

Acronyms

- CCE: Cayuga County Cornell Cooperative Extension**
City: City of Auburn
DEC: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Duck: Duck Lake Association
EMC: Cayuga County Environmental Management Council
Forest: Cayuga County Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association
Health: Cayuga County Department of Health and Human Service Environmental Health Division
Highway: Cayuga County Highway Department
Network: Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
NRCS: Natural Resource Conservation Service
OWLA: Owasco Watershed Lake Association
Parks: Cayuga County Parks and Trails
Plan: Cayuga County Department of Planning and Development
SWCD: Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District
Tour: Cayuga County Department of Tourism

COUNTY-WIDE

Health	Will continue to enforce the Sanitary Code.
Plan	Hazardous waste collection day for farm pesticides.
Plan	Continue to search for ways to reduce hazardous material releases in the watershed. For example, find ways to reduce mercury releases, such as collecting auto and household mercury switches and fluorescent bulbs.

CAYUGA LAKE

WQMA	Work to implement the Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Plan as it pertains to Cayuga County. As more specific work plans are developed by Cayuga Lake Watershed IO committees, the WQMA will re-examine its involvement.
Network & CCE	Educational program for invasive species in the Cayuga Lake and Owasco Lake Watersheds.

DUCK LAKE

Duck	Aquatic weed control to include identification and removal methods.
Duck	Water sampling.
Duck	Identify lake level problems, mainly beaver dam issues.
Duck	Investigate removal of silt from man-made channels (determine if dredging is possible).
Duck	Jet ski problems.
Duck	Initiate program to create awareness of dangers of spreading unwanted weeds and zebra mussels as well as feeding ducks and geese.

LITTLE SODUS BAY

Plan	Fair Haven Sewer Project, Village of Fair Haven. Respond to NYSDEC consent order affecting the Village related to long-term quality of Little Sodus Bay.
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OWASCO LAKE

Agriculture

SWCD	Complete Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Plans for farms in the Owasco Lake Watershed, identify best management practices (BMPs) from those AEMs, look for assistance to implement these BMPs, and measure the effectiveness of these BMPs.
SWCD & CCE	Encourage farmer participation in state and federal programs that relate to water: quality and issues in Owasco Lake Watershed and pursue forms of assistance such as continued federal and state grants and cost share programs.
SWCD & NRCS	Provide incentives and programs for farmers and landowners to install, maintain and manage buffers adjacent to streambanks, lakeshore and other sensitive areas.
SWCD & NRCS	Encourage farmers to join the Conservation Reserve Program.
OWLA	Signs for lake friendly farmers or watershed friendly farmers.
CCE, SWCD & City	Provide public education and monthly news articles/columns on agriculture and the environment.
CCE	Encourage agritourism.
SWCD, City & CCE	Encourage use of whole farm plans.
Plan, SWCD & CCE	Hazardous waste collection days for farm pesticides.
SWCD	Develop a "Farm of the Year" award.
OWLA, City & Health	Monitor streams above and below farms.
CCE & Plan	Examine purchasing development rights.
Plan	Towns could change local laws to allow additional business enterprises on farms.
Plan	Explore funding options to assist farmers in cleanup after storm events.
SWCD	Take advantage of new technologies to deal with agricultural waste.

Aquatic Vegetation

Plan (search for funding)	Inventory and map aquatic vegetation in Owasco Lake, compare to historical data, and determine management needs. Publish findings as an educational tool. Search for funding for this inventory and mapping.
Plan (search for funding)	Determine water quality, including phosphorus level, in Owasco Lake and the tributaries, and the effect it has on aquatic vegetation.
Plan (search for funding)	Develop and implement a sampling plan for determining sources of phosphorus into Owasco Lake.
SWCD & NRCS	Provide incentives and programs for farmers and land-owners to install, maintain and manage buffers adjacent to streambanks, lakeshore and other sensitive areas.
SWCD	Encourage the use of nutrient management plans for golf courses, parks, developments, etc. in the watershed.
OWLA, CCE, City & SWCD	Educate the public and developers on how to reduce nutrient introduction to the lake.

SWCD	Examine alternative methods for aquatic vegetation control besides harvesting.
SWCD	Learn about life cycles to recommend harvesting times for both municipal and private harvesting efforts.
City & Plan	Review intake and other temperature data to see if the lake has been warmer the past few years, which may cause algae to start blooming earlier and longer.
CCE (Look for funding)	Examine reducing sources of phosphorus to Owasco Lake identified through sampling program.
SWCD	Examine dredging and explore funding opportunities to dredge the South end of Owasco Lake.
OWLA	Teach volunteers to identify aquatic plant species and map them.

Biosolids

EMC	Survey use of biosolids in the Owasco Lake Watershed.
City & Health	Continue to enforce the Watershed Rules and Regulations which states: “No human excreta or sewage shall be deposited or spread upon the surface of the ground at any point on the watershed. Composted sludge, pursuant to a permit issued by an appropriate State or local agency having jurisdiction, if any, shall be allowed.”
Plan & Health	Monitor New York State rules and regulations of biosolids.
Plan & Health	Monitor research on heavy metal mobility in biosolids.
Plan	Summer Hill’s local law regulating the disposal of septage, sewage sludge, and sludge as a model law.
Plan	Groton’s local law regulating solid waste management facilities as a model law (A copy of this local law is available from Cayuga County Department of Planning and Development).

Boating

Plan & OWLA	Research the “carrying capacity” of boats and jet skis on the lake and study the level of pollution from motorized crafts.
Plan & OWLA	Research the impact of excessive wave action.
OWLA	Provide public education on perceived problems of boaters, speed limit and boating setbacks.
OWLA & Plan	Examine building a pumpout station on the North and South end of the Lake.
OWLA	Examine increasing the boating and jet ski setbacks from shore regarding the speed limit.

Chemicals

Yard, Garden and Household Chemical Use and Waste Disposal:

Plan & CCE	Provide information on proper use and disposal of household chemicals; suggested media includes annual water quality reports by water providers, water bill messages, and direct mailings.
Plan & CCE	Continue to search for ways to reduce hazardous materials releases in the watershed. For example, find ways to reduce mercury releases, such as collecting auto and household mercury switches and fluorescent bulbs.
Plan, CCE & City	Promote pest management practices that reduce pesticide use in the watershed, including integrated pest management and non-toxic pest management.
Plan & CCE	Examine ways to change people’s attitudes about the “perfect lawn” through education and peer pressure.

CCE	Provide Home*A*Syst type workshops to help homeowners prevent groundwater contamination; include wells, well maintenance, septic system use, yard waste, composting, etc.
SWCD & NRCS	Provide incentives and programs for farmers and landowners to install, maintain and manage buffers adjacent to streambanks, lakeshore and other sensitive areas.
Plan	Promote municipal level yard waste composting to move the nutrients contained in yard waste away from lakeshore areas.

Hazardous Material Spills and Spill Response

Plan & CCE	Have the Water Quality Management Agency or designated County agency develop, update and provide on an annual basis a listing of who to contact on water quality issues, including who to call to report spills.
Plan	Survey fire departments and other agencies to verify who has materials for an immediate response to a hazardous material spill (spill response kits). Examine funding options where spill response kits are lacking.

Education

WQMA	The Cayuga Co. WQMA should encourage and promote a coordinated approach to public education among its member organizations.
CCE	Develop an on-going educational program on watershed and related issues to schools and school aged children.
CCE & Plan	Make watershed issues more accessible to citizens by utilizing the internet, direct mailings, and media releases.
CCE & Everyone	Agencies and organizations that conduct public education programs should utilize the local media to its fullest extent to promote programs, highlight events, and draw larger audiences.
CCE & Everyone	Develop promotional campaigns that will interest a larger variety of participants in education programs.
CCE	Agencies and organizations that promote water quality should enable trainers and educators to continually develop skills and expertise.

Exotic, Introduced and Invasive Species Management

Plan: funding	Initiate a regular inventory and monitoring program for exotic, introduced and invasive species in the lake and watershed.
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Zebra Mussels

OWLA	Survey residents to see if they have been impacted by zebra mussels especially by zebra mussels in their intake pipes.
Health	Educate landowners about how to put in intake pipes and treatment methods for dealing with zebra mussels in intake pipes.

Fish and Wildlife Management

Plan: funding	Determine water quality, including phosphorus level, dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll, in Owasco Lake and the tributaries and the effect it has on aquatic vegetation, fish and wildlife.
SWCD	Implement streambank stabilization on severely eroding streams.

SWCD & NRCS	Provide incentives and programs for farmers and landowners to install, maintain and manage buffers adjacent to streambanks, lakeshore and other sensitive areas.
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Forestry Management

CCE	Coordinate information and technical services for forest landowners.
Plan	Suggest (target audience is municipal planning officials) that forest land use cover is complementary to more intensive uses as part of comprehensive land use plans.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

Plan	Compile information on chemical storage in the watershed.
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Funding Options

Everyone	Explore full range of funding alternatives; examples include surcharge to users, franchise fees, use of percentage of revenues from septic system inspections, grants, loans, etc.
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Highway Deicing

Plan	Conduct a survey of highway departments to see who has salt storage structures and contained mixing areas and where they are needed.
Plan	Survey salt policies and procedures for each municipality yearly.
CCE	Increase the use of the Cornell Local Roads Program and Highway School by highway officials.

Highway Maintenance

SWCD	Increase the use of the Cornell Local Roads Program and Highway School by highway officials.
SWCD	Encourage use of structural controls of sediments on steep roads, roadbanks and in high flow ditches.
SWCD	Encourage and provide information on timely revegetation of road ditches and banks.
SWCD	Encourage use and provide information on structural measures to control sediments and other pollutants from stormwater runoff.
SWCD	Encourage use of and provide information on best management practices (BMPs) to reduce roadbank erosion.
SWCD	Provide an annual informational report for highway superintendents and workers in the watershed.
SWCD	Organize local training programs through Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Highway Superintendents Association.
SWCD	Examine the use of infiltration trenches, detention ponds, siltation ponds, basins, vegetated swales and filter strips in critical areas and in demonstration projects.
SWCD	Examine ways to prevent sediment eroded from plowed fields by wind and water from ending up in the ditches to the lake; especially during heavy rainfalls.
SWCD	Explore why roadside ditches are deepening and develop methods of prevention.
SWCD	Encourage the use of erosion and sediment control standards in all highway construction and maintenance plans, bids and contracts.

Lake Level

City	Educate watershed residents on what to expect in regards to lake level, the hydrologic system, the “rule curve,” about downstream uses of water, and why different people want different lake levels. Rule curve is set by the federal government and the US Army Corps of Engineers.
City	Place the “rule curve” and daily lake levels on the Internet.
City	Encourage local officials who are responsible for lake level management to continue working with others in their region to coordinate flood period discharges (i.e. Balance lake impacts, downstream impacts, etc).
SWCD	Examine dredging and explore funding opportunities to dredge the South end of Owasco Lake.
OWLA	Begin dialogue on lake level.

Lakeshore Erosion

CCE & OWLA	Promote and distribute existing shoreline erosion control guidebooks and information sheets with specific information on plantings that will help reduce shoreline erosion.
CCE & OWLA	Conduct Lakeshore Homeowner Workshops on shoreline erosion, vegetative options, yard waste management, etc.

Land Use

Plan	Create a directory of zoning provisions and other development regulations of towns and villages, and provide the directory on a webpage.
Plan	Inventory wetlands and open space resources in the watershed.
Plan	Educate planning boards about land use issues such as drainage, buffer zones, stormwater runoff, etc.
Plan	Provide assistance to towns and villages to design, adopt and/or implement standards and guidelines; provide model ordinances, regulations, standards, and guidelines.
Plan & SWCD	Explore opportunities to protect streambank areas. (Survey where needed).
Plan	Target specific open space areas for an open space system.

Private and Municipal Wastewater Treatment

Health	Continue the Cayuga County sanitary program, encourage other counties to have similar programs in the Owasco Lake Watershed and monitor water quality status in lake.
Health	Develop a more complete assessment of the wastewater treatment and water supply needs in problematic locales.
Health	Explore federal or state assistance to replace or upgrade septic systems of people with limited incomes.
CCE & Health	Encourage the use of water conservation measures through education, financial incentives and appropriate regulations. (<i>Education this year</i>)
Health	Provide educational workshops on on-site septic systems for residents.
Plan	Explore what grants and loans are available for water and waste disposal systems for rural communities by using the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.
Health: get data	Explore the possibility of upgrading the Groton Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Public Access

OWLA	Encourage low impact activities in the watershed like hiking, canoeing and fishing instead of motorized use.
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Stormwater and Sediment Control

SWCD	Continue hydroseeding assistance programs for towns and villages in critical areas, such as road ditches, and promote the program to increase use throughout the watershed.
SWCD	Continue to conduct regional workshops on stormwater management to educate local decision makers, planning and zoning boards, Code Enforcement Officers, Highway Superintendents and residents about the use of recognized development BMPs to protect water quality and EPA Phase II rules.
SWCD	Provide model site design guidelines for contractors.
SWCD	Have a Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) person review existing municipal land use regulations throughout the watershed (i.e. comprehensive plans, zoning codes, subdivision regulation, site plan review), as well as their implementation and enforcement, for adequacy in minimizing the impacts to water quality from development and recommend changes.
SWCD	Encourage towns in the watershed to create and enforce stormwater management and erosion control ordinances by providing a model laws and ordinances for stormwater and erosion control.

Streambanks and Stream Corridor Management

SWCD	Conduct streambank erosion assessments throughout the watershed.
SWCD	Implement bank stabilization practices on the most severely eroding banks, as quickly as feasible.
SWCD	Funding sources need to be identified for comprehensive streambank restoration and management programs.
SWCD & NRCS & Plan	Provide incentives and programs for farmers and landowners to install, maintain and manage buffers adjacent to streambanks, lakeshore and other sensitive areas. Find funding opportunities for buffer installation, management and maintenance.
NRCS & SWCD	Promote the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the watershed such as livestock exclusion from streams and vegetative filter strips.
SWCD & NRCS	Continue having staff members of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) assist in future preparation of grant and cost share applications to reduce streambank erosion and implement buffering.
Plan	Provide model buffer and stream corridor protection ordinances to the municipalities.
Plan	Examine debris accumulation in streams and determine whose jurisdiction it is to remove it and have it removed.
SWCD	Train staff in remedial fluvial geomorphology and conduct pilot projects on tributaries to Owasco Lake, particularly Dutch Hollow Brook and the Inlet.
SWCD & OWLA	Conduct tours, put up signs and provide information on demonstration projects for streambank erosion and stream buffering.

Urban/Community Forestry

Plan	Encourage towns and villages to apply to grant programs for tree planting.
Plan	Provide a model town or village tree ordinance.
Plan	Examine funding to do community forest plans and to plant trees.

WQMA 2002 Work Plan

Waste Sites

Landfills, Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites and Solid Waste Management

Health & Plan	The conditions of the seven closed solid waste landfills and the inactive hazardous waste site should be inspected by a designated Cayuga County agency annually for changing site conditions. Any significant changes should be reported to the DEC.
Plan & Health	Discourage open burning and provide alternatives such as pay by the bag programs for residential solid waste disposal.

Other Waste Sites

OWLA & Plan	Inventory junkyards.
Plan	Inventory permitted and abandoned sand, gravel, and other mines.

Roadside and Illegal Dumping

OWLA, City & Plan	Create an inventory of roadside dumping hot spots and illegal dumping along watercourses.
Plan	List all municipal codes and ordinances for roadside and/or illegal dumping.
OWLA	Put up signs to discourage dumping.
Plan	If a municipality does not have a code or ordinance for roadside and/or illegal dumping, provide a sample code or ordinance. For those that do, encourage raising fines and increasing persecution.
Plan	Encourage town cleanup days.
OWLA	Communicate illegal dumping problems to the public and how to anonymously report dumping activities.

Waterborne Illness

WQMA	Explore funding to compile and maintain the Water Quality Management Agency (WQMA) database.
Parks	Continue to address the bird problem in Emerson Park and entire lake by trying realistic methods.
Health	Encourage residents using untreated lake water as a drinking water source to install some type of treatment system to disinfect their drinking water.
Health	Provide educational materials through Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Cayuga County Health Department.
SWCD	Use Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Environmental Protection Agency Regulations to reduce contamination from pastures.
SWCD & NRCS	Provide incentives and programs for farmers and landowners to install, maintain and manage buffers adjacent to streambanks, lakeshore and other sensitive areas.
OWLA, Plan, City, & Health	Implement a continuous monitoring program in Owasco Lake and the major tributaries.