

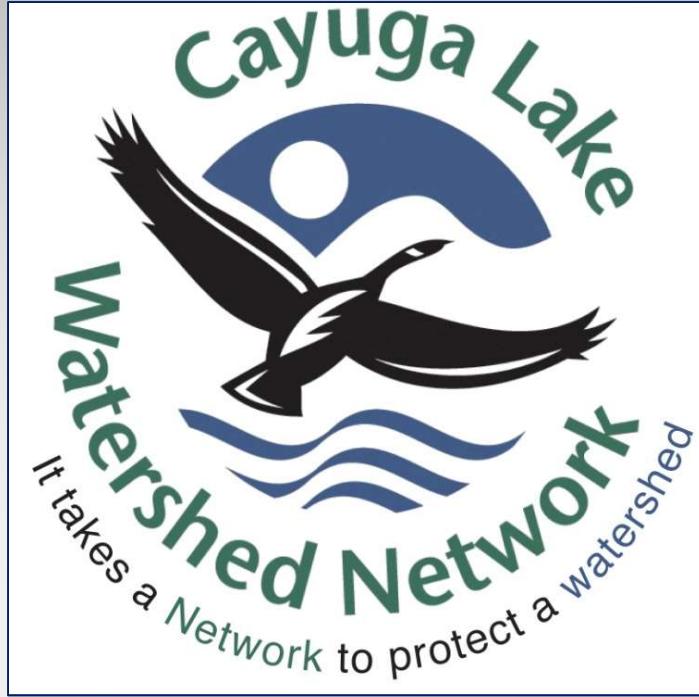
A photograph of Cayuga Lake at sunrise or sunset. The sky is filled with soft, warm orange and yellow hues. A dense layer of fog hangs over the water, obscuring the far shore. In the middle ground, several wooden docks extend from the shoreline into the lake. The docks are partially visible through the fog. On the right side, a cluster of tall evergreen trees stands prominently. The overall atmosphere is serene and hazy.

Cayuga Lake: The big picture and a new plan.

Canoga Firehouse May 6, 2017

Hilary Lambert

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network



Mission Statement

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network identifies key threats to Cayuga Lake and its watershed, and it advocates for solutions that support a healthy environment and vibrant, sustainable communities.

Motto:

***It takes a Network to
protect a watershed.***

**What is the Cayuga Lake
watershed?**

What is a Network?

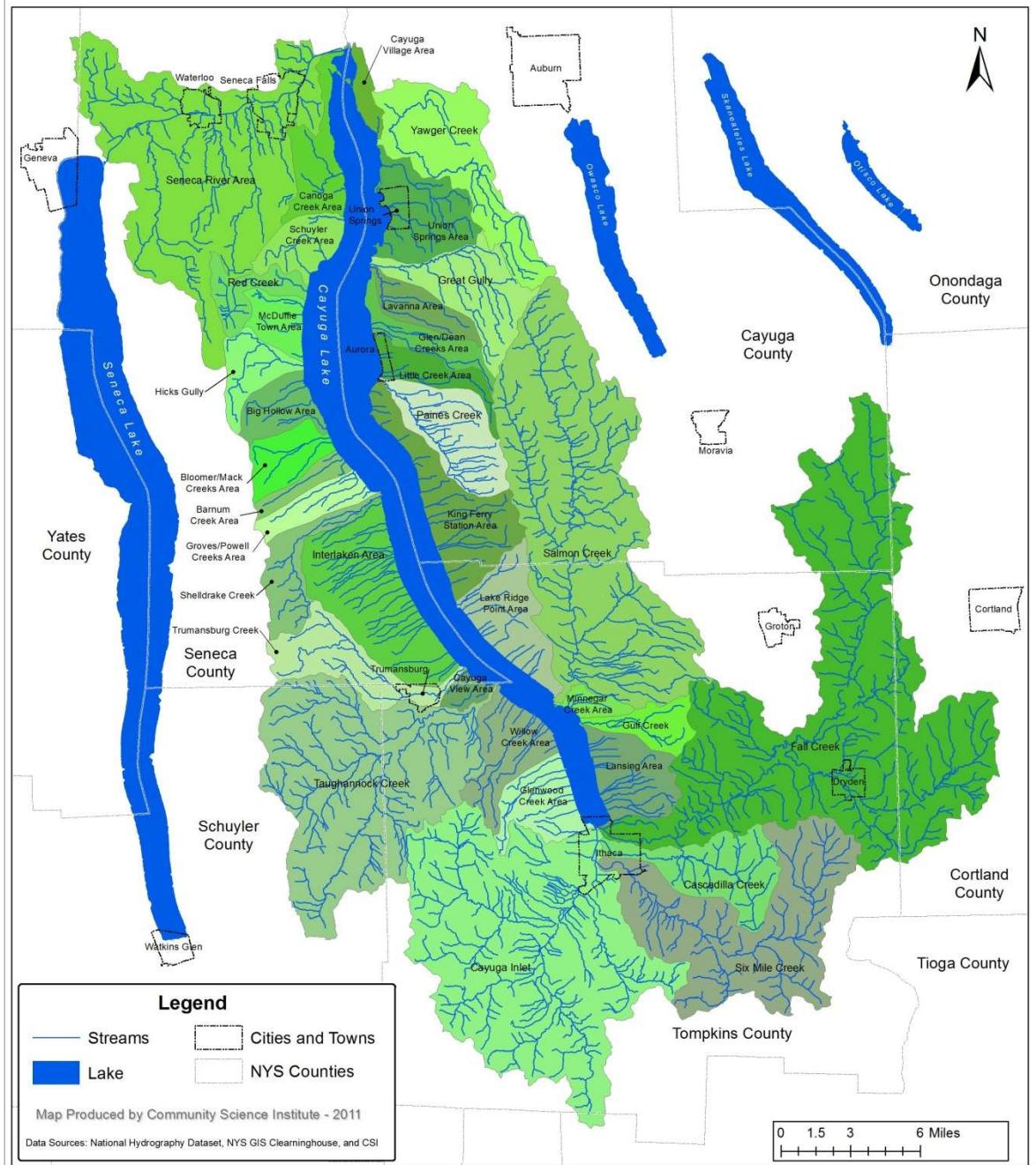
What is a Watershed?

The Cayuga Lake Watershed is....
.....all the land that drains to the lake.
Including the streams, creeks and lake.

The Cayuga Lake watershed = 785 square miles of land, creeks and lake.

Each of the 37 major creeks (and hundreds of smaller streams) is in its own subwatershed.

Cayuga Lake Watershed - Major Subwatersheds







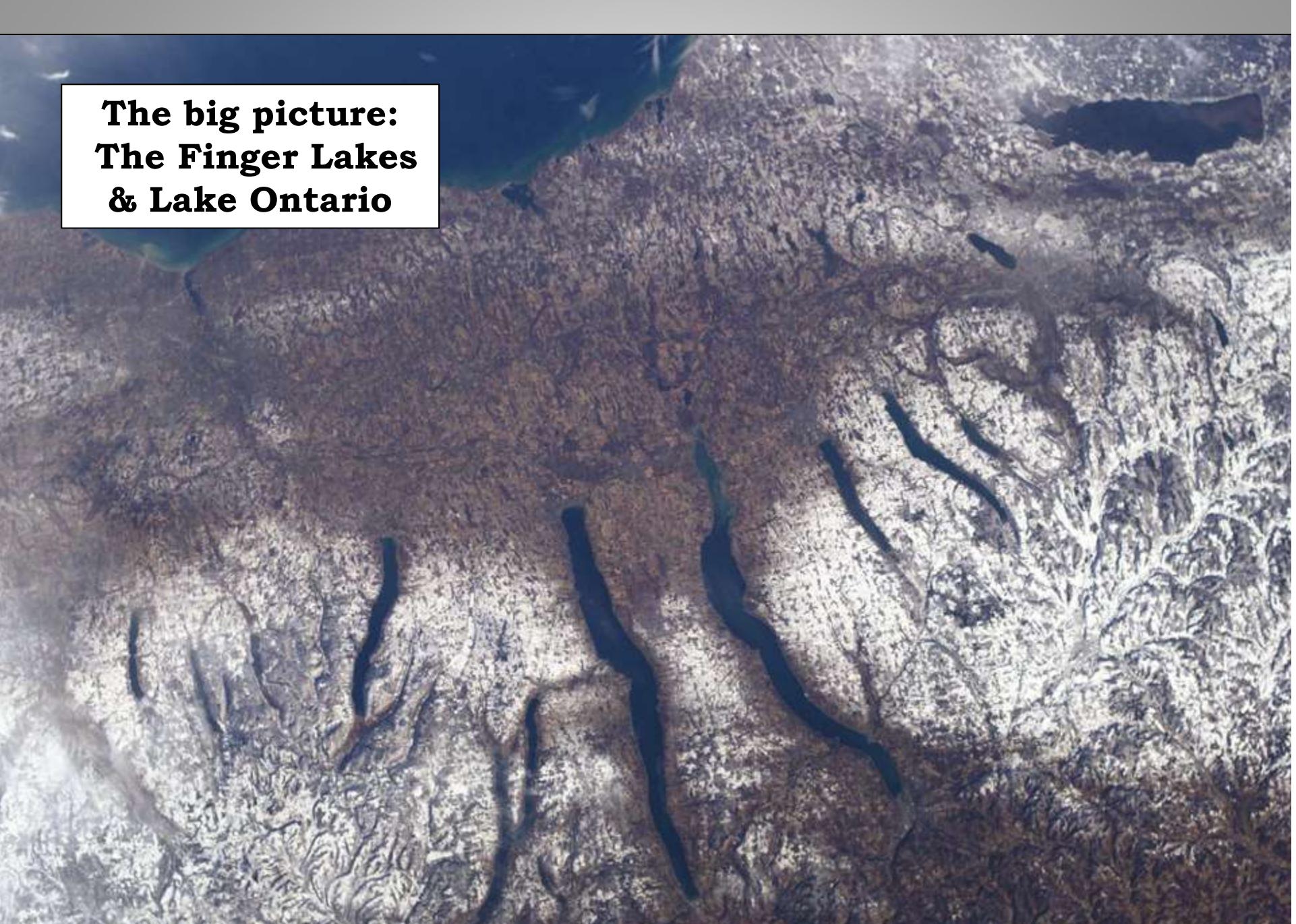




**The Oswego
River/Finger Lakes
drainage basin is
part of the Great
Lakes Basin.**

(Karl Musser, USGS)



An aerial photograph showing the Finger Lakes region of New York State and the adjacent part of Lake Ontario. The lakes are long and narrow, with deep blue water contrasting against the brown and green terrain of the surrounding land. The terrain appears rugged and somewhat arid, with sparse vegetation. In the upper left corner, a white rectangular box contains the text.

**The big picture:
The Finger Lakes
& Lake Ontario**

Network: everyone who cares about and wants to protect the lake and creeks and water quality.

Who is “everyone”?

Well, you of course.

And community groups – church groups, Scouts, schools, environmental groups.

Government agencies and local government.

And businesses.

And farms.

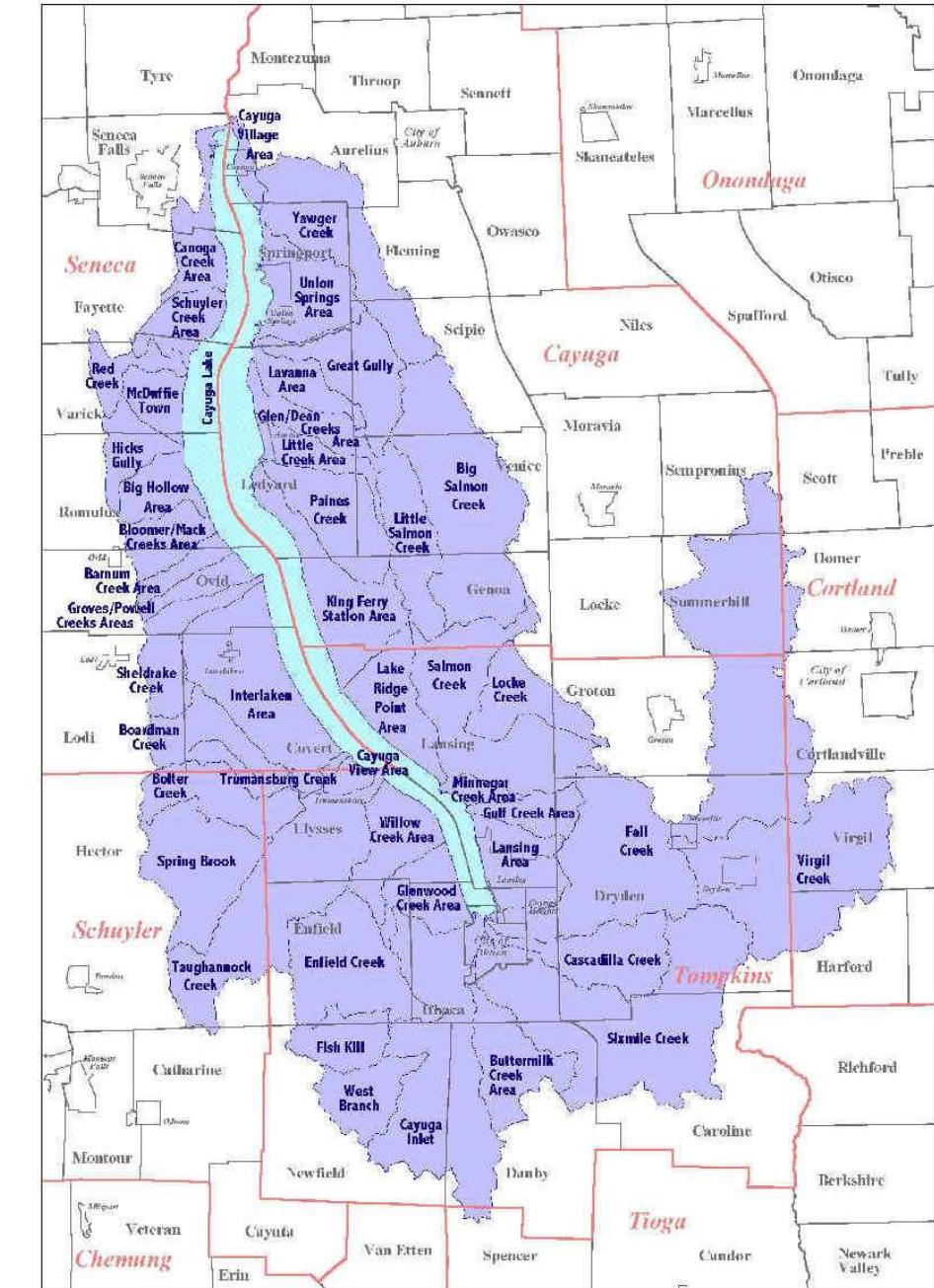
And people who live along the lake.

The Cayuga Lake watershed includes:

- Three counties on the lakeshore - six total.
 - 45 municipalities.
- Numerous regional, state and federal agencies.

Municipal and county boundaries.

Cayuga Lake Watershed and Subwatersheds



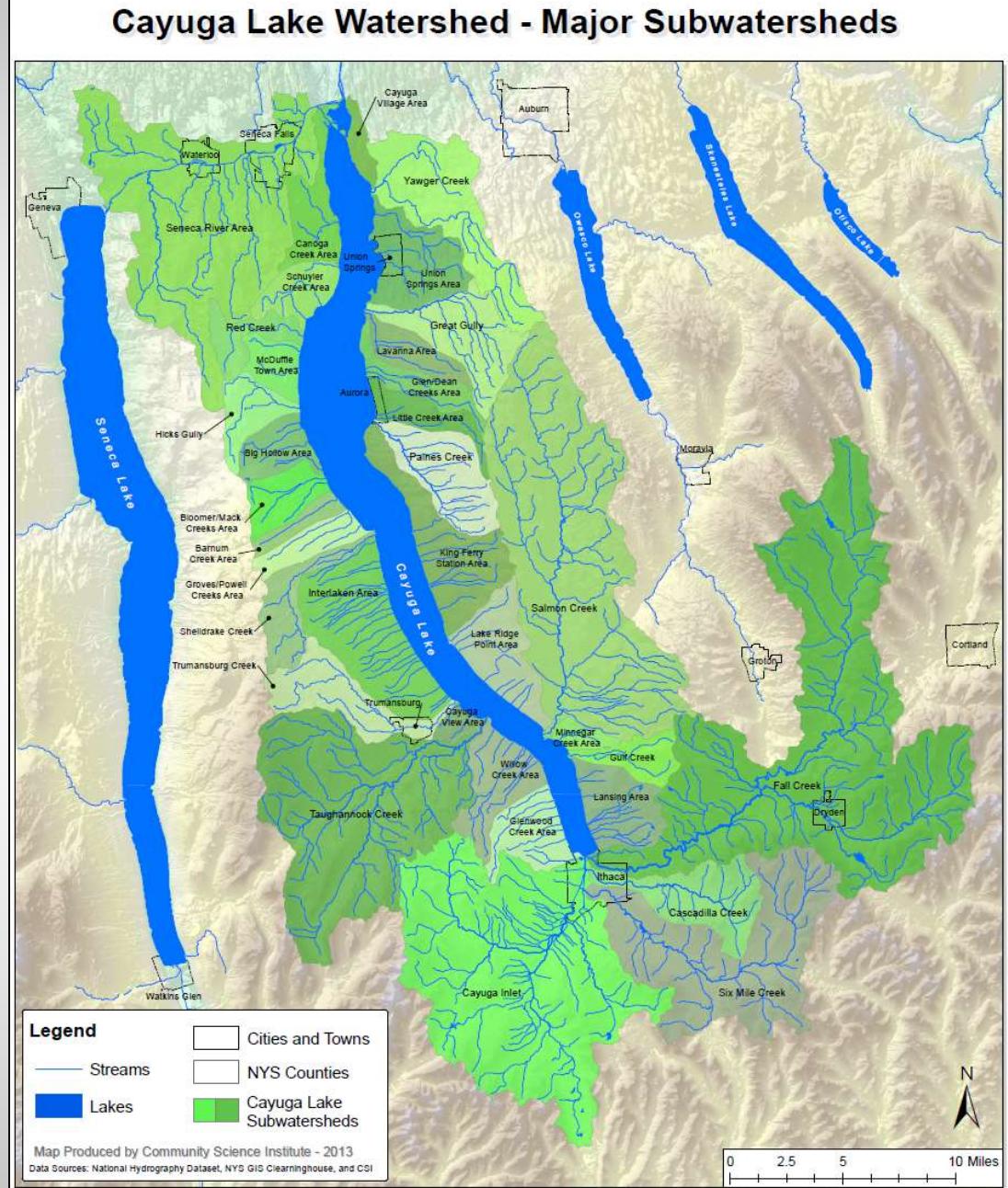
Lake and creek waters are used for:

- Drinking water
- Farming, wine-making, cheeses, beers, liquors
 - Recreation
 - Industrial and waste-water treatment
 - Home and business uses
- Natural habitat for critters and plants
 - More!

*We all share and benefit from
the lake and creeks.*

*We all need to share the responsibility of
protecting this common resource.*

What are the main problems facing Cayuga Lake and its creeks?



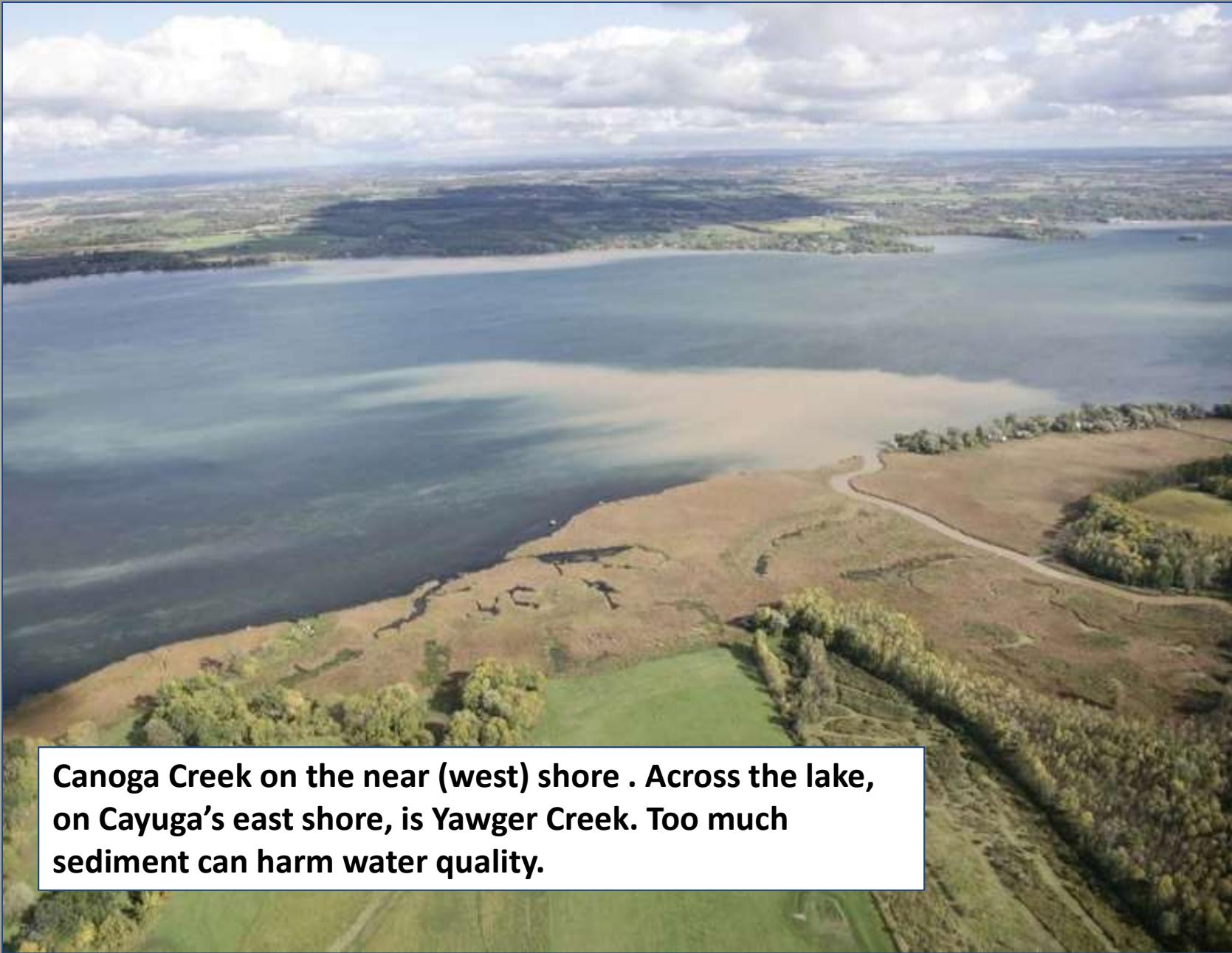
Top threats to Cayuga Lake 2016

Based on 302 respondents to an online survey.

In your opinion, which are the pollutants that most affect Cayuga Lake? Please select up to four. (302 respondents)

- 1 - Fertilizers, including phosphorus and nitrogen. 77% of all respondents.**
- 2 - Invasive species - pests, weeds, exotic species, such as hydrilla, zebra mussels. 71% of all respondents.**
- 3 - Pesticides, used in farms, homes and gardens, and on roadsides. 64%.**
- 4 - Sediment, including soil, sand and gravel. 44%.**
- 5 - Salts, such as the de-icer and brine used on roads in the winter; and from other sources. 39%.**

- 6 - Pharmaceuticals and personal care products, such as drugs, caffeine, microbeads. 27%.**
- 7 - Heavy metals, such as zinc and copper; metals from road runoff, coal storage and combustion waste, other sources. 27%.**
- 8 - Organic compounds, such as petroleum products; from pavement runoff, other sources. 26%.**
- 9 - Pathogens – disease-carrying microorganisms, such as coliform bacteria, fungi and viruses. 16%.**
- 10 – Warm water. 9%.**



Canoga Creek on the near (west) shore . Across the lake, on Cayuga's east shore, is Yawger Creek. Too much sediment can harm water quality.

Please choose the top actions that could most effectively protect or restore the watershed. (302 respondents)

- 1 - Improving farming practices to reduce runoff and erosion. 75% of all 302 respondents.**
- 2 - Improving protection of wetlands and riparian corridors/buffers (land along the lake, creeks and streams). 65%.**
- 3 - Improving stormwater management and erosion control. 62%.**
- 4 - Improving control of invasive species. 51%.**
- 5 - Fostering stewardship through education and citizen engagement. 44%.**

6 - Improving communications, collaboration and partnerships across municipal and agency boundaries. 42%.

7 - Improving private wastewater systems (septic systems). 39%.

8 - Improving public wastewater systems management. 38%.

9 - Providing lawn care education to reduce erosion and lawn chemicals runoff. 27%.

10 - Improving forestry management. 10%.



**Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration
and Protection Plan
2017**

Prepared for the
Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization

by the
Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
March 2017

This document was prepared for the New York State Department of State
with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

MONITORING

Consistent monitoring of the lake and its tributaries is necessary for the restoration and protection of the watershed.

2. Work with partners to ensure funding is established for long-term lake and tributary monitoring, expanding monitoring to include all tributaries draining into the lake.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT & EROSION CONTROL

Stormwater runoff carries with it pollutants and sediment that threaten the health of the watershed. Efforts to understand and manage the watershed's stormwater drainage system are essential to maintaining water quality.

3. Work with county Soil and Water Conservation District offices and local municipalities to promote the creation and restoration of stream and lakeside buffers.

COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION

There are 6 counties, 34 towns, 9 villages, and 1 city in the Cayuga Lake Watershed. Effective watershed restoration and protection efforts necessitate intermunicipal collaboration and cooperation.

2. Work with county Soil and Water Conservation District offices to foster relationships and communication with the agricultural community, including providing support for funding requests for water quality-related projects.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Cayuga Lake and its watershed are the defining features of our area, beloved by residents and visitors alike. Preserving, protecting, and restoring this natural and economic resource requires an engaged and committed public.

1. Work closely with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network to strengthen relationships with existing and emerging community groups.
2. Support the educational efforts of the Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network.
3. Support the work of the Finger Lakes Land Trust in identifying and preserving critical resource areas.
4. Encourage state and local efforts to provide public access to the lake and its tributaries.
5. Support efforts to create and provide educational opportunities for area school children, focused on Cayuga Lake and its watershed.

These priority recommendations for action were approved by the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization on March 22, 2017.

What can be done to solve the problems facing Cayuga Lake's water quality?

**We need to WORK TOGETHER.
ACROSS THOSE county and
town boundaries.**

***Networking – communicating – sharing
ideas and solutions.***





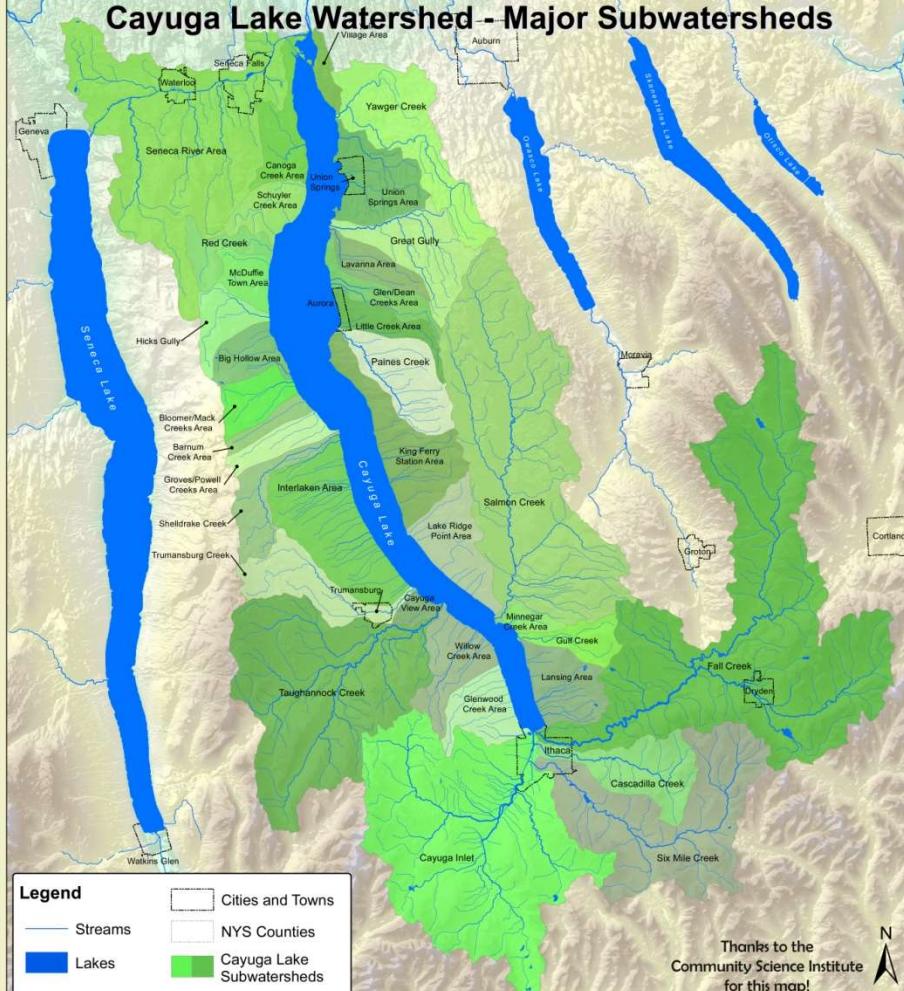
Embrace the Lake

Creek and Waterfront Cleanups around Cayuga Lake

Date:

Location:

Cayuga Lake Watershed - Major Subwatersheds



Cayuga Lake Watershed Network ~ P.O. Box 346 ~ Aurora, NY 13026

www.cayugalake.org

steward@cayugalake.org