

About the Genesee River

The Genesee River flows north 157 miles from Pennsylvania into New York State through the highly forested Allegheny Plateau, the spectacular gorge of Letchworth State Park and agricultural lowlands, before careening over three dramatic falls in the City of Rochester and entering Lake Ontario.

Covering an area of nearly 2,500 square miles, the Genesee River's watershed meets its residents needs for transportation, recreation, energy, wildlife habitat, and fresh water for drinking, irrigation, industrial use, and sanitation. Even before the arrival of European settlers, the river basin and its fertile soils have yielded bountiful crops of grain, fruits, and vegetables; as well as supporting some of the nation's largest dairy farms. Today, the basin supports a population of over 1 million citizens with most concentrated in Rochester and Monroe County.

Threats to the river include erosion and excess phosphorus resulting in loss of valuable farmland, stressed fisheries, costly dredging projects, and reduced recreational appeal.



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About Genesee RiverWatch

Genesee RiverWatch was launched in 2014 with the support of its parent organization, the Center for Environmental Initiatives.

The work of our Board of Directors, a small part-time staff, and dedicated volunteers, supported by generous local donations, has been critical to the success the organization has achieved to date.

We hope you will consider joining our efforts by becoming a sponsor, volunteer, or making a donation in any amount.

Streambank Restoration – Houghton, NY



George Thomas, Executive Director
700 West Metro Park
Rochester NY 14623
(585) 233 – 6086
GThomas@GeneseeRiverWatch.org

www.GeneseeRiverWatch.org



Protecting and Celebrating the Genesee River



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

Genesee RiverWatch

Genesee RiverWatch works to champion solutions that improve the water quality of the Genesee and collaborate on initiatives that connect people to the river.

Our Work

From the beginning, we have organized our work on the Genesee into **three mutually supporting segments**:

1. Improving Water Quality

Since 2015, we have completed three major river studies and four **streambank projects**, restoring 7,600 feet of fast-eroding riverbank. For 2023, we have secured funding for three additional projects that will restore a further 6,600 feet, for a total of 2.7 miles. All this work reduces sediment and nutrient flows into the river and will ultimately reduce dredging costs downstream and improve the quality of water entering Lake Ontario. More immediately, however, these projects preserve farmland in economic areas where its loss can be significant to farmers.



2. Connecting People to the River

We are working to **increase access** to the Genesee by installing and improving sites for boaters and fishermen. In 2020, we partnered with the City of Rochester to install a new canoe/kayak dock on the lower river. In 2023, we will improve the existing access sites in Avon and Geneseo.

To further encourage use of the Genesee, in 2020 we published the first ever **Genesee River Blueway Map** in both hardcopy and interactive forms.

Each summer since 2018 we have partnered with the Genesee Waterways Center to host a series of on-the-water **summer paddling events** for beginner and experienced boaters.

3. Informing & Educating the Public

Beginning with the initial launch of Genesee RiverWatch in 2014, we have hosted the annual **Genesee River Basin Summits**. These free public events feature expert speakers on topics critical to the future health of the river, solicit suggestions from the attendees, and help Genesee RiverWatch and its partner organizations prioritize future work.

In 2019, we published the first **Genesee River Basin Report Card**, assigning letter grades to the water quality of the Genesee River Basin as a whole and its six major sub-basins based on New York State Department of Environmental Conservation monitoring data.

Additional public information vehicles include periodic **webinars** on river-related topics as they arise, a series of **newsletters** each year and an **Annual Report** summarizing RiverWatch's work during the year.

**Contribute
to Our Work**

www.GeneseeRiverWatch.org

or by mailing your donation to:

**Genesee RiverWatch, Inc.
700 West Metro Park
Rochester, NY 14623**

Donations may be tax-deductible

**Your Genesee River is a key environmental, recreational, and economic asset.
We invite you to support our work**