grant
- Drinking Water Grant
- Green Innovation Grant Program
- State Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Fund



Black River at Factory Street



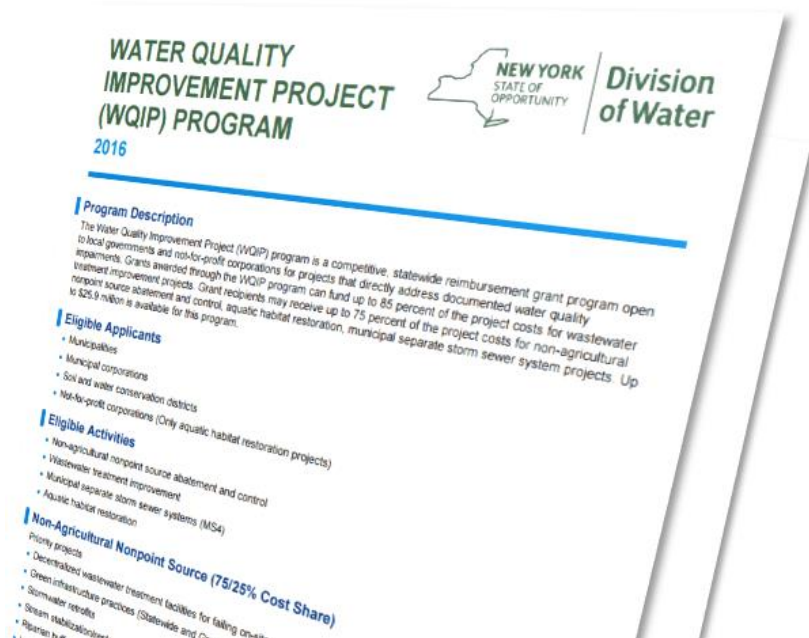
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Funding & Assistance Programs: CFA

Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP):

Reimbursement grant program
(75/25% Cost Share) Point and
Nonpoint source

- Decentralized wastewater treatment
- Green infrastructure practices
- Storm water retrofits
- Stream stabilization/restoration
- Riparian buffers
- In-waterbody controls for nutrients



Funding and Assistance Programs: CFA Dept. Of State and Dept. Of Parks and Recreation

- Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Brownfield Opportunity Areas
- EPF Parks, Preservation and Heritage grant funding



Black River at Brookfield Trail



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Thank You

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