

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Targeted Watersheds Grant

Lake Champlain, NY and VT



Restoration of Hadlock Stream to improve fish habitat and floodplain quality.



Lake Champlain at sunset.



Sediment loading from English Brook.

Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District

The Watershed

The 8,234 square-mile Lake Champlain watershed provides numerous recreational, economic and historical benefits. The lake draws millions of visitors to the area each year to take advantage of the boating, swimming and fishing opportunities. The waterbody supports lake trout and Atlantic salmon populations and an excellent bass fishery. Tourism in the watershed brings \$3.8 billion dollars to the local economy each year. The watershed also supports over \$525 million in agricultural products a year, including apples, milk and maple syrup. The Lake Champlain watershed is also historically renowned. During the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, important battles were fought along its shores. The watershed also served as host for the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid.

Issues

The number one priority for action in the Lake Champlain watershed is the reduction of excess phosphorus pollution. Agricultural land contributes 55 percent of the nonpoint source phosphorus loading, even though it accounts for only 15 percent of the watershed. Developed land, which covers 6 percent of the watershed, is responsible for roughly 37 percent of the non-point source phosphorus load. Polluted runoff from impervious surfaces (e.g., paved surfaces), which flows directly into the lake or its tributaries, compounds water quality problems. Point source pollution from industrial and municipal wastewater treatment plants also contribute significantly to the phosphorus problem.

Project Activities

To address the agricultural sources of phosphorus, as well as reduce sediment and pathogen loading to the streams, the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York will carry out multiple actions to improve and restore watershed health.

- Agricultural Best Management Practices:** Barnyard water management, livestock stream exclusions, riparian buffers, and manure storage systems will be installed to reduce runoff from farms.



Lake Champlain Watershed

Project Partners:

- Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board
- Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Lake Champlain Basin Program
- Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren and Washington Counties Water Quality Coordinating Committees

Funds Leveraged:

EPA Grant: \$900,000

Match in non-federal funds and in kind services: \$976,780

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- **Urban Stormwater:** Retrofitting highly developed road corridors with pre-treatment and infiltration practices will help reduce impacts from increased urbanization. Neighboring communities will be invited to view these demonstration projects so that they can learn about effective ways to address stormwater pollution.
- **Roadside Erosion Control:** Watershed-wide hydroseeding of road ditches and banks, working with over 50 highway departments will help reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- **Stream Corridor Stabilization:** Large-scale stabilization of stream and riverbanks to reduce erosion and high sediment loads will be implemented.
- **Onsite Wastewater:** Cost-shared septic system pumpouts, water conservation kits, and education for near-shore homeowners will be conducted to reduce bacteria from failing systems and to promote water conservation.
- **Innovative Tertiary Treatment:** Partners will assist with the construction of an improved community sewer system. The system will use a locally-mined mineral called wollastonite that cost effectively adsorbs phosphorus.



EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grant program is a competitive grant program designed to encourage collaborative, community-driven approaches to meet clean water goals.

For more information about the selected watersheds, please visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/twg>