



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY

Department of
Environmental
Conservation

New York's Great Lakes Watershed Program

Achieving Restoration, Conservation, Resiliency and Sustainable Development Goals in NY's Great Lakes Basin

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NYSFOLA Annual Conference 2018

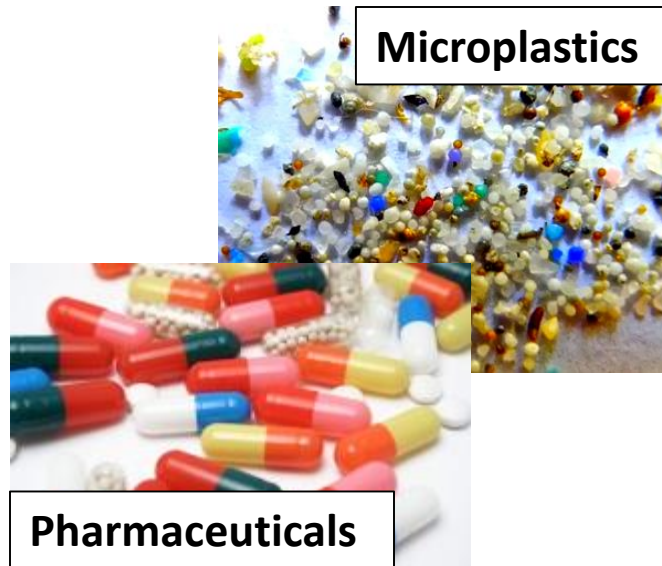


NYSDEC Great Lakes Program Mission

“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”.



Complex threats to the Great Lakes Ecosystem demand a holistic approach to address...



Ecosystem-based Management approach required under Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act of 2006

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

-John Muir



Place-based focus

Protection of ecosystem structure, function and key processes

Interconnectedness within and among systems

Integration of ecological, social, economic and institutional perspectives

Sustainable human use of the ecosystem

Stakeholder involvement

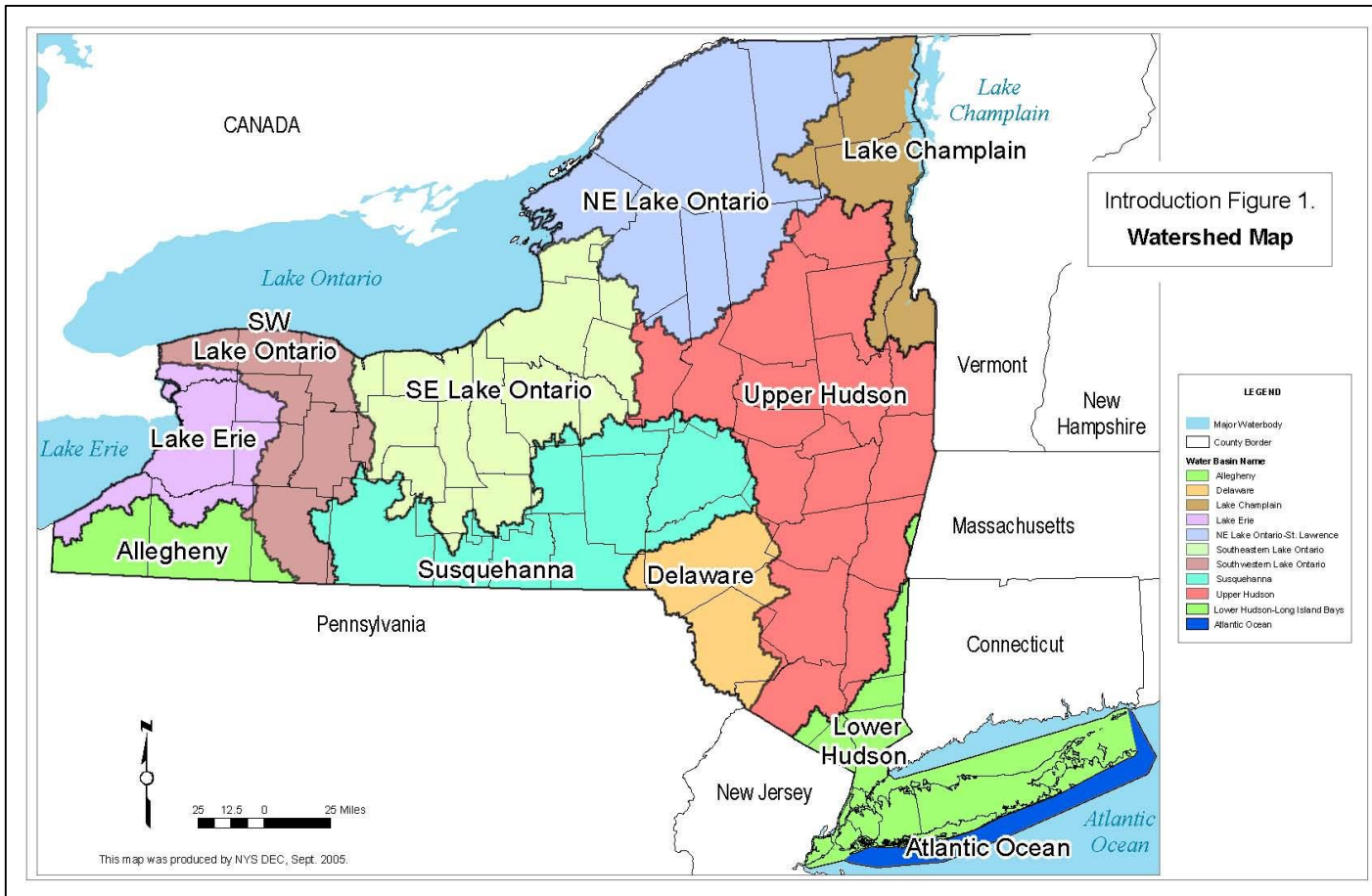
Collaboration

Scientific foundation for decision-making

Adaptive Management

Watersheds & EBM

Watersheds are the basic building blocks of EBM for scientific, management and governance reasons.



NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA) is an Integrated Action Plan



What does the GLAA do



Promotes Ecosystem Based Management and decision-making



Accomplishes interagency priority projects through regional coordination



Fosters collaboration among a diverse group of partners



Leverages capacity and financial resources



Establishes and tracks milestones to measure progress over time

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*



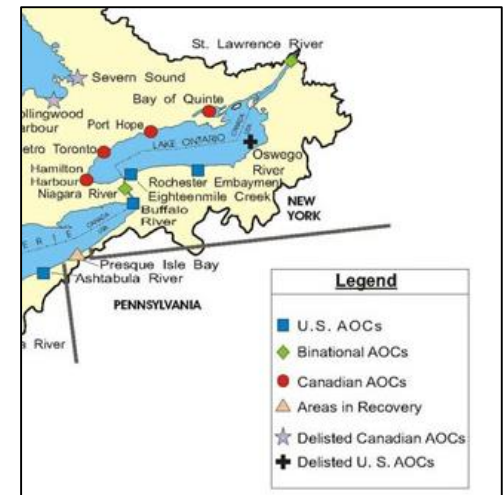
Andrew M. Cuomo - Governor



Joe Martens - Commissioner

#1: 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



#2: Conserve Natural Resources

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



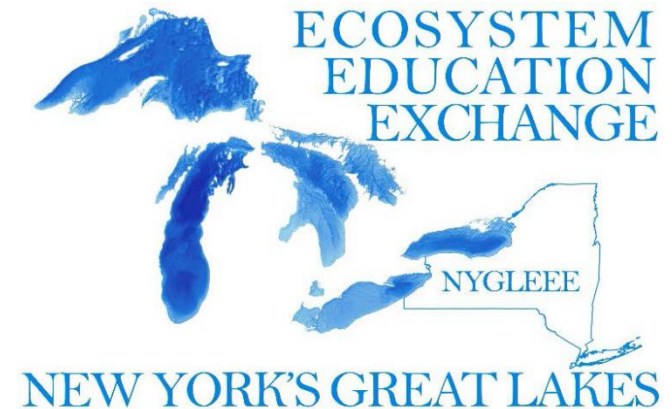
#3: Promote Resilient Communities & Sustainable Development

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

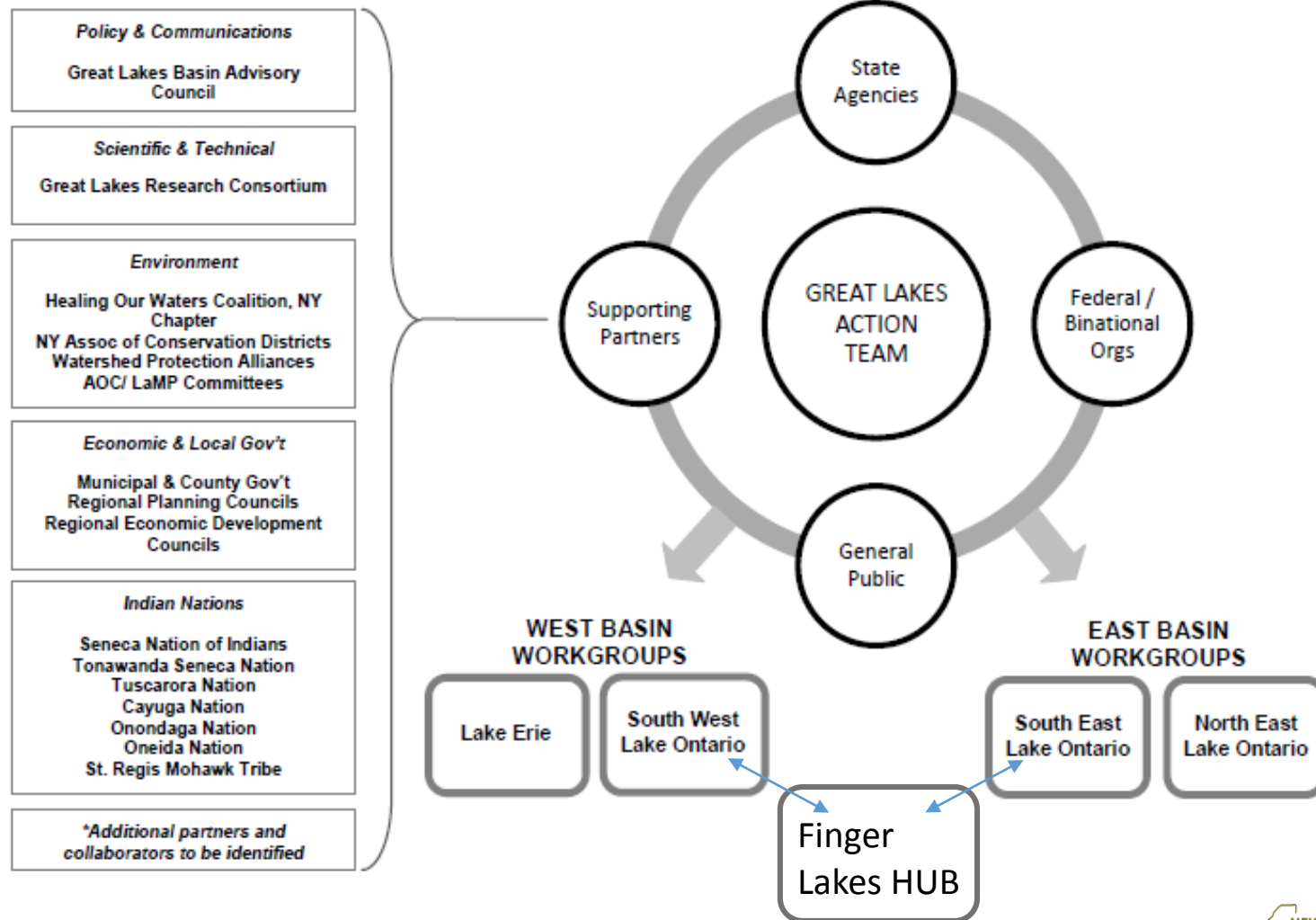


Cross-Cutting Priorities

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



Coordinated Action Among Partners



Role of the Workgroups

Members: regional state agency staff, NGOs, universities, and other organizations involved in project implementation

Responsibilities:

- Develop work plans for each sub-basin
- Organize ad-hoc teams to implement high priority projects
- Track and report progress of GLAA implementation (i.e. Goalkeepers)
- ***Get it done!***

Benefits:

- Apply local knowledge
- Learn from others' success
- Optimize resources
- Achieve sustainable outcomes

Next Northeast and Southeast sub basin work group meetings will be May 8th and 9th- see handout



GLAA EBM Projects 2017-2018

- EBM demonstration area projects
- GLAA Small Grants Program
- Great Lakes Culvert Assessment Pilot Project
- Lake Erie Beach Closure Mitigation
- Black River Initiative – 9E plan implementation
- St. Lawrence Watershed Management/ 9E plan
- Oneida Lake Watershed 9 element plan
- Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange
- Riparian Restoration Opportunity Assessment
- Community Risk and Resiliency Act/Resilient NY
- Nature Based Shorelines

GREAT LAKES ACTION AGENDA WORK GROUPS 2017 PARTNER PROGRESS



Department of
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Advancing Goals in New York's Great Lakes Watershed

In partnership with sub-basin work group members, state agencies and federal partners, DEC's Great Lakes Watershed Program is pleased to report our shared progress on advancing goals of New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA) through the following actions:

Restore Water Quality to Protect Drinking Water and Improve Recreational Uses

Reducing Beach Closures with Green Infrastructure: With DEC's Division of Water, NYS Department of Health, Ecology & Environment and municipal officials (Town of Evans and City of Dunkirk), we developed green infrastructure designs to mitigate stormwater runoff at two Lake Erie beaches. Lessons learned from this pilot will be incorporated into future beach clean-up initiatives.

Supporting Nine-Element Watershed Plans (9E) to Address Nonpoint Sources of Pollution: To improve water quality and minimize the occurrence of algal blooms, we are supporting local efforts to develop 9Es to reduce sediment and nutrient loadings into Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/103264.html>

Preventing Harmful Algal Blooms in the Finger Lakes: Great Lakes funding was instrumental in establishing the DEC Finger Lakes Water Hub, coordinating efforts and fostering partnerships to focus on reducing harmful algal blooms and protecting important drinking water supplies. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/108146.html>

Conserve Natural Resources to Sustain Fish and Wildlife

Assessing Aquatic Connectivity and Flood Risk: We collaborated with NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to train and assist 18 Soil and Water Conservation Districts to conduct road stream crossing assessments. The ecosystem-based assessments use the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative protocols and help us prioritize improvements for road stream crossings. The improvements will enhance aquatic habitat connectivity for fish such as northern pike, salmon, and brook trout and reduce localized flooding and road maintenance.



Lewis and St. Lawrence County SWCD staff participate in a culvert assessment training. Photo by Emily Sheridan

Promote Resilient, Sustainable Communities and Ecosystem Integrity

Promoting Nature-based Shoreline Projects: We collaborated with DEC's Water Quality Improvement Project program and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to support the implementation of nature-based shoreline demonstration projects. The objective is to promote the use of "soft", ecologically friendly shoreline stabilization techniques in lieu of traditional rock or cement structures to control erosion.



Dune restoration at Sandy Island State Park. Photo by Emily Sheridan

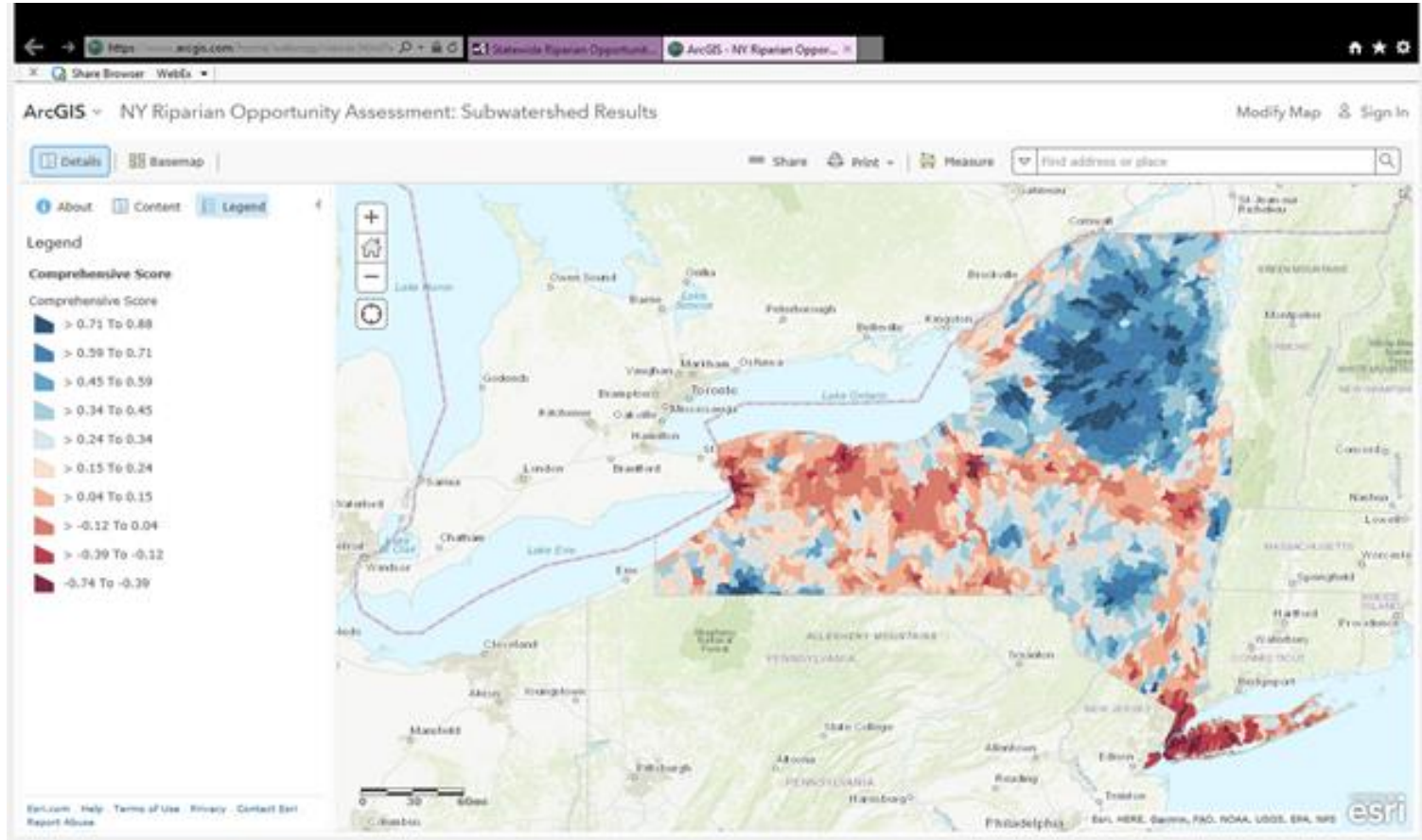
For more information, or to sign-up for email updates from NYSDEC, visit our website.

www.dec.ny.gov



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NYS Riparian Opportunity Assessment – Where do we need to plant trees?

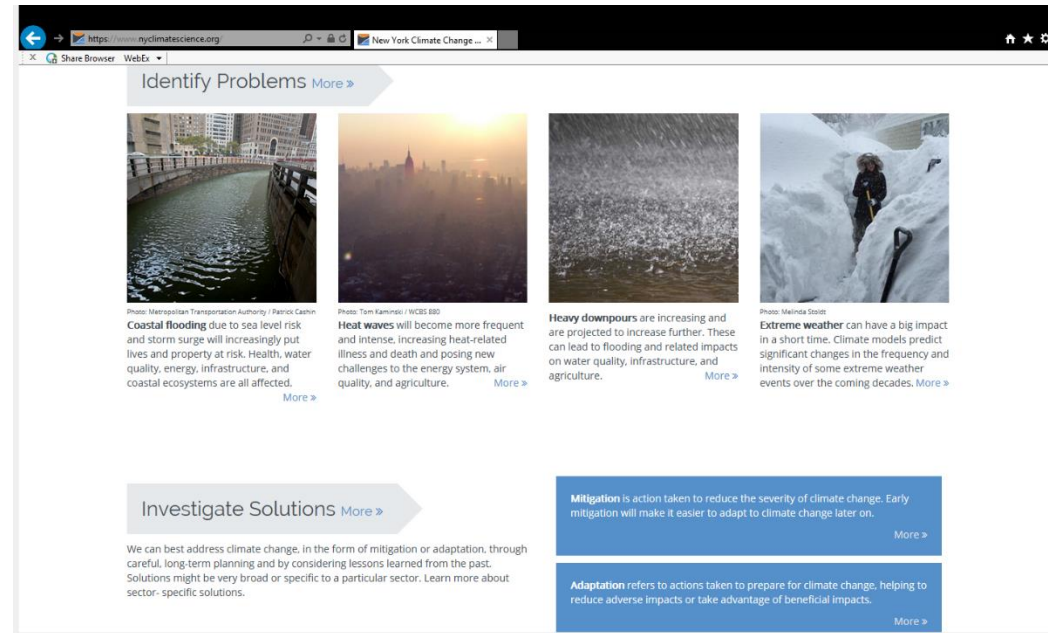


<http://nynhp.org/treesfortribsgny>

- DEC urban and community forestry funding available- due July 11th

Resilient NY – Adapt to and mitigate climate change

- Builds on community risk and resiliency act
- Additional Emergency Stream Intervention trainings will be held
- Climate Resilient Farming
- Climate Smart Communities grants available- due July 27th
- Renewable energy to mitigate risks



NYS Climate change clearinghouse:
<https://www.nyclimatescience.org/>

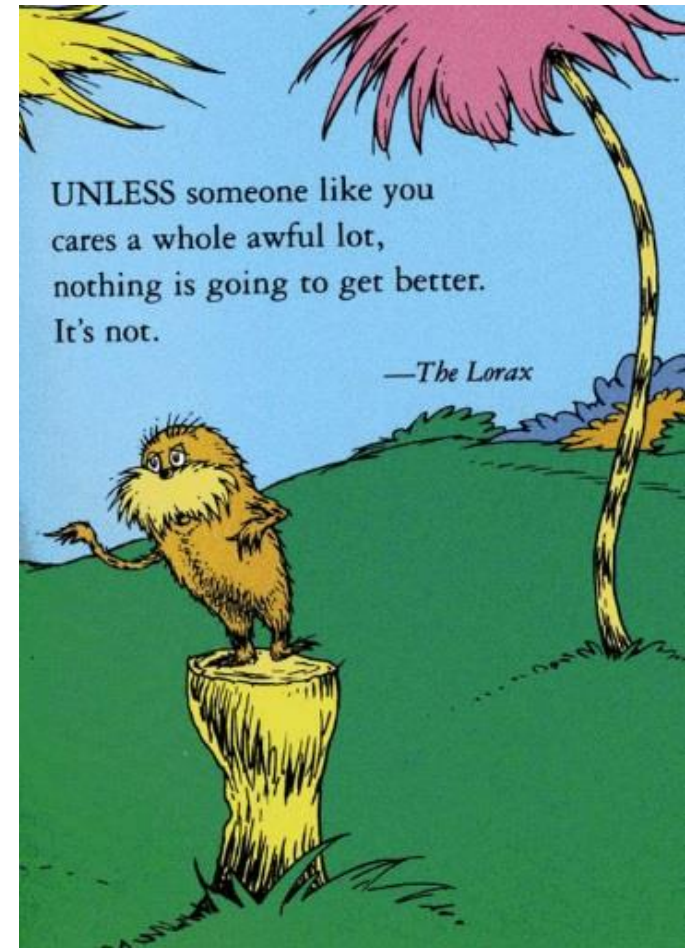
Nature Based Shorelines funding- DEC WQIP

- 2016 and 2017- Funded projects at Sacketts Harbor, Sodus Point, and Irondequoit Bay
- 2018 funding available for Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence and Finger Lakes shorelines
- Demonstrate the use of vegetation and natural materials to enhance shoreline habitat while maintaining protection.
- Due with CFA- DEC Water Quality Improvement Projects- July 27th



How can we be stewards of the Great Lakes and other NYS watersheds?

- Practice and promote a “leave no trace” ethic
- Prevent polluted runoff from getting into waterways
- Plant native trees and shrubs, remove invasive species
- Conserve water and energy
- Educate yourselves and others
- Work together to address the root cause of issues
- Leverage funding to implement projects



Questions?



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