

A scenic landscape photograph showing a river valley. The foreground is filled with trees displaying vibrant autumn colors of orange, red, and yellow. A sunburst effect is visible through the branches on the left. The middle ground shows a wide river winding through a lush green forest. The background consists of rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

Genesee RiverWatch

*A Short Trip Thru
Nearly 50 Years*

CEI

A Leader in Environmental Science

- 1974 - Founded by Elizabeth Thorndike and others as the **Center for Environmental Information (CEI)**.
 - One of the premier U.S. information resources on acid rain and global climate risk
 - Convener of environmental experts
- 2007 – 2012 – Focused on executing grant-driven projects in:
 - Clean Water
 - Clean Air
 - Waste Reduction
 - Energy
 - Transportation
- 2011 - Name changed to **Center for Environmental Initiatives**, to reflect role as the manager of environmental projects

2013

A Time of Change

- 2013 – Strategic reassessment:
 - Concentrate efforts
 - Area where CEI has unique skills
 - Intersection with major unmet community need
- Focus on the Genesee River
 - CEI experience with clean water studies
 - Genesee is an often-overlooked regional asset
 - Genesee was only major New York river without a “riverkeeper” organization
 - ~125 federal, state, local river stakeholders separated by mission, geography, funding sources

Genesee RiverWatch

Founding Goals & Methods

(CEI Heritage)

- Goals
 - Create a “Voice of the River”
 - Focus attention on the river – its needs and opportunities
 - Help the region establish priorities for river projects
 - Increase funding directed to the Genesee
- Methods
 - Develop & maintain collaborative partnerships
 - Promote public interest, education and active involvement
 - Monitor & publish results, e.g. water quality data

Mission & Vision

Mission: To champion solutions that improve the water quality of the Genesee and initiatives that connect people to the River

Vision: A healthy and sustainable Genesee River ecosystem that is an environmental, recreational and economic asset for all generations

Genesee RiverWatch Launch

February 6, 2014

First annual Genesee River Basin Summit – Robach Community Center

Ten Year Highlights

- Nine annual Genesee River Basin Summits
- Three major river studies completed
- Four streambank restorations complete (\$1,686K, 7,600 feet)
- Three more restorations funded (\$747K, 6,600 feet)
- Partnered with City on Petten St. kayak dock
- Avon & Geneseo access site improvements in 2023-24
- Genesee River Basin Report Card – 2019
- Genesee Blueway Map - 2020
- Annual summer paddling programs with City & Waterways Center
- Name change to “Genesee RiverWatch, Inc.”

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk with chain-link fencing on both sides, extending over a river. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow and reflecting on the water. The background shows a dense line of trees.

**AND
WE'VE
ONLY
JUST
BEGUN!**