NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

Monitoring and Funding for Little Salmon River Aquatic Connectivity

8-26-25

DEC's Great Lakes Program

NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda advances:

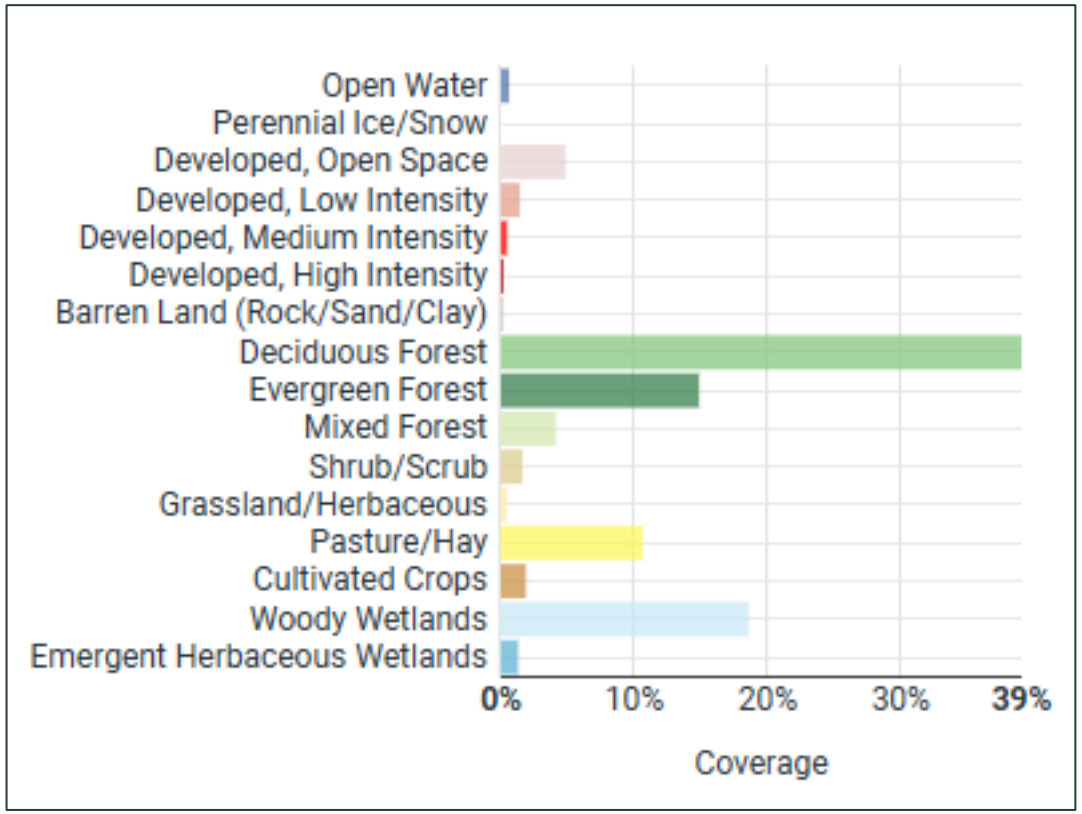
- Improving Environmental Quality
  - Eliminating Releases of Toxic Substances and Controlling Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loadings
- Conserving and Restoring Natural Resources
  - Preventing Invasive Species, Conserving and Restoring Native Fish and Wildlife Habitats
- Enhancing Community Resiliency and Sustainability
  - Promoting Stewardship, Ecosystem Integrity and Community Revitalization

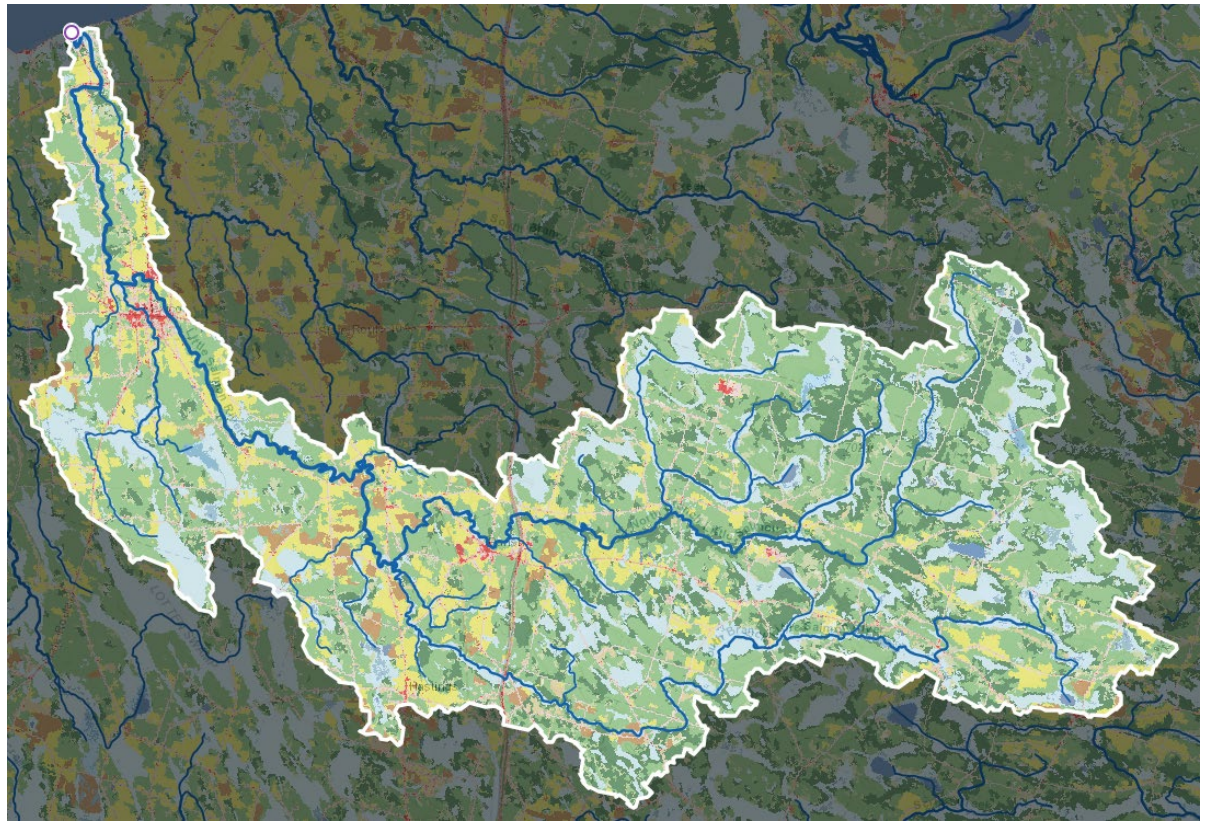
To get involved, email
greatlakes@dec.ny.gov

Little Salmon River

- Located in Oswego County
- Headwaters are in Albion
- Drains northwest through Parish and Mexico to Lake Ontario at Mexico Point
- Watershed Area is 85.04 square miles
- Watershed is mostly forested
- Source of drinking water for the Village of Mexico (groundwater)

Little Salmon River Watershed





Images from modelmywatershed.org courtesy of Upstate Freshwater Institute

Watershed Management Opportunities

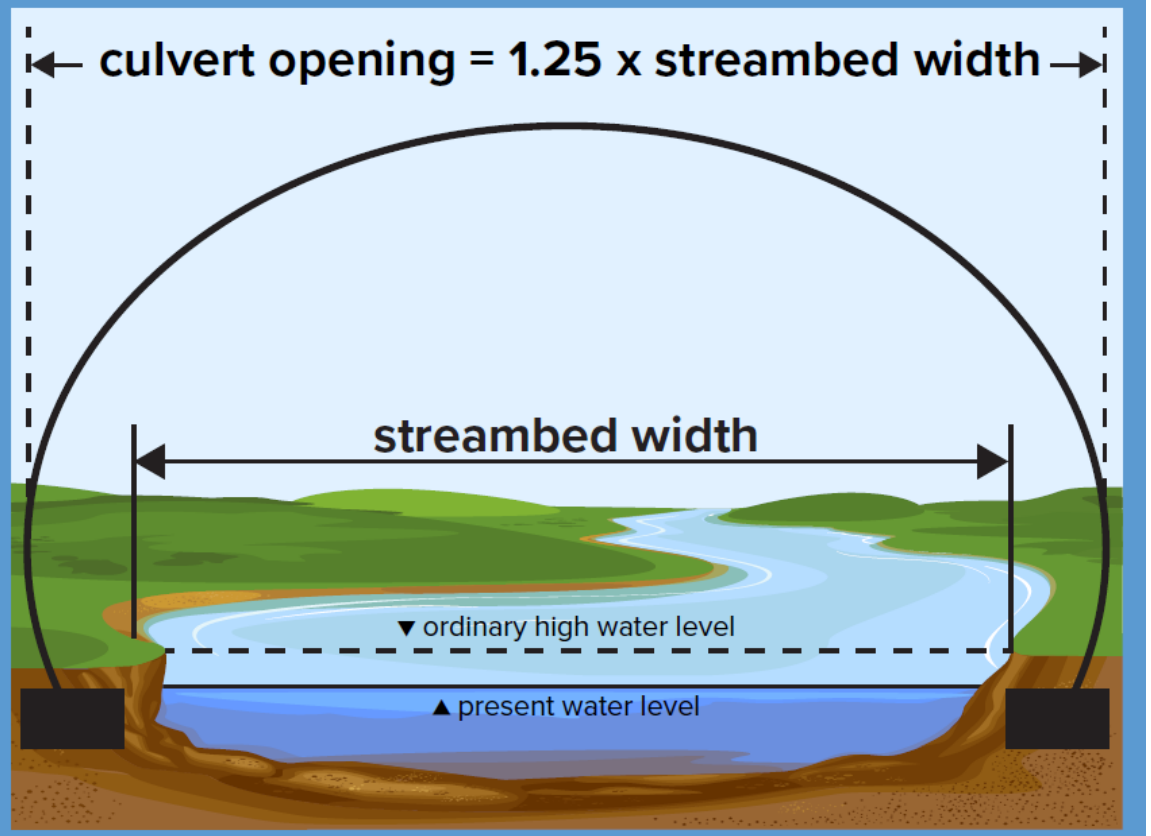
- Citizen science monitoring (WAVE and CSLAP)
- Drinking Source Water Protection Plan for the Village of Mexico's water supply
- DOS Watershed Management Plan (a municipality could apply to DOS for funding to develop and implement the plan)
- DEC Ag Nonpoint Source Planning Grant funding to support planning for water quality improvement projects
- Promoting conservation practices to landowners
- Studies to support aquatic connectivity, including feasibility of dam removals and culvert right sizing following DEC Stream Crossing guidelines
- Including Little Salmon River project interests in the Oswego County Comprehensive Plan

Headwaters of Little Salmon River in Parish. Photo by Oswego SWCD.

North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative Culvert Assessments

Correctly Installed Open-bottom Arch Culvert With Footings

Culvert right-sizing can prevent future flooding along roadways and improve habitat for fish and other aquatic life.



North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative
NAACC

Watershed resiliency planning opportunities and funding

- DEC Climate Smart Communities
- DOS Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan
- DEC Water Quality Improvement Project
- DEC Non-Point Source Planning Grant
- EFC Green Innovation Grants
- EFC Green Resiliency Grants
- NYS DHSES Hazard Mitigation funding

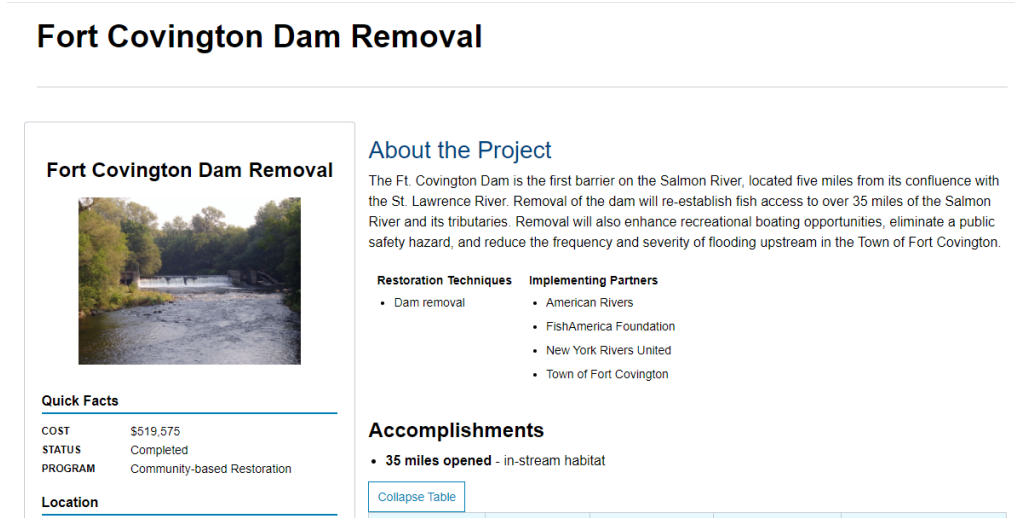
NOAA Habitat Restoration Grant

Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership Grant

- Supporting valuable fisheries and coastal resources
- Improving the quality of our water by restoring coastal wetlands
- Providing recreational opportunities for the public's use and enjoyment
- Increasing the resilience of Great Lakes communities

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state and local governments.

Due **September 5th, 2025**



Project example: Fort Covington Dam Removal

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/noaa-great-lakes-fish-habitat-restoration-partnership-grants

Guidance for Dam Safety and Removal

- DEC Aquatic Connectivity and Barrier Removal website
- DEC Dam Safety Guidance
- Association of State Dam Safety Officials Dam Removal Considerations
- Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety: DOWinformation@dec.ny.gov
- DEC Region 7 Permitting: dep.r7@dec.ny.gov

Restoration Success – Shapp Pond Dam

CORNELL CHRONICLE

Topics Campus & Community All Stories Podcast Media Relations Cornellians

Provided

The Shapp Pond Dam near the outlet of the East Branch of Wappinger Creek in Dutchess County.

Dam removal restores aquatic ecosystem within three years

By Krishna Ramanujan, Cornell Chronicle

July 28, 2025

https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2025/07/dam-removal-restores-aquatic-ecosystem-within-three-years

Pre and Post Restoration Monitoring at Black Creek to evaluate success

Before

After

Before photos from June of 2023
After photos taken June of 2025 (above) and October of 2025 (below).

“I sit in happy mediation on my rock, pondering, while my line dries again, upon the ways of trout and men. How like fish we are: ready, nay eager, to seize upon whatever new thing some wind of circumstance shakes down upon the river of time!

Aldo Leopold

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What Questions do you have?

Emily Fell

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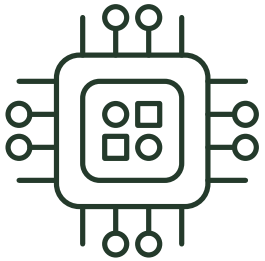

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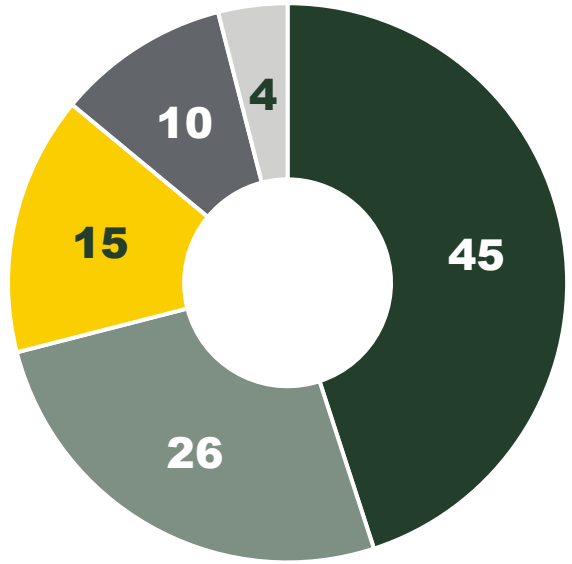

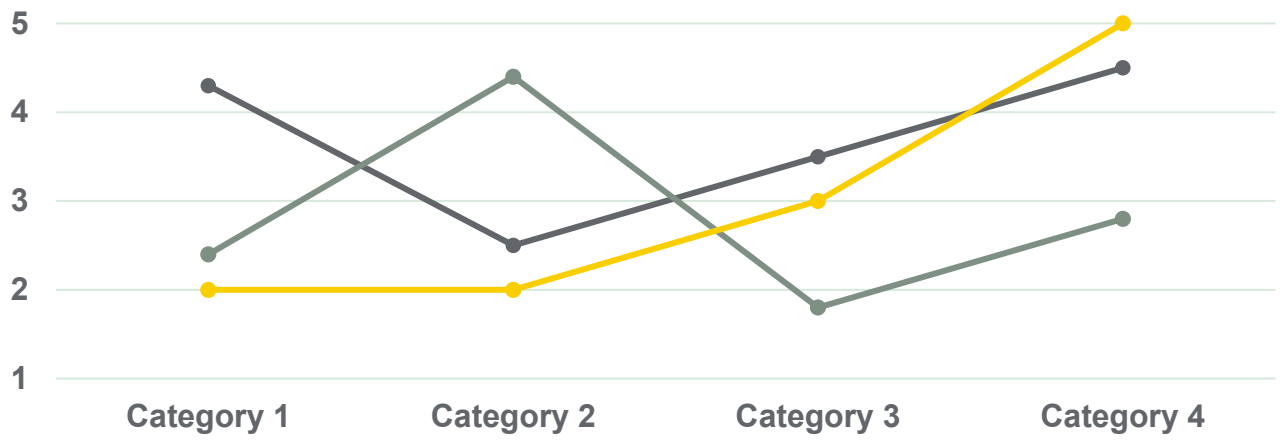

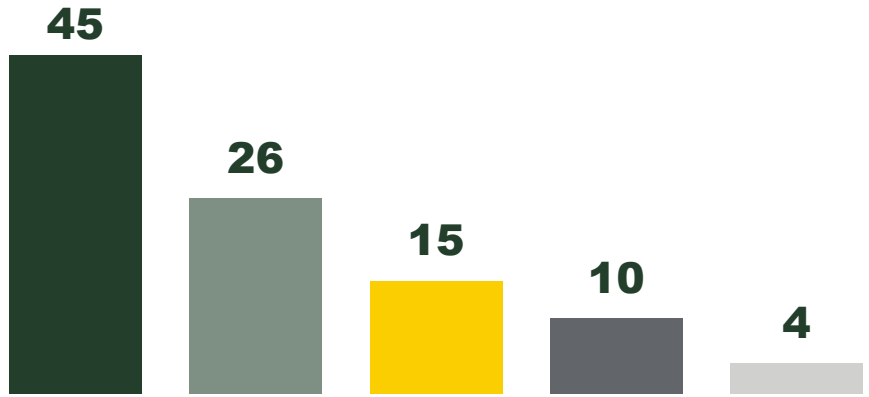

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