

Lake Champlain Basin Program

NY Citizens Advisory Committee

Focus - 2020



Phosphorus Loading Reduction

Non-point Source run-off from agricultural, urban, and developed lands, roads/ditches, and eroding stream banks, along with **Point Source** discharges from wastewater treatment plants add nutrients to the lake which degrade water quality and aquatic habitat, cause harmful algae blooms, impact water supplies, and affect recreational enjoyment of the lake. P reductions are needed to restore and protect a healthy and vibrant ecosystem.

FOCUS Resources on:

- BMP implementation in all Nonpoint Source categories.
- Best Treatment Technology & Optimization at WWTPs.
- Education & Outreach to modify attitudes and behavior.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Invasive species often displace native species, disrupt food webs, reduce ecological diversity, and impact water quality. Invasive species negatively impact property values, recreation, tourism, and local economies. Once introduced, they are nearly impossible to eradicate and very expensive to manage.

FOCUS Resources on:

- Expand boat launch steward & boat wash programs.
- Sustain sea lamprey control program.
- Sustain aggressive water chestnut harvesting program.
- Implement Champlain Canal physical separation barrier.



Habitat Protection & Resilience

Wetland degradation, development of floodplains, roads, culverts, removal of hedgerows and riparian growth result in loss of habitat, impact wildlife and fish movement, threaten ecological diversity, reduce resilience to storms, increasing damages to property and infrastructure.

FOCUS Resources on:

- Protection and restoration of wetlands and floodplains.
- Education and outreach on the value of wetlands, floodplains, and connected habitats in supporting ecological diversity, improved resilience and reduced damages to properties and infrastructure.



Education & Outreach

Education and Outreach is embedded in every facet of efforts to restore and protect Lake Champlain and its watershed. Success is contingent on people understanding the value of these resources and how their actions matter.

FOCUS Resources on:

Reaching out to all segments of the population with opportunities to be part of the solution.
 Modifying individual behavior and attitudes such that people want to do the right thing.
 Expand Lake Champlain Basin Program visibility in NY.



Culture and Heritage

The Lake Champlain Basin is rich in cultural and historical resources. From before the founding of this Country to present day, the Lake Champlain corridor has played an important role in shaping the course of history.

FOCUS Resources on:

Protecting and preserving the Basin's cultural and historical resources.
 Continue to weave together, and tell the story of the Basin's history through events, displays, wayside exhibits, and social and visual media technologies.

Recreation, Tourism & Economy

Lake Champlain and its surrounding watershed is a natural wonder providing endless opportunities for recreation from boating, fishing, and swimming on the lake itself to enjoying stunning vistas from its headwaters high up in the Adirondack High Peaks.

FOCUS Resources on:

Support efforts that help residents and visitors alike to access and enjoy Lake Champlain and the natural resources of the Lake Champlain Basin.
 Support efforts that promote sustainable ecosystem services while protecting water resources.



Funding for Lake Champlain Basin Restoration & Protection Efforts

New York State needs to commit to providing a steady, long-term funding stream to support Lake Champlain restoration and protection efforts. Establish a line item in the NYS Environmental Protection Fund dedicated to the Lake Champlain Basin. This line should be sustained with annual appropriations to adequately support NY efforts in the Lake Champlain Basin.

New York's Congressional Representatives should become more engaged in the Lake Champlain Basin and work collaboratively with their colleagues from Vermont to increase annual federal appropriations to the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Collaborate with NY partners to establish a resource destination dedicated to telling the story of the geologic and cultural evolution and history of the Lake Champlain Basin in a high tech, multi-dimensional, scaled model that immerses the visitor in the experience. Seek Federal, State, Local, and Private funding and innovation.