



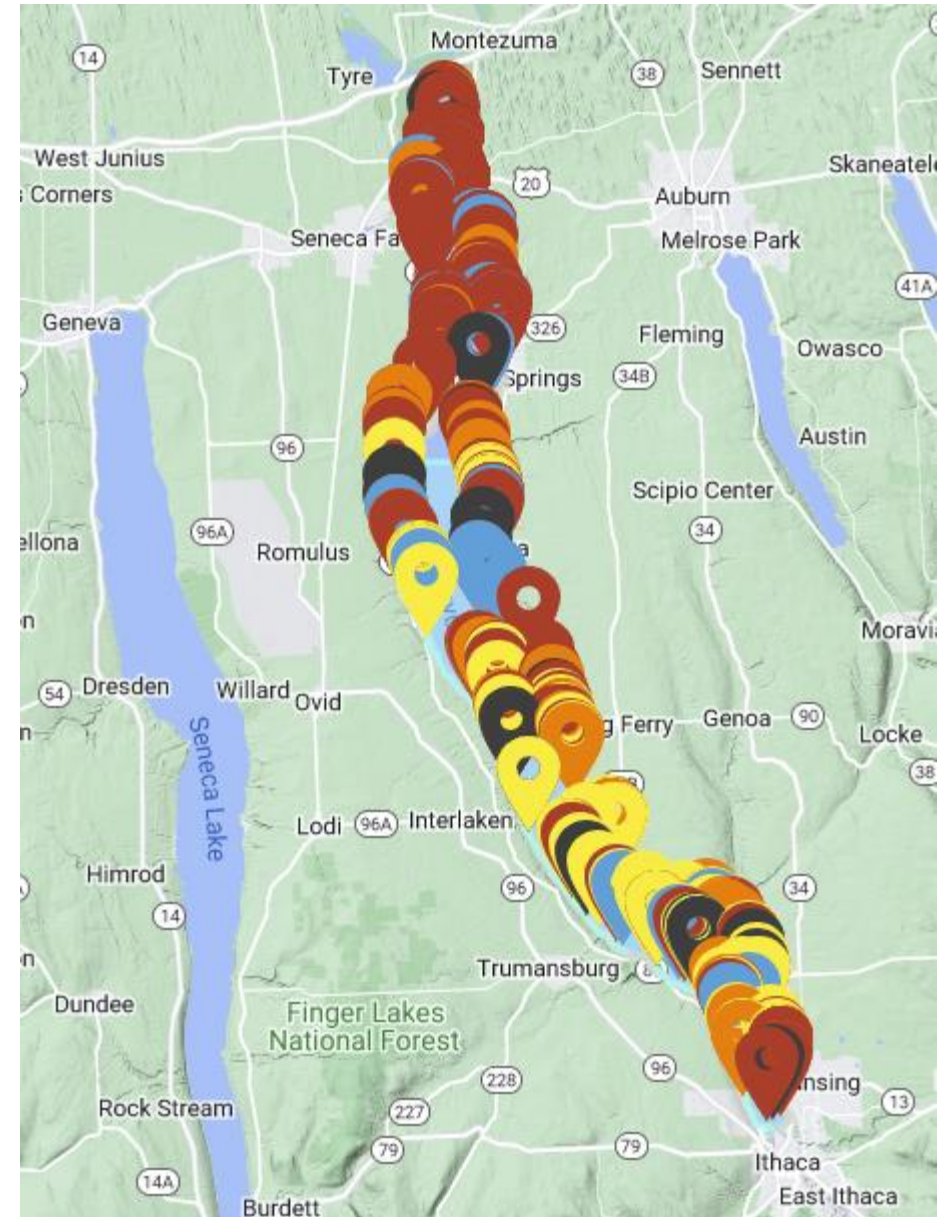
# Care for Cayuga— Project Proposal Overview

July 2024



## • HAB's in Cayuga Lake

- Beach closures, warnings, risks to municipal water supplies
- Excessive phosphorous entering the lake from tributaries is the problem
- DEC HABs Action Plan – model based on land use & permits
  - 80% of agricultural runoff (Best practices, cover crops, barnyard surfaces, manure spreading, etc.)
  - 8% All point sources such as municipal wastewater treatment (already regulated)
  - 5% – developed / residential (Lake Friendly Living)
  - 1% septic (Inspections and upgrades in process)
  - 6% natural / Forested lands



# DEC Recommended actions to reduce HAB's in Cayuga Lake

## (Short Term 1 to 3 years)

- Reduce phosphorous load into Cayuga Lake by 30%
- Number one action recommendation of DEC report is accelerate Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) actions including:
  - Cover crops
  - Field erosion control projects (Control basins, retention ponds)
  - Stabilize drainage swales with vegetation or check dams
  - Stream bank stabilization
  - Implement runoff reduction Best Management Practices for farmsteads
  - Establish and rehabilitate riparian buffers along tributaries

### HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM ACTION PLAN CAYUGA LAKE



# **DEC Recommended actions to reduce HAB's in Cayuga Lake**

## **(Mid Term 3 to 5 years)**

- Increase Soil and Water Conservation District staffing to address runoff
- Implement Agricultural Environmental Management Plans to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff on crop farms and on non-Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
- Establish a program to monitor, inspect and update deficient septic systems
- Purchase equipment to be shared across SWCDs
- Implement a comprehensive municipal stormwater program
- Install stream stabilization features on select tributaries as identified by local SWCD
- Plant trees & shrubs along shoreline & tributaries of municipal and landowners
- Implement livestock exclusion programs to reduce livestock access to water bodies
- Implement manure management techniques
- Acquire and conserve strategic lands within watershed to support riparian buffers

## **DEC Recommended actions to reduce HAB's in Cayuga Lake (Long Term 5 to 10 years)**

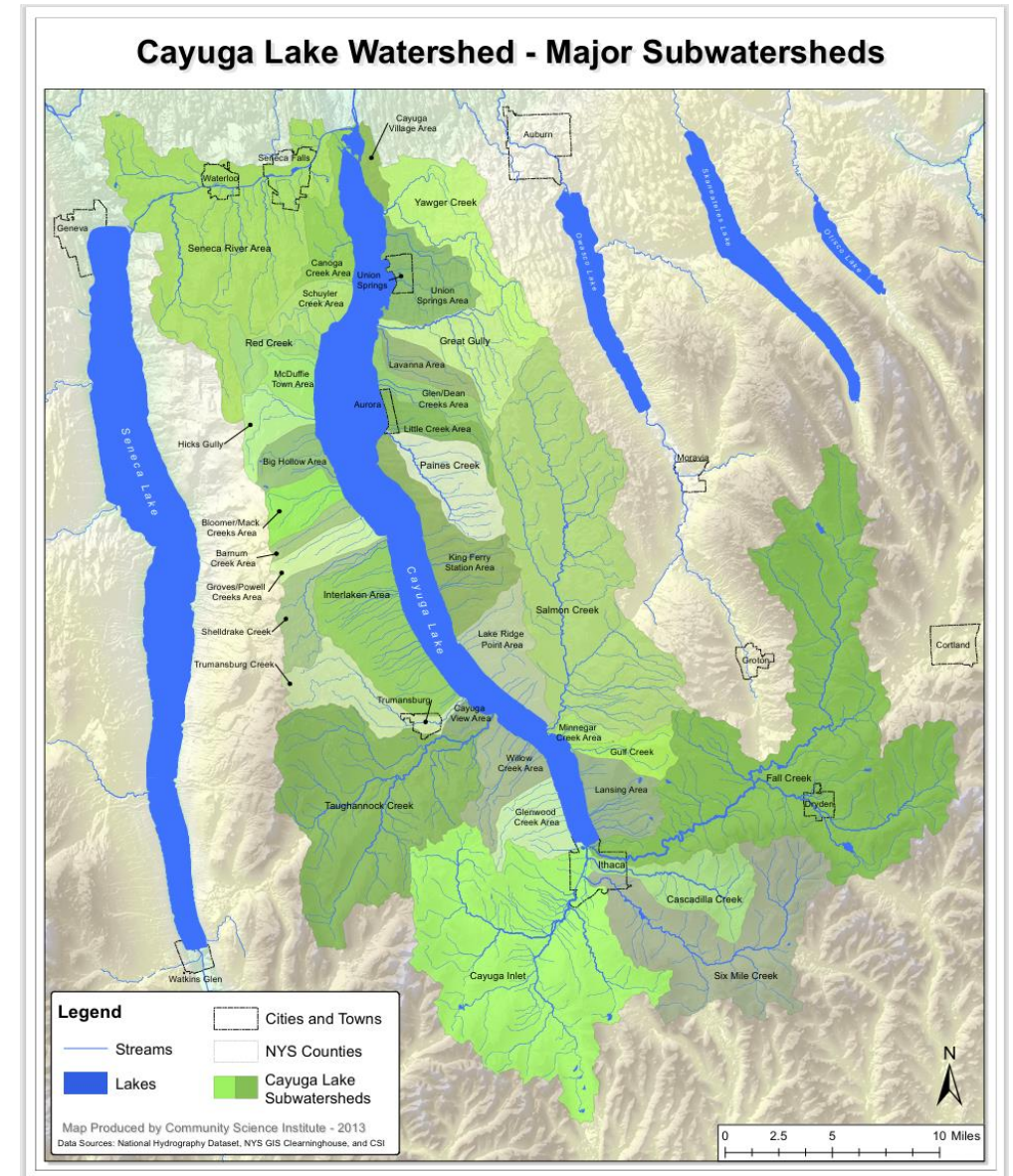
- Acquire and conserve sensitive lands to improve water quality
- Construct wetlands or enhance / restore existing wetlands
- Investigate municipal sewer installation along Seneca County lakeshore (in process)
- Investigate municipal sewer installation on Honoco and Lake roads in Ledyard & Genoa
- Evaluate drainage tile systems and test for nutrients, implement BMPs

# Proposed Project – Care for Cayuga

- Seneca Pure Waters and Owasco Watershed Lake Association have programs to help fund nutrient and sediment reduction projects

## Proposal

- Develop and launch a nutrient (phosphorous) and sediment reduction program in collaboration with the Soil and Water Conservation and other key partners:
  - Start with Seneca County as a pilot project launch in late 2024
  - Expand to Tompkins and Cayuga Counties in late 2025 or early 2026
  - Aspire to someday expand to their entire watershed!

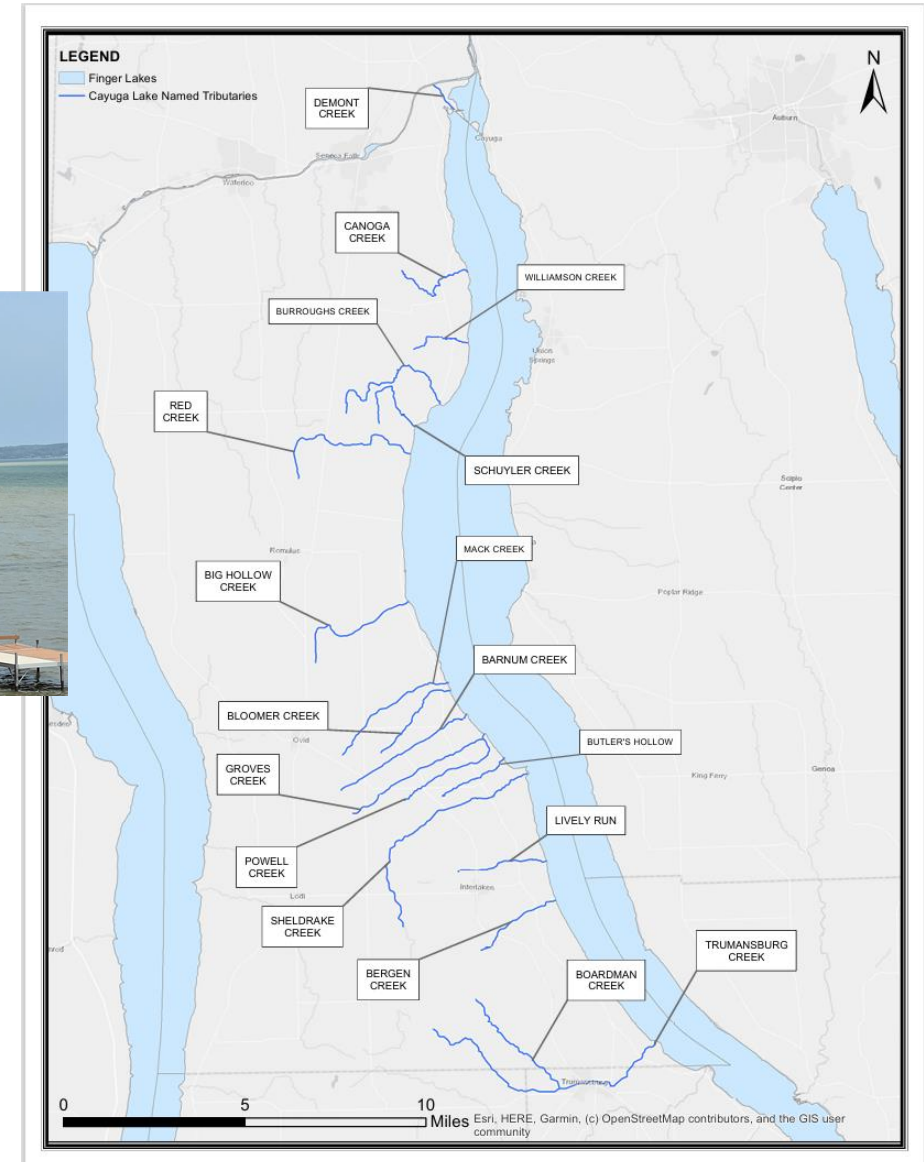


# Fund Raising Strategy

- Raise awareness of the opportunity to reduce runoff of specific tributaries in proximity to local residents.
- Many lake front residents witness sediment flow into the lake from specific creeks.
- Many would like to see reductions in creek sediment flow into the lake and would like to support action.
- For pilot - work with Seneca County Soil and Water to identify specific opportunities to reduce runoff into Cayuga Lake that require support

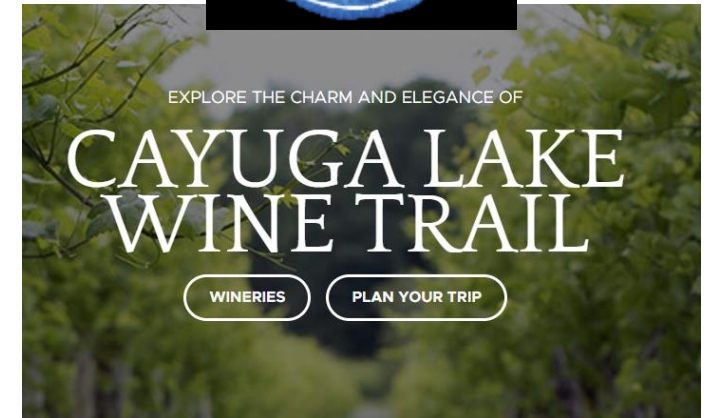


## Seneca County Tribs to Cayuga Lake



# Fund Raising Options

- Funding would be above and beyond normal fund raising for CLWN operations
- Fund raising ideas may include
  - Annual appeal on a county basis with personal asks
  - Other fund raising projects
    - Cayuga Lake Wine Trail event?
    - Cayuga Lake Arts?
    - Wineries
- Fund raising target for first years \$5000 to \$10,000



# Program Goals

- Co-Fund 2-3 water quality projects per year in collaboration with each Soil and Water District
- Provide visible projects that CLWN members and the community can see via our newsletters and first hand along roadsides via signage
- Plenty of examples and opportunities to see in the Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Reports

**2023 Agriculture Projects**

## WATER & SEDIMENT CONTROL BASIN



Three Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCoBs) were installed on a farm in the Town of Ovid to address the significant erosion that was occurring in a crop field. The WASCoBs will decrease the slope length of the field which will slow the water and reduce soil loss and erosion. Not only will this reduce erosion in the fields, but it will collect storm runoff and release it slowly, decreasing the impact from flooding downstream as well as reduce sediments and nutrients from entering Seneca Lake. This was of prime importance to the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association who utilized their Sediment and Nutrient Pollution Reduction Program funding to contribute 41% towards the project. Seneca County Soil and Water utilized FLOWPA funds to cover 34% of the total project costs and the landowner contributed the remaining 25%. Seneca County Soil & Water contributed staff time and engineering as in-kind towards the project. In total, it is estimated that the 3 WASCOBs will eliminate approximately 45 tons of soil per year from entering Seneca Lake.



 Thank you to the landowner, [Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association](#) & [Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance](#) for providing funding for these great projects that will protect Seneca Lake!

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Thank you for your interest in our new Care for Cayuga pilot project -  
a work in progress!

Questions, including about how you can support this work can be directed to CLWN  
Board Member, Charlie Cappellino - [charlie.cappellino@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.cappellino@gmail.com) and CLWN  
Steward, Liz Kreitinger - [steward@cayugalake.org](mailto:steward@cayugalake.org)