

NY's Great Lakes Basin Small Grants: Advancing Ecosystem-Based Management

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) partnered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to create the New York Great Lakes Basin (NYGLB) Small Grants Program, which supports stakeholder-driven efforts to restore and revitalize the state's Great Lakes region and demonstrate successful application of ecosystem-based management (EBM).

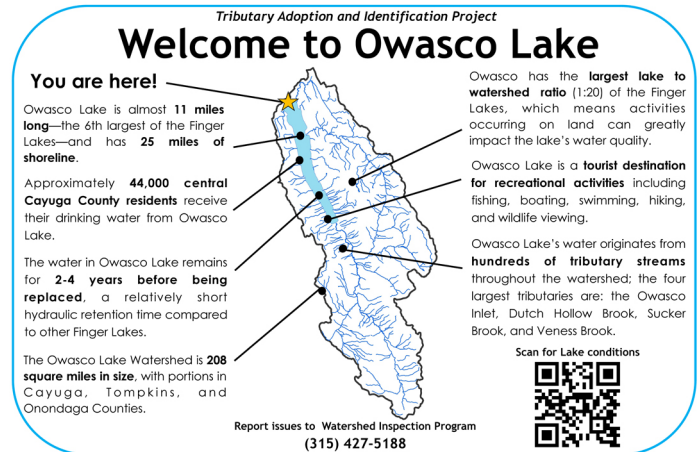
EBM-based projects encompass the entire ecosystem versus a single issue/single species focus and incorporate stakeholder participation. Each year, funding priorities are identified from New York's Great Lakes Basin Action Agenda, commonly referred to as the Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA) plan for applying EBM principles to benefit NY's Great Lakes basin. NY Great Lakes sub-basin work group meetings identify regional and basin-wide collaborative actions as additional priorities.

NYGLB Small Grants Program funding priorities have focused on these GLAA Goals:

- to control sediment, nutrient and pathogen loading so drinking water quality is protected, desired aquatic biotic communities flourish, humans and wildlife are protected from coastline health hazards, and natural processes are sustained;
- to conserve and restore native fish and wildlife biodiversity and habitats to achieve and sustain resilient ecosystems and vibrant communities; and
- to enhance community resiliency and ecosystem integrity through restoration, protection, and improve resource management.

Not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, county and local government or public agencies, regional planning and environmental commissions, and educational institutions, including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities, are eligible to apply. The NYGLB Small Grants Program supports local projects that may lead to larger-scale activities.

“Improving water quality is essential to enhancing coastal resiliency and the local economies in the Great Lakes region. These grants advance local solutions to build stronger, more resilient communities.”
— NYSDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos



This signage was made possible by a NYGLB small grant to the Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District.

NYSG Associate Director Katherine Bunting-Howarth notes, *“This small grants program supports local stakeholder-driven projects that apply holistic approaches to meet pressing problems and*

opportunities for protecting our natural resources, environmental quality, and economic development.”

Since the inception of this program in 2015, twenty-nine local projects have received \$681,000 to focus on the needs and issues of NY's Great Lakes Erie and Ontario, and the Niagara and St. Lawrence River regions, as well as several inland lakes within the basin.

Partners:

- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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