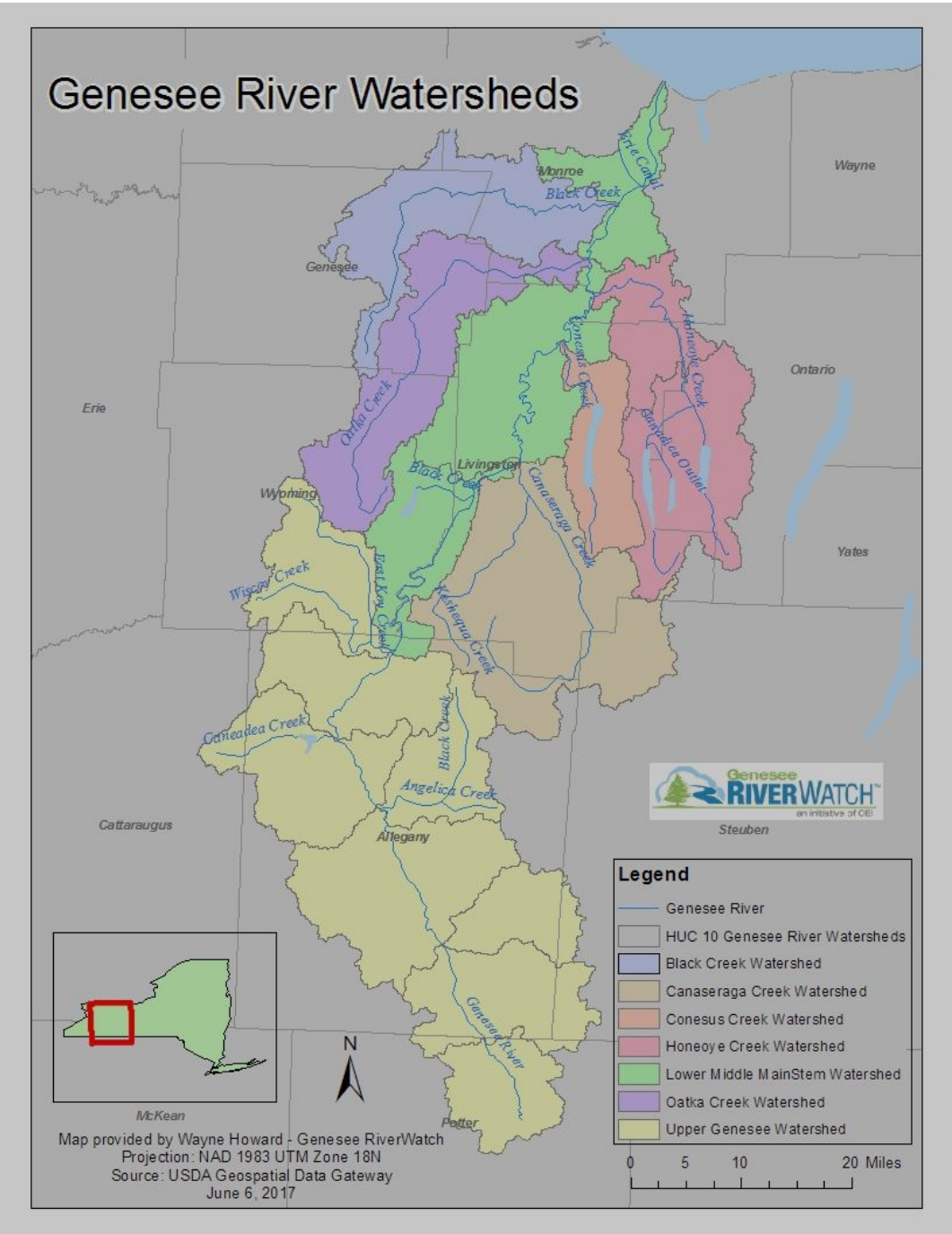




# Genesee River Basin



# Headwaters Potter County, PA



# Upper Basin – Near Caneadea



# Middle Basin – Near Geneseo



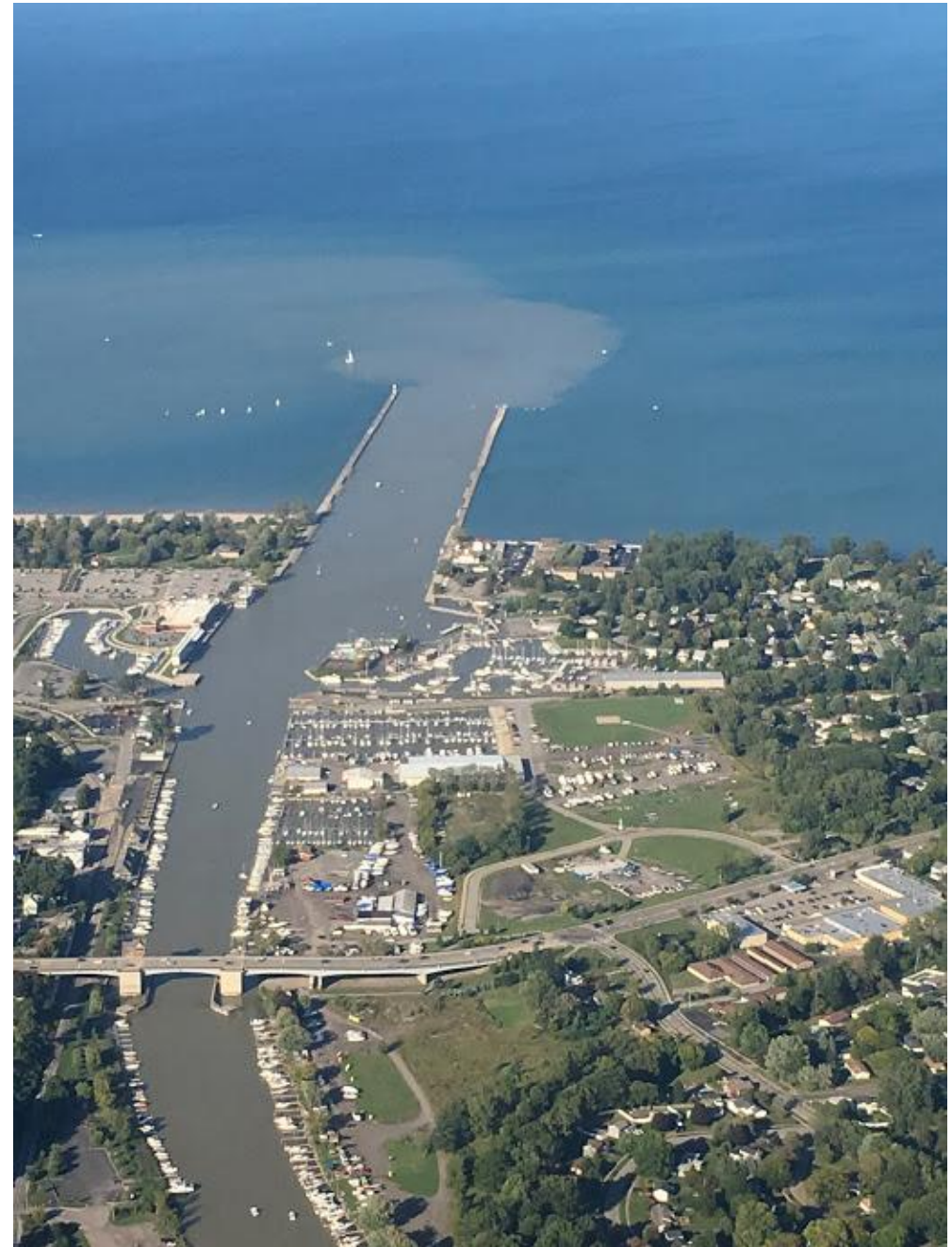
# Lower Falls – Rochester



# River near Charlotte



# Genesee River at Lake Ontario





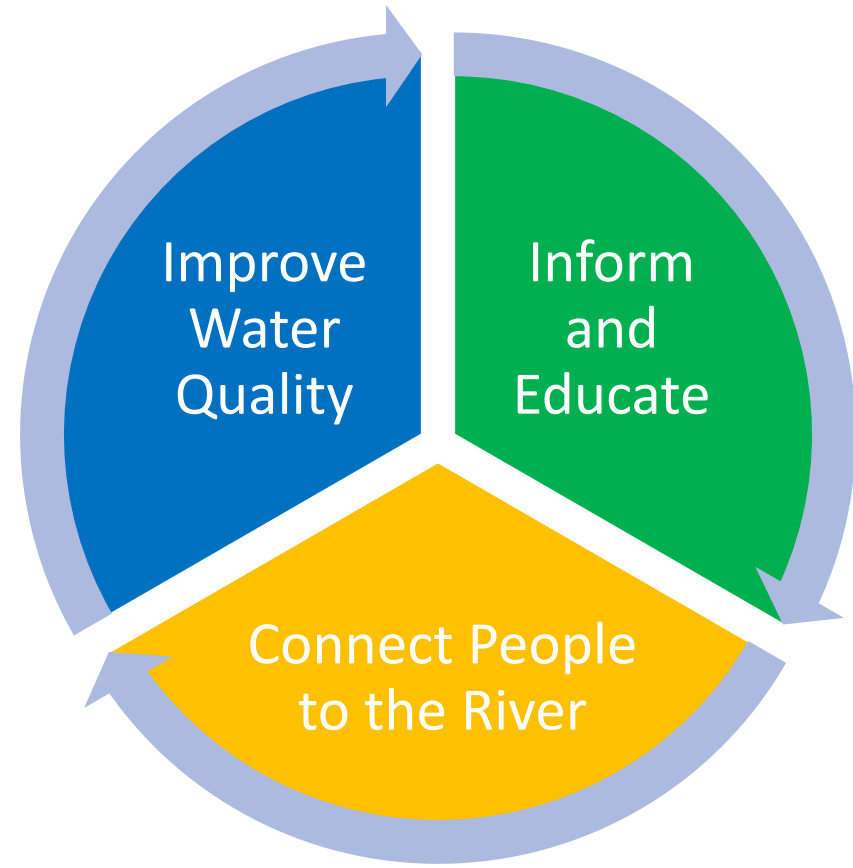
*Environmental Leaders Since 1974*

Mission: To champion solutions that improve the water quality and climate resilience of the Genesee River Basin, and initiatives that connect people to the River.

# 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
- ❑ Supporting further water quality improvements.



# Our Current Work

## Improve Water Quality

- Implement projects to restore streambanks and eroded upland areas in the watershed to reduce phosphorus and sediment loads in the river and preserve valuable farmland



# Our Current Work

## Improve Water Quality

- Facilitate the Canaseraga Creek Watershed Working Group
- This watershed is one of the largest contributors to phosphorus and sediment loads to the river



# Our Current Work

Connect People to the River

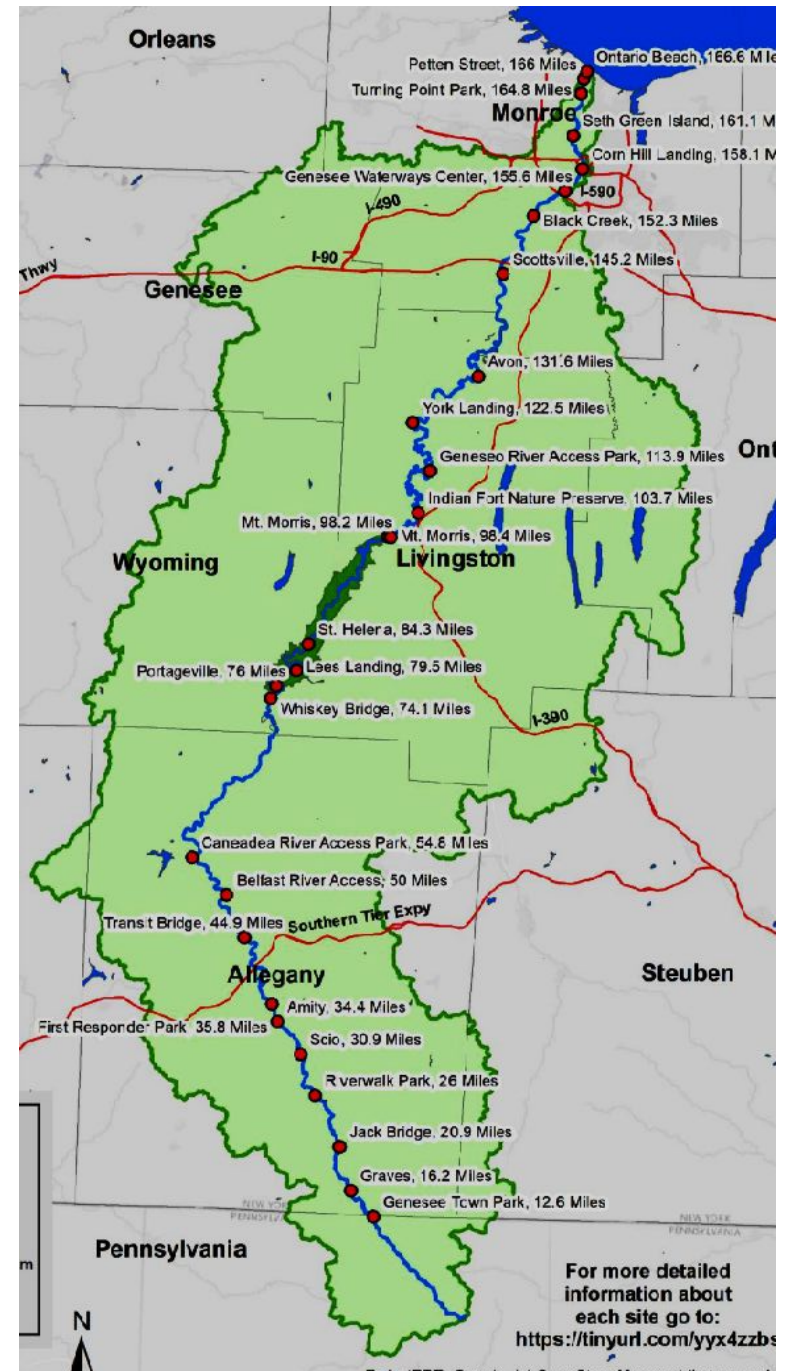
- Hold multiple paddling events in partnership with the Genesee Waterways Center



# Our Current Work

## Connect People to the River

- Finalized a new version of our interactive [Blueway Map](#) to include hiking trails
- Expect to roll out new printed version before the beginning of the 2025 paddling season



# Our Current Work

## Inform and Educate

- We enhance public knowledge of the Genesee River and strive to increase commitment to its future health and use by:
  - Holding Genesee River Summits
  - Publishing and circulating regular newsletters
  - Social media



# Our Current Work

- Support development of the **Genesee River Watershed Improvement Plan** via participation on the *Watershed Advisory Committee*
- Plan is being drafted by a collaboration between:
  - Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
  - NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
  - Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board
  - Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board
- Multiple ways to contribute
  - Join the Watershed Advisory Committee
  - Submit project ideas to reduce sediment and phosphorus
  - Reach out to Ryan Elliott (DEC) or Emily Royce (GFLRPC)

# Our Future Work

## Improve Water Quality

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



# Our Future Work

## Improve Water Quality

- Continue to facilitate the definition, funding, and implementation of erosion control projects



# Our Future Work

## 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.
- Do our part to put NYS on a path to carbon neutrality



# Our Future Work

Connect People to the River

- Upgrade two existing canoe/kayak access sites on the River
  - Geneseo
  - Avon



# Our Future Work

Connect People to the River

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



# Our Future Work

Connect People to the River

- Organize more basin clean up events



# Our Founding Principles

- Established at the inaugural Summit in 2014
  - Work with stakeholders
  - Secure funding that would not otherwise be pursued
  - Bring attention to issues affecting water quality in the Basin



# Our Accomplishments

- Since the formation of Genesee RiverWatch in 2014
  - Implemented \$2,000k worth of projects
  - Currently working on \$800k of funded projects
  - 10 Annual Genesee River Basin Summits attracting about 100 stakeholders and 10 speakers per year
  - Maintain an up-to-date website
  - Name recognition – people call us directly for help or are referred to us by basin stakeholders

# Over the last 11 years

- Focused on sediment and phosphorus in the river since funding was readily available
- Avoided many issues that came up over that time due to resource limitations – staff and funding



# Issues Raised Over that Time

- Fracking fluids
- PFAS
- Plastics
- Coliform bacteria
- Alga blooms
- Economic development
- Invasive species
- Carbon sequestration in wood vaults
- Greenhouse gases
- Woody debris in streams
- Wetlands, etc.



# Recognition that we have a role in other issues

- Even if we cannot define and implement programs to address these issues we can create awareness of them and provide education
- This will increase interest in the watershed by:
  - Bringing experts and interested parties together
  - Partnering versus leading



# Our First Step

- Oatka Creek streambank restoration demonstration project
  - Completed last year
  - Developed and installed novel techniques
- Shared results in presentations to OCWC and AWMA
- Produced and shared a white paper



# Our next step

**2025 Genesee River Basin SUMMIT Agenda**

***EMERGING ISSUES***

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025**

**OBJECTIVE:** Bring together stakeholders, experts and community members to learn about emerging issues that affect water quality in the Basin.

# Methods to sample dissolved greenhouse gases in the Genesee River



# Understanding the Impact of the Erie Canal on Genesee River Water Quality



# Characterization of Plastics in the Genesee



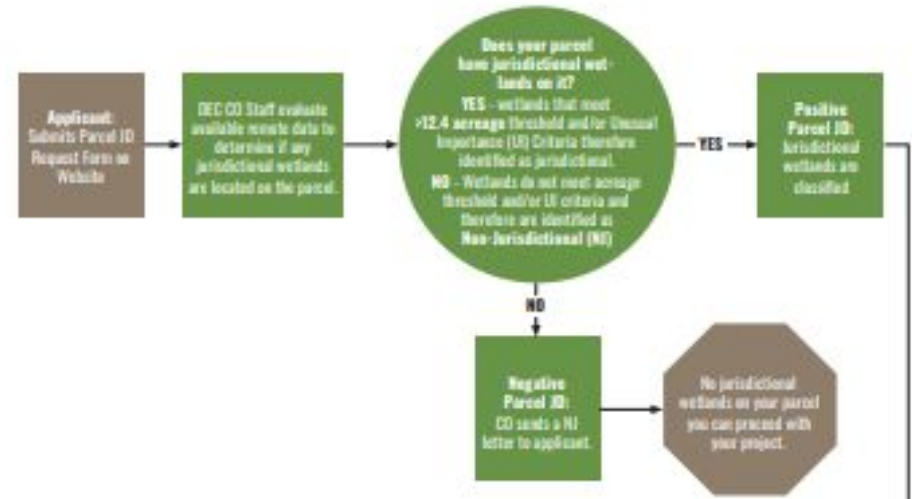
# Logjams: Woody Debris Removal Project in the Upper Genesee River Basin



# The Future

- Watch the progress of science and policy in the watershed
- Partner with others to hold:
  - Workshops or webinars on selected topics
  - Training events/workshops for professional development credit

## Parcel Jurisdictional Determination (JD) Process



## Project Jurisdictional Determination (JD) Process

