



Objective of this presentation

- Why form Genesee RiverWatch?
- What is Genesee RiverWatch?
- What have we been doing since 2014?
- Activities since the 2023 Summit
- Our view of the future of the Basin



Headwaters Potter County, PA



Upper Basin – Near Caneadea



Middle Basin – Near Geneseo



Lower Falls – Rochester



River near Charlotte



Genesee River at Lake Ontario



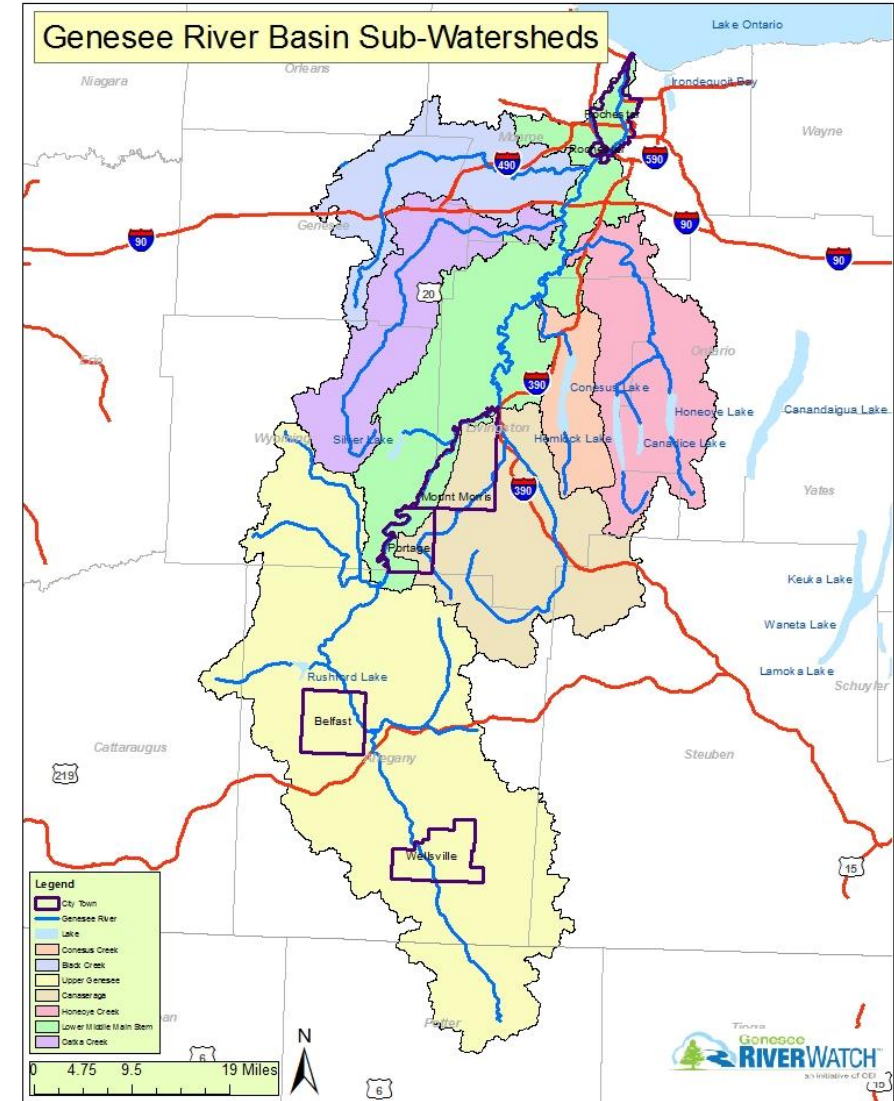
Formation of Genesee RiverWatch

Strategic Reassessment in 2013

- Concentrate our efforts
- Area where CEI has unique skills
- Intersection with major unmet community needs

Focus on the Genesee River

- Experience with water quality
- Genesee is an often-overlooked regional asset
- Only major river in New York without a “riverkeeper”
- Over 125 federal, state and local stakeholders separated by mission, geography, and funding sources



Formation of Genesee RiverWatch

Our strategic reassessment was based upon CEI's 40 years of experience and the values below

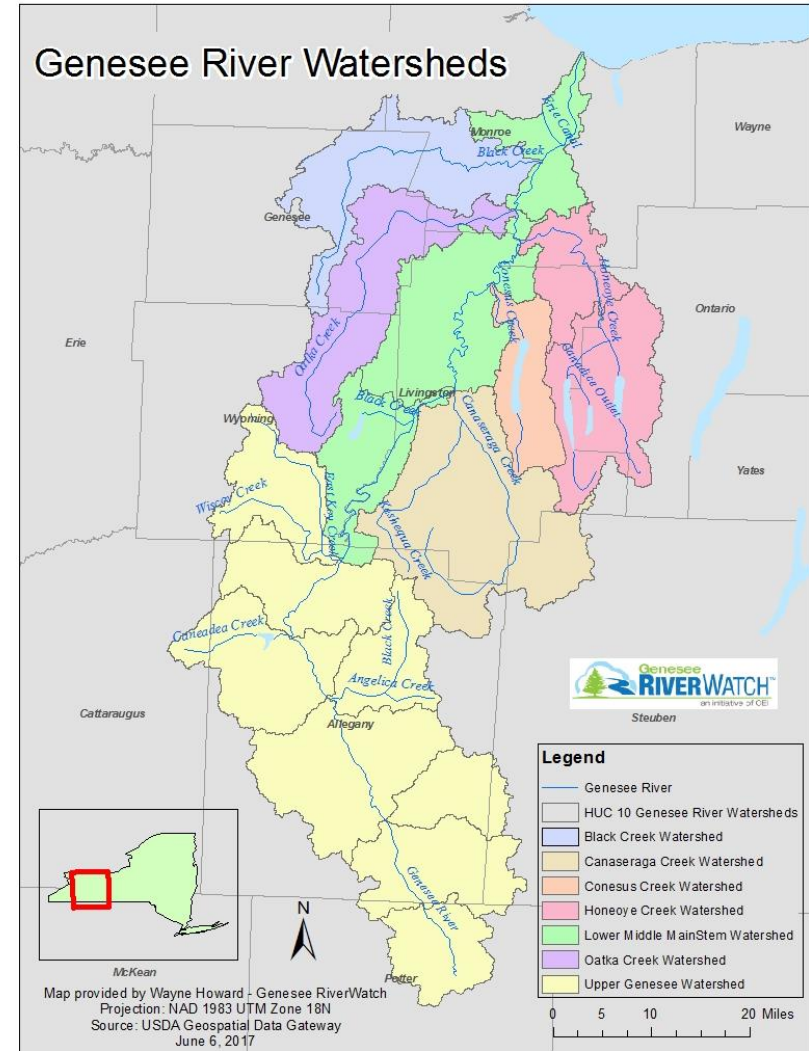
- Integrity
- Science and data driven
- Passion and perseverance
- Pragmatism and resourcefulness
- Disciplined responsiveness (priorities)



Formation of Genesee RiverWatch

Why was it formed?

- Bring basin stakeholders together
- Help establish the prioritization of basin needs
- Attract additional funding
- Be the “Voice of the Genesee”
 - Transcending boundaries of geography, funding, and local mission



Formation of Genesee RiverWatch

Mission:

To champion solutions that improve 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.



What does Genesee RiverWatch do?

Protect Water Quality

- We collaborate with others to seek ways to improve the water quality in the watershed
- To date we have focused on the low hanging fruit by developing, obtaining funding for, and implementing projects to restore streambanks and eroded upland areas in the watershed to reduce phosphorus and sediment loads in the river and preserve valuable farmland.



What does Genesee RiverWatch do?

Connect People to the River

- We encourage people to explore, experience and celebrate the river by creating awareness and increase access for boating, fishing, hiking, biking, and holding events that bring people to the river.

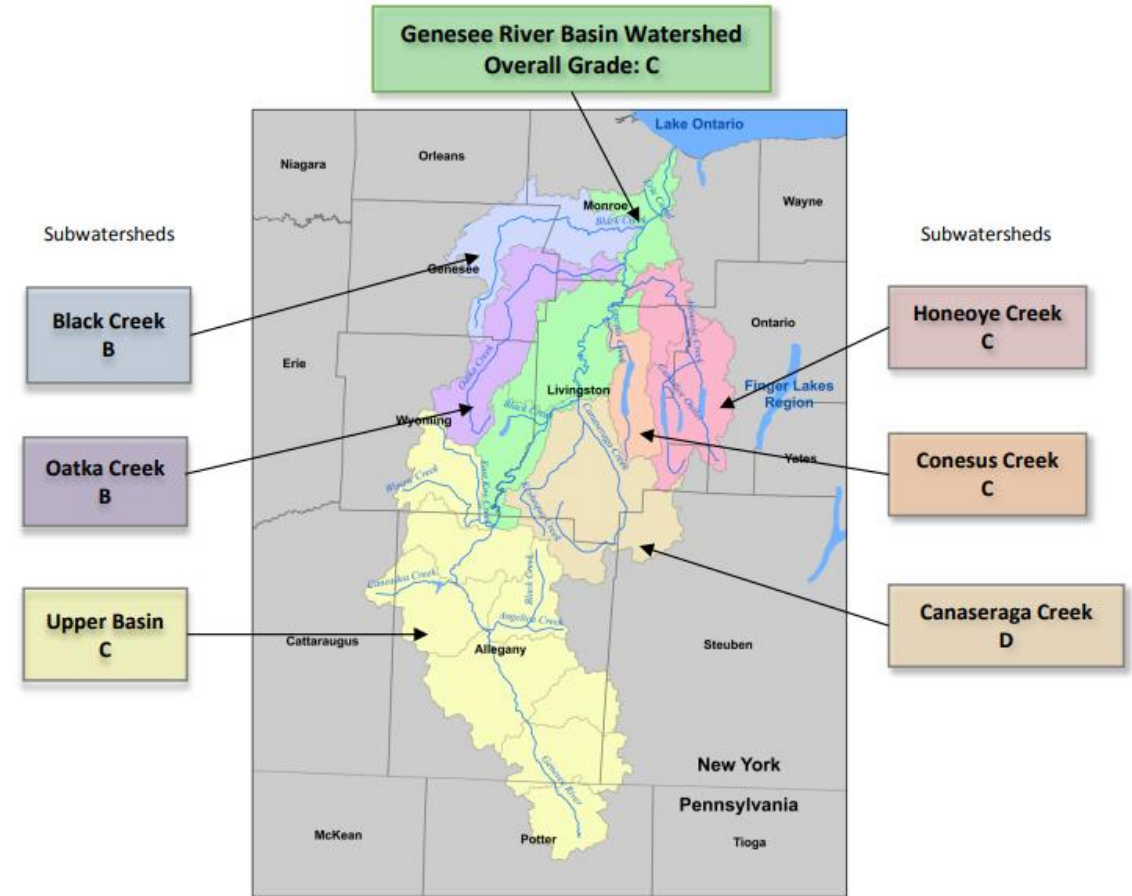


What does Genesee RiverWatch do?

Inform and Educate

- We enhance public knowledge of the Genesee River and strive to increase commitment to its future health and use by:
 - Publishing a Genesee River Basin Report Card
 - Hold Genesee River Summits
 - Publish and circulate regular newsletters
 - Social media

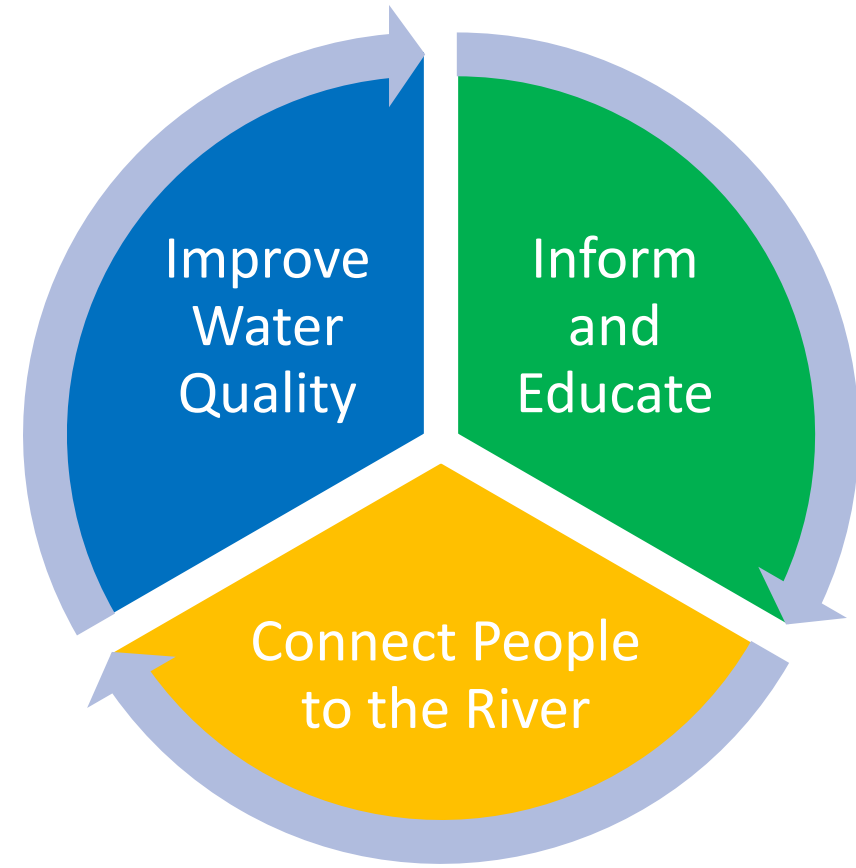
2019 Genesee River Basin Report Card



What does Genesee RiverWatch do?

These three aspects of our work form a beneficial cycle in which better water quality leads to people:

- Wanting to connect to the river
- Becoming more knowledgeable of the basin needs, and
- Then supporting further water quality improvements.



What has Genesee RiverWatch done since 2014?

Bring Basin stakeholders together

- Held 10 summits with over 800 attendees and 80 speakers
- Regularly published newsletters to our over 2,200 followers
- Organized summer paddling events on the Lower river in conjunction with the Genesee Waterways Center beginning in 2019



What has Genesee RiverWatch done since 2014?

Help establish prioritization of Basin needs

- Shared results of the SUNY Brockport study on the sediment and phosphorus loads in the basin via Summits, website, and newsletters
- Completed study of streambank erosion in the Town of Caneadea and shared results widely in 2015
- Our first streambank restoration was identified in that study in 2016



What has Genesee RiverWatch done since 2014?

Attract additional funding

- \$1,500,000 in grants
- \$1,300,000 in match and in-kind support for those grants/projects
- TOTAL: \$2,800,000

- \$800,000 of the TOTAL is being implemented over the next two years



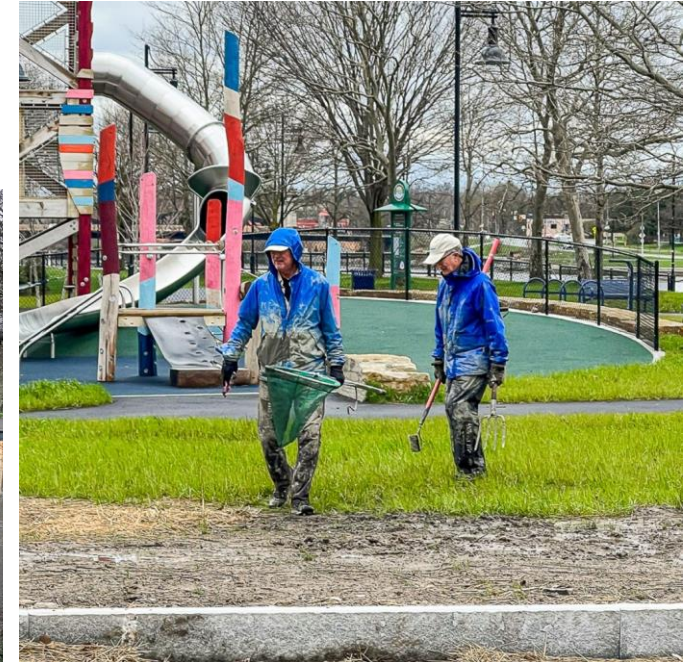
What has Genesee RiverWatch done since 2014?

Voice of the Genesee

➤ Inquiries from:

- Landowners
- Interested parties
- Organizations
- Out of the blue via internet search – grandfather from PA wanting to know about trout fishing in the Genesee, a Boy Scout leader in California wanting paddling information

➤ Requests for volunteer opportunities including cleanups



Activities since the 2023 Summit

Improve Water Quality

Implement funded projects:

- Oatka Creek SBR demonstration project to be complete by September 2024
- Babbitt's Farm SBR permitting at yearend and construction in 2025
- Rush Creek Restoration – design by early 2025



Activities since the 2023 Summit

Improve Water Quality

- Prepared and submitted an application for \$430,000 to the Great Lakes Commission to develop and implement Ag BMPs in Livingston County to support their efforts



Activities since the 2023 Summit

Improve Water Quality

- Facilitated the meetings of the Canaseraga Creek Watershed Working Group
- Formed as a result of further discussions with DEC about next steps after 2023 Summit



Activities since the 2023 Summit

Connect People to the River

- Held five paddling events in partnership with the Genesee Waterways Center in 2023 and five more on tap for 2024



Activities since the 2023 Summit

Connect People to the River

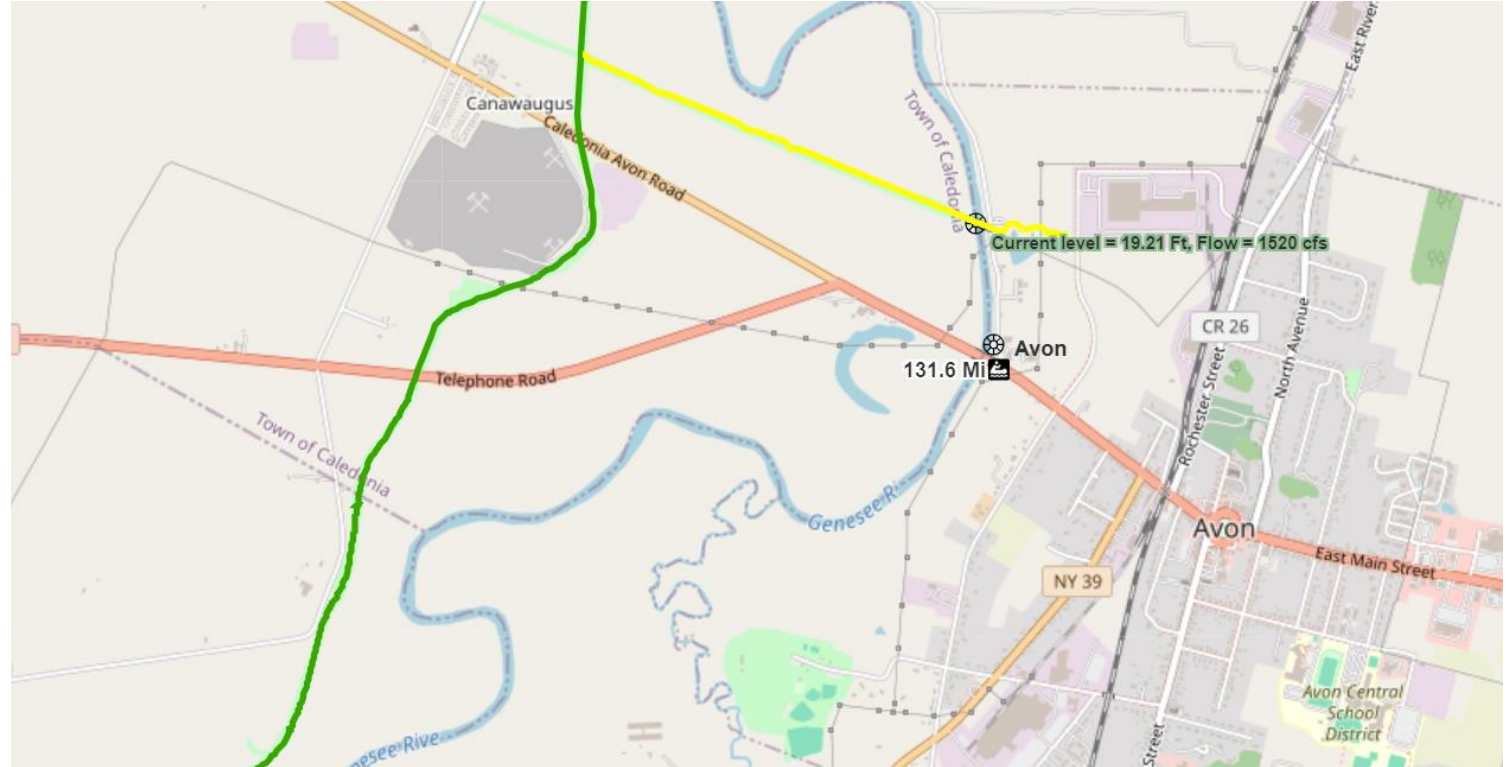
- Submitted permit applications for upgrading two existing canoe/kayak access sites on the River
 - Geneseo
 - Avon
- Construction will be completed this year



Activities since the 2023 Summit

Connect People to the River

- Finalizing a new version of our interactive Blueway Map to include hiking trails
- Expect to roll this out before the end of this season



Activities since the 2023 Summit

Inform and Educate

- Published 2 Newsletters
- Began work on updating our Basin Report Card
- Working to facilitate the establishment of a kayak rental operation on the Lower river
- This Summit



Our view of the future of the Basin

Improve Water Quality

- Advocate for funding and implementation of a routine water quality monitoring program for the whole basin to allow for adaptive management



Our view of the future of the Basin

Improve Water Quality

- Facilitate the definition, funding, and implementation of erosion control projects (SBR and AgBMPs) throughout the Basin in collaboration and partnership with:
 - SWCDs
 - DEC
 - Canaseraga Creek Watershed Working Group
 - Landowners



Our view of the future of the Basin

Improve Water Quality

- Increase outreach and technical assistance to help facilitate dairy producer access to best practices to reduce phosphorus loads, improve soil health, and improve nutrient management



Our view of the future of the Basin

Improve Water Quality

- Genesee RiverWatch will seek a minimum of carbon neutrality in each of the streambank restoration projects that it initiates and implements, either solely or in partnership with others.
- Result in zero net addition of carbon to the atmosphere over a ten-year period from the completion of a project.



Our view of the future of the Basin

Improve Water Quality

- Continue to facilitate the Canaseraga Creek Watershed Working Group



Our view of the future of the Basin

Improve Water Quality

- Increase outreach and technical assistance to priority WWTPs to facilitate development and implementation of projects to reduce pathogen and phosphorus loads in the watershed



Our view of the future of the Basin

Connect People to the River

- Facilitate the establishment of canoe and kayak rental and shuttle operations in the Basin



Our view of the future of the Basin

Connect People to the River

- Collaborate with various stakeholders to establish safe canoe/kayak access sites every 10 to 15 miles along the river



Our view of the future of the Basin

Connect People to the River

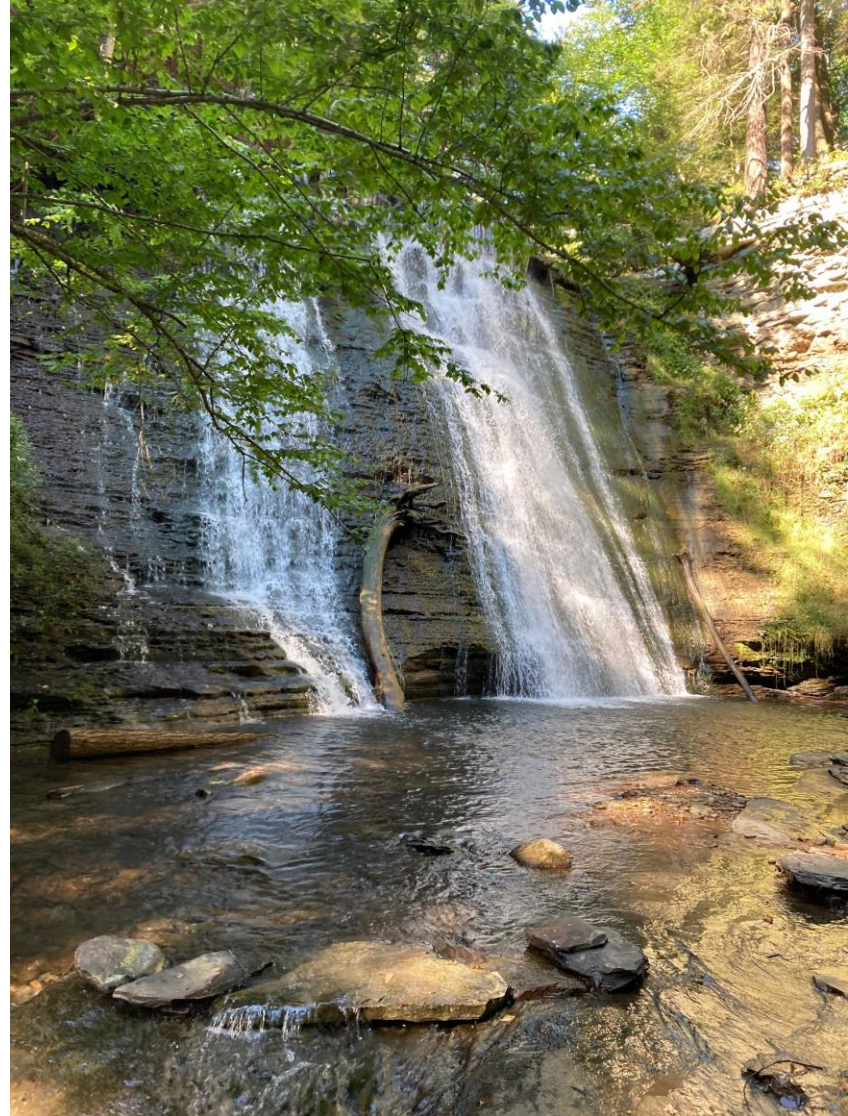
- Collaborate with other stakeholders to enhance our Blueway Map with information about services available to boaters, hikers, and bikers



Our view of the future of the Basin

Connect People to the River

- Partner with hiking groups to develop and implement a hiking program
- The Gully Preserve on Little Mill Creek near Dansville



Our view of the future of the Basin

Connect People to the River

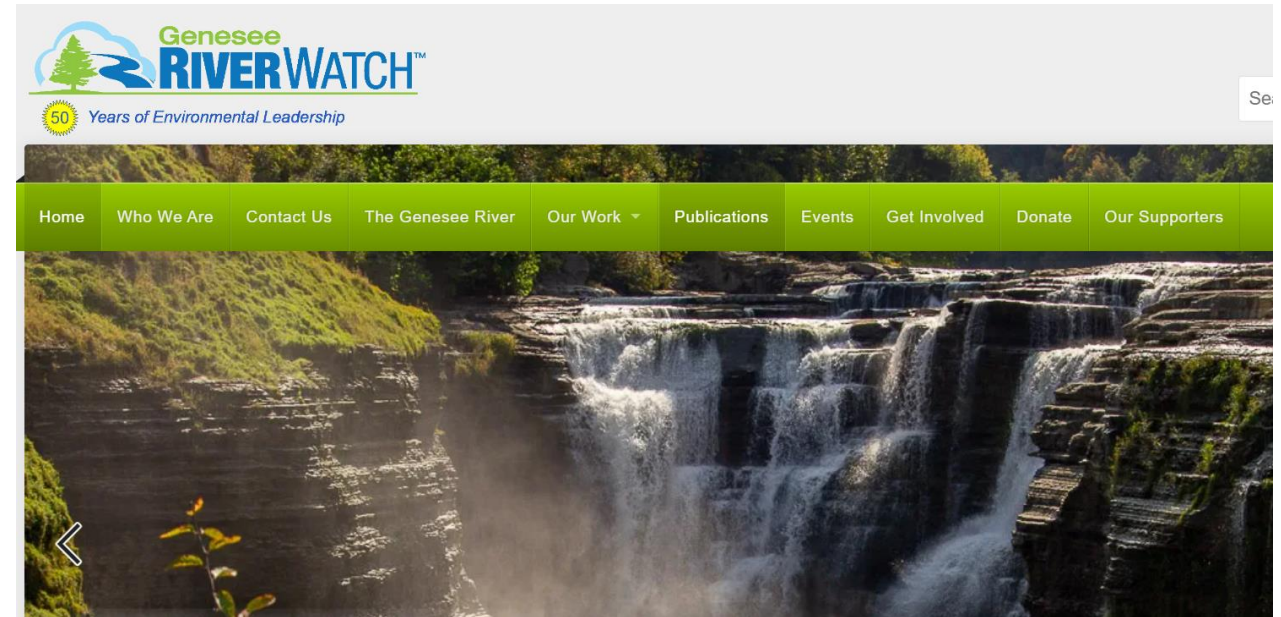
- Organize more basin clean up events



Our view of the future of the Basin

Inform and Educate

- Share water quality data
- Hold workshops on topics of interest
- Organize more on-river events
- Improve communication on the impact of stakeholder work in the Basin



Final Thoughts

- Continue to bring basin stakeholders together
- Maintain and enhance partnerships with SWCDs, landowners, key stakeholders, and landowners
- Help establish the prioritization of the needs of the Basin
- Attract additional funding to the Basin
- Be the Voice of the Genesee
- Use adaptive management by implementing regular water quality monitoring
- Continue to seek support from stakeholders and the general public via outreach and education