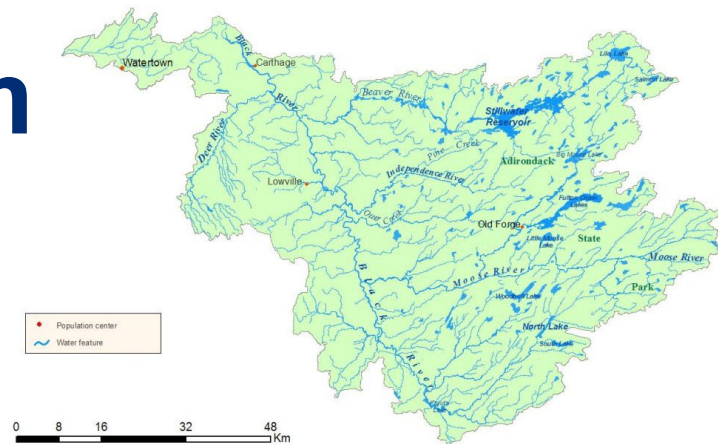




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# Great Lakes Program Updates



June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Black River Watershed Conference

Emily Fell; Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator

NYSDEC, in partnership with Cornell Water Resources Institute

# Program Mission

*“To protect, restore, conserve and enhance the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters and associated natural resources within the Great Lakes basin for sustainable use and enjoyment by the people of New York”.*



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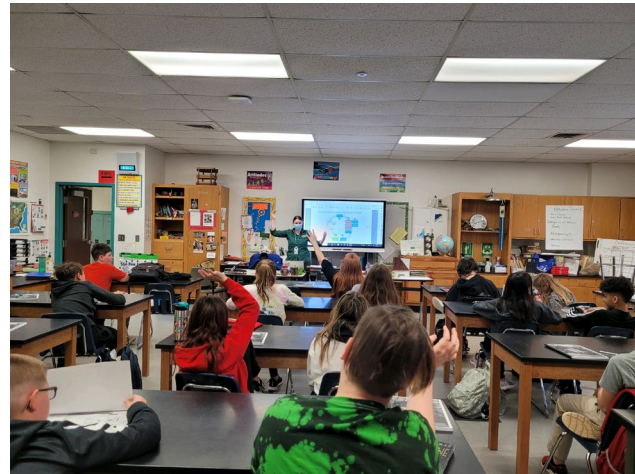
# ***Draft GLAA 2023 Goals***

1. Reduce or Eliminate Releases of Persistent Toxic Substances
2. Control Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loadings
3. Prevent and Control Invasive Species
4. Conserve and Restore Native Fish and Wildlife and Their Habitats
5. Enhance Community Resiliency and Ecosystem Integrity
6. Revitalize Local Communities through Sustainable Management



# Expanded Cross-cutting Priorities

- Promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness
- Educate the Next Generation of Great Lakes Stewards
- Integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Strengthen Local Capacity, Engagement, and Partnerships
- Innovate and Elevate Great Lakes Restoration
- Accelerate Collection of and Access to Science
- Prepare for a Changing Climate



# Black River Initiative

- Annual newsletter developed in partnership with Tug Hill Commission reporting on Black River Watershed Management Plan and Black River 9 Element (9E) Plan Implementation
- Share articles for 2023 report

Winter 2022



Photo by Emily Fell

Coming Back to Life in 2022

Black River Initiative

While 2021 saw continued progress in support of the Black River Initiative efforts to keep our waters clean, in 2022 we were all coming back to life with the return to more normalcy and in-person gatherings. Many were able to bring in new resources for watershed work, with investments from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and additional grant capacity to support project implementation. As we breathe new life into this initiative, we look to the horizon, which seems so distant and far away, but realize its closer than we think.

New life means new people, ideas, and support. In 2023, we aim to promote more diverse collaboration and bring in new perspectives. Diversity is beautiful, like the scenery of the Tug Hill in the fall, the diverse colors of the various species of trees with their oranges, purples, and reds make the landscape that much more luminous. All who appreciate and want to get involved in work to improve the land and water resources of the Black River watershed are invited to join us. Let us know if there are barriers we can help work through. Happy New Year!

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Black River Environmental Improvement Association  
Cross Country Skiing trail. Photo by Emily Fell.

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# Black River Adaptive Modeling project need

- Since 2016, DEC standards for 9 Element Watershed Plans have been updated (Quality Assurance Project Plans required for monitoring and modeling)
- There have been challenges for stakeholders to implement the plan using the modeling data at the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 11 scale (a HUC 12 scale is preferred)
- Updated monitoring and modeling (in 2026) will help meet evaluation criteria and support milestones for the 9E plan



[https://cfpub.epa.gov/watertrain/moduleFrame.cfm?parent\\_object\\_id=2868](https://cfpub.epa.gov/watertrain/moduleFrame.cfm?parent_object_id=2868)



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# Black River Adaptive Modeling

## Phase I (Complete by June 2023)

- Worked with consultants to complete a water quality data gap analysis assessment report and identify additional water quality sampling needed to support the calibration of the watershed model.
- Engaged water quality stakeholders and toured the watershed with the project team



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# Black River Adaptive Modeling

## Phase II (Planned)

- Working with DEC and partners to complete additional water quality monitoring (under DEC approved QAPP)
- Supporting watershed modeling (under DEC approved QAPP) at the HUC 12 scale, updating the Black River 9E plan, engaging stakeholders, and evaluating trends in watershed conditions.
- Anticipate completing by 2026/2027, as funding and capacity is available.





# Questions?

Emily Fell

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