

## NY's Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program

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 to support 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 (GLAA) 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 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;
- conserve and restore native fish and wildlife biodiversity and habitats to achieve and sustain resilient ecosystems and vibrant communities;
- enhance community resiliency and ecosystem integrity through restoration, protection, and improve resource management; and
- secure additional access to local waterways for swimming, boating, shore fishing, and other recreational activities.

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



*A NYGLB Small Grant award supported this post-flood recovery visioning workshop in Sodus, N.Y. Photo: NYSG/Mary Austerman*

***“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.”***

**– NYSG Interim Director/Associate Director Katherine Bunting-Howarth**

NYGLB Small Grants Program supports local projects that may lead to larger-scale activities.

Since the inception of this program in 2015, more than \$850,000 has been shared by 37 local projects focused 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.

### **Partner:**

- New York State 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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