



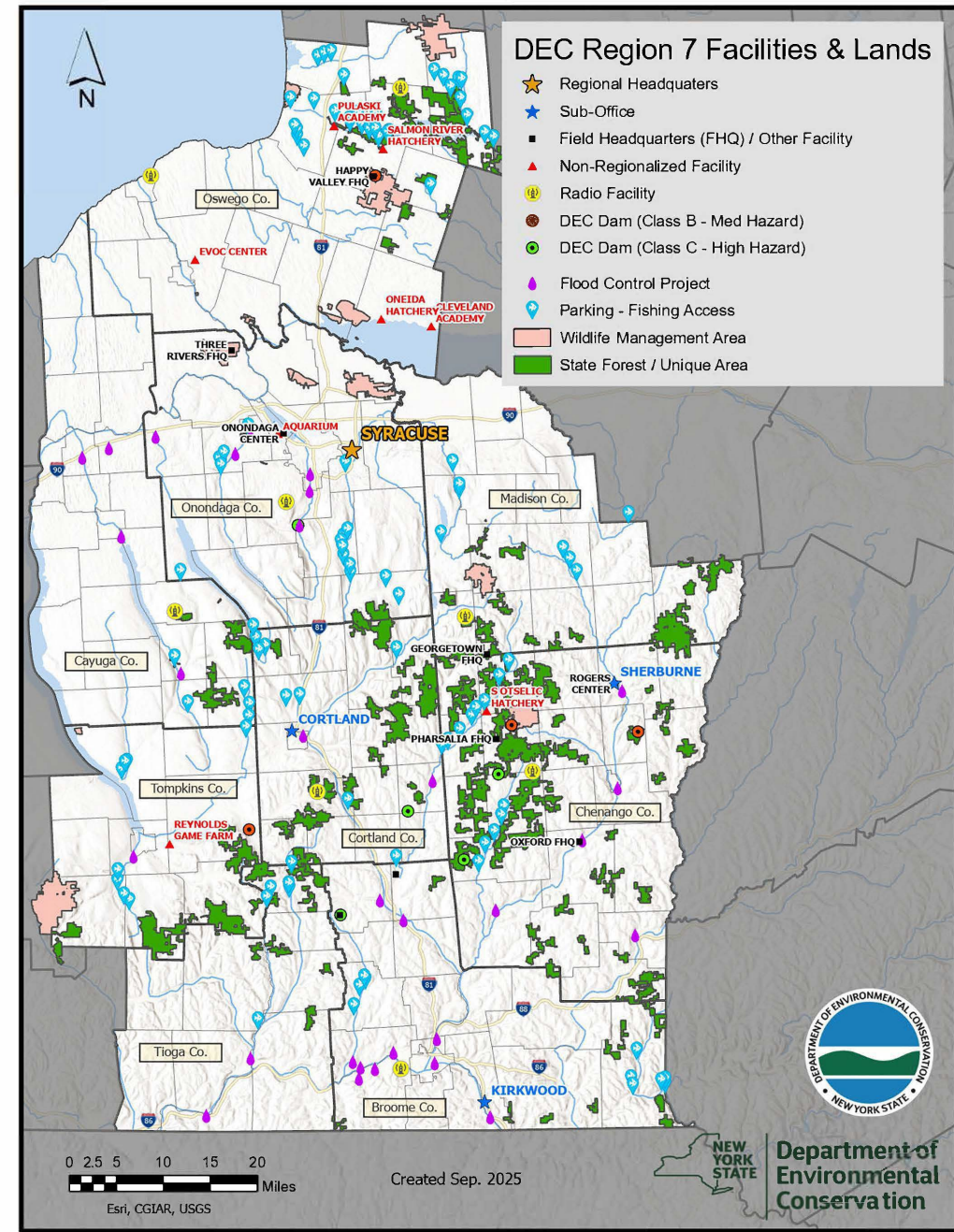
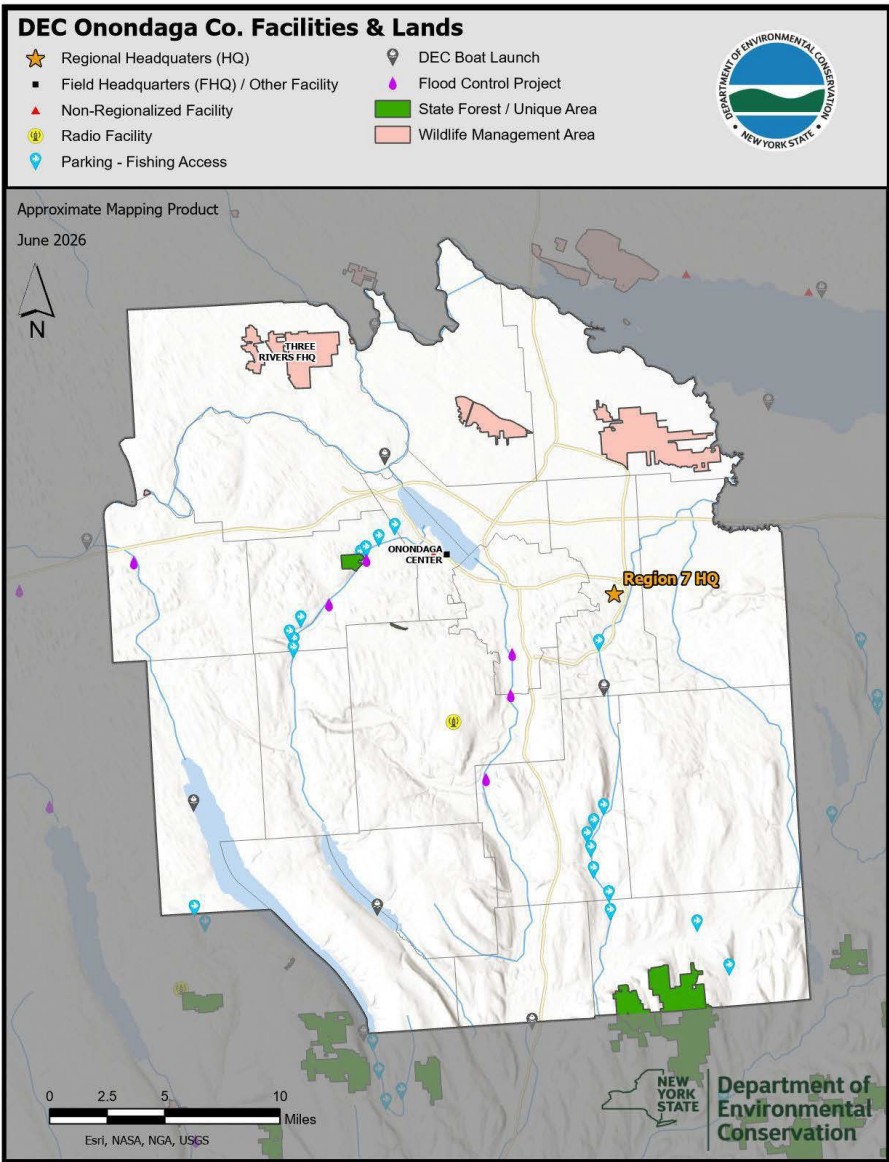
Department of
Environmental
Conservation

DEC Updates in Onondaga County

Onondaga County Environmental Protection Committee Meeting
Dereth Glance, Director Region 7
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

June 16, 2026

Onondaga County



DEC MISSION

Conserve, Improve and Protect
natural resources and environment

Prevent, Abate and Control
water, land and air pollution

Enhance
economic and social well-being

DEC in Onondaga County

Natural Resource Conservation, Protection and Improvement

- Wildlife Management Areas
- State Forests and Unique Areas
- Fish and Wildlife Management
- Fresh Water Wetlands Protection
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Public Fishing Access Sites (PFR)
- Public Boat Launches
- Education and Outreach

Pollution Prevention, Abatement and Control

- Environmental Permit Project review
- Air emissions from stationary sources
- Title V and registered facilities
- Water—Point Source, Diffuse Source, Flood Resilience and Dam Safety
- Materials Management—Solid and Hazardous Waste, Recycling, Pesticide oversight;
- Environmental Remediation: Brownfields, Superfund, Site Management
- Spill Response

Public Protection: Emergency Management Unit

- Dr. Jen Smith, P.E., Regional Emergency Response Coordinator
- Assists in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from any disaster or incidents to protect the environmental and natural resources and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of New Yorkers
- Emergencies include fires, spills, storms, rescues

DEC staff also respond to national emergencies:

In 2025, Region 7 staff were deployed to battle western wildland fires:

Michael Burkholder, Forest Ranger, Norwich

Micheal Putnam, Fish and Wildlife, Syracuse

Jeremy Oldroyd, Forest Ranger, Binghamton



Public Protection: Region 7 Forest Ranger Highlights



Public Protection: Region 7 Environmental Conservation Police Officers



Inspiring the Next Generation of Conservationists



Micron Semiconductor Plant

Overview of DEC Role in Environmental Review & Permitting



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

The scale of the Micron development, the largest semiconductor facility in North America, is unprecedented.

As a coordinating and involved agency, DEC staff contributed substantially at each step of the process to ensure rigorous and timely environmental review to protect human health and the environment.



DEC BY THE NUMBERS

63	DEC Experts Involved
32,273	Hours invested across
9	Divisions & Regional areas of expertise
13	completed permit applications
10	Permits issued
140	Business days between DEIS release to Groundbreaking
52	Days sooner Micron secured complete status for Air Permit Application in NY than in Idaho.

MICRON in NY

MICRON TIMELINE

Mar 31, 2026	DEC Issues Air Title V permit
Jan 16, 2026	MICRON Groundbreaking
Jan 9, 2026	NEPA ROD Issued by US Commerce Dept
Dec 14, 2025	DEC Issues 1 st permits to Micron (9 in total)
July 16, 2025	DEC issues complete application for Wetlands and related permits
Nov 7, 2025	FEIS Adopted
June 25, 2025	DEIS Released
Dec 5, 2024	US Dept of Commerce awards NOFA to Micron
Aug 18, 2023	Micron files CPO application
June 14, 2023	Micron submits OCIDA Application

- Subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the National Environmental Policy Act
- Requires DEC-issued permits under the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and the associated implementing rules and regulations

NY WETLANDS & STREAMS

2.24 to 1

Wetlands Mitigation
Ratio Average

395.39

Acres of Restored and
Enhanced Wetlands
will replace the

176.44

Acres NYS Wetland
impacted by Micron

2.29 to 1

Stream mitigation
ratio

14,448

Feet of stream
restored to replace

6,283

Feet of stream filled
by Micron

107

Business days
between completed
application and permit
issuance



syracuse.com

Preliminary illustration, subject to change.

Connected Actions

There are multiple permit applications related to Micron's Proposed Project including:

- Freshwater wetland mitigation at multiple sites
- Clean Water Act Water Quality Certifications
- Onondaga County Water Withdrawal
- Oak Orchard SPDES renewal and modification
 - Issued on April 10, 2026



Central Current

More details can be found:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/facilities-in-your-neighborhood/micron>

Syracuse University Steam Station Modernization Project

- Critical energy distribution hub serving Syracuse University, SUNY ESF, hospitals, and medical centers
- Project includes:
 - Replacing two 70-year-old gas/diesel boilers that have reached the end of useful life
 - Installing 1 smaller, cleaner natural gas boiler
 - Installing a 7.2-Megawatt gas turbine

Title V Air Permit was issued on February 10, 2026.



East Adams Redevelopment, Syracuse



12 Phases planned with 1,300 housing units:

- Brownfield Cleanup Program Applications (BCP) have been or will be submitted for each Phase.
- Remediation for Phase 2 is underway.
- BCP Applications for Phases 4, 6, and 8 are complete and anticipate approval imminently.
- Applications for Phases 5, 7, and 9-12 forthcoming.

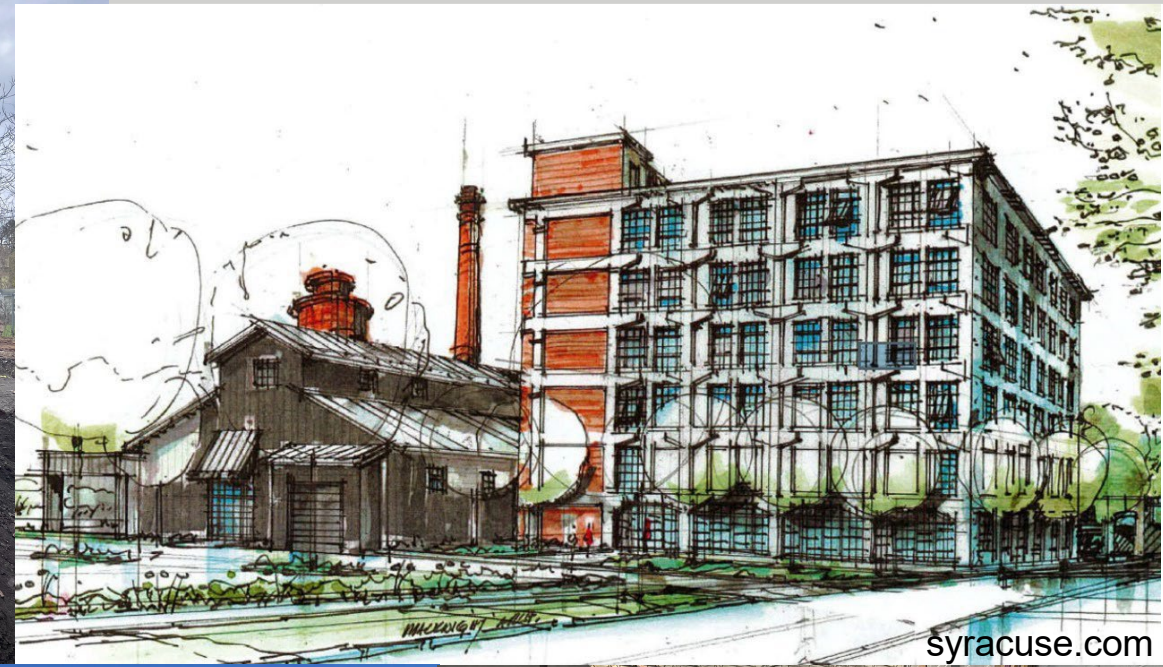
1153-69 West Fayette, Syracuse – Future Public Safety Bldg

Brownfield Cleanup
Program (BCP)
Application Submitted:
01/09/2024

BCP Application
Complete: 02/02/2024

Brownfield Cleanup
Application Executed:
06/21/2024

Certification of
Completion Anticipated:
June or July 2026



Remediation Work:

- Unknown Underground Storage Tank
- Soil vapor extraction Pilot
- Sub-Slab Depressurization System Installation
- Cover System Added



Brownfield Cleanup Sites with Affordable Housing

Certification of Completion (COC): Two sites issued COC in December 2025

- 72 affordable housing units in Johnson City (Broome)
- 38 affordable housing units in Syracuse (Onondaga)

Other Active Sites - 8 Sites

- 65 affordable housing units / 367 total units in Syracuse (Onondaga)
- Approx. 250 affordable housing units in Binghamton (Broome)
- Approx. 250 market-rate units in Salina (Onondaga)
- Approx. 77 market-rate units in Ithaca (Tompkins)

Application Expected Soon – 9 Sites

- East Adams Phases 4-12 in Syracuse - 1300 units in Phases 1-12.
- Phase 1 was ineligible for BCP. Some other Phases may not be eligible.



Solar Farms on Remediation Sites in Onondaga County

- 2.7 MW array completed in 2020 at DeWitt LF
- 11.2 MW array under construction at Van Buren LF
- 6.9 MW array completed in 2025 at LCP Chemical in Solvay (Central Office Lead)
- 0.89 MW total solar power for systems at Onondaga Lake-related facilities, completed in 2020-2023 (Central Office Lead)
- 5 MW array in design at Salina Landfill (Central Office Lead)



Climate Smart Communities

- Program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate.
- Offers grants, leadership recognition, and free technical assistance.

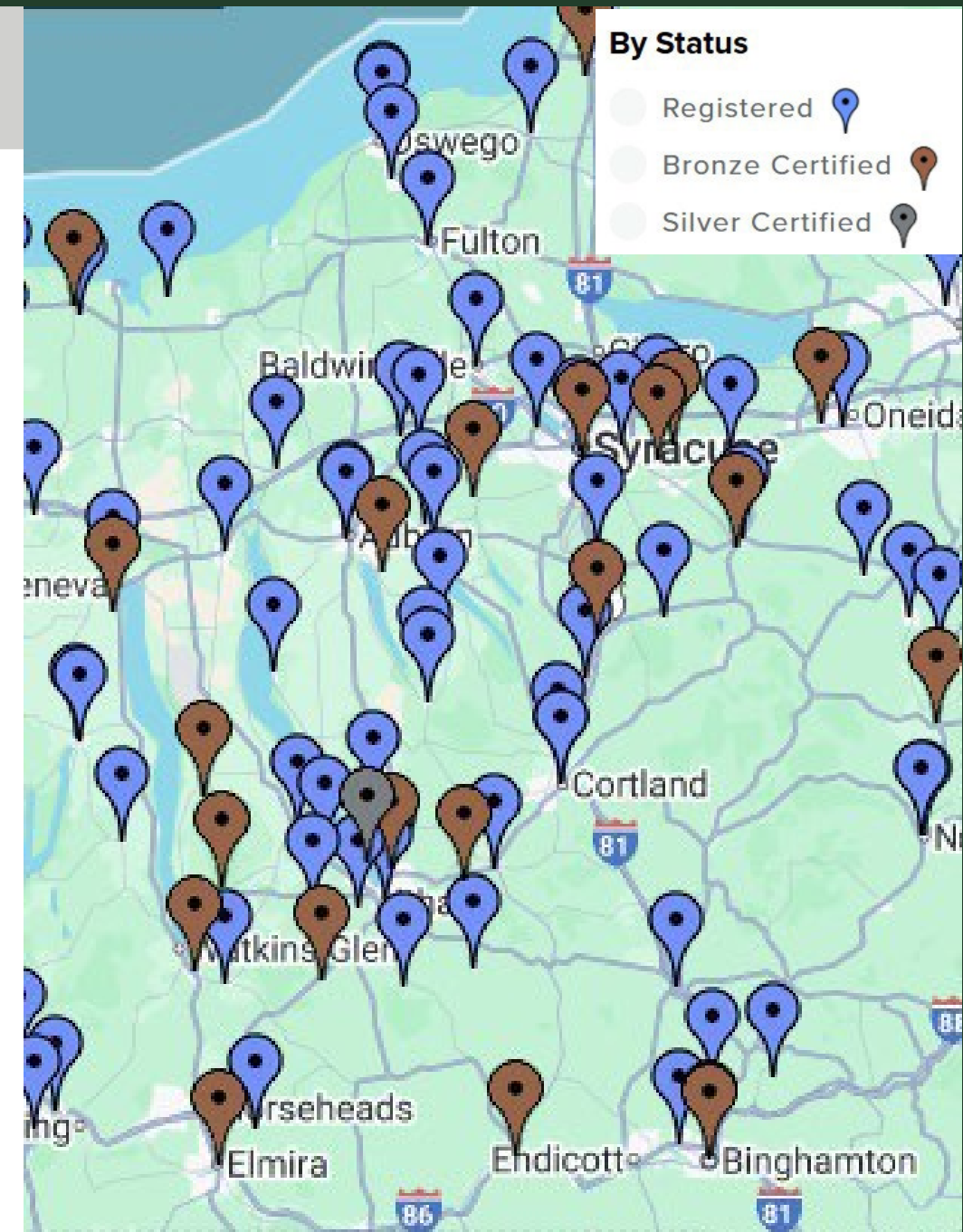
16 Climate Smart Communities in Onondaga County:

5 Bronze Certified (as of June 2026):

- Villages of Fayetteville, Marcellus, and Tully
- Town of Manlius
- City of Syracuse

11 Registered:

- Villages of Skaneateles, Minoa, Jordan and Baldwinsville
- Town of Skaneateles, LaFayette, Geddes, Fabius, Elbridge, DeWitt
- Onondaga County



Onondaga Creek Watershed Community Listening Session

On Wednesday, June 3:

- Over 100 community members and stakeholders attended to share their visions and priorities
- In partnership with DEC, SUNY ESF, City of Syracuse, Onondaga Environmental Institute, Onondaga Nation, and others
- **Breakout discussions:**
 - Water quality and habitat
 - Food and housing amenities
 - Flood resilience
 - Recreation and creek access
 - Shared governance
- Next meeting will be this fall in Tully, NY



Amboy Dam Removal on Onondaga Lake

- Collaboration between DEC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Removed the former Amboy Dam on Nine Mile Creek to restore critical fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreational users can now enjoy open navigation on the creek



Onondaga Lake Visitor Center



Students visit to Onondaga Lake Visitor Center

- Visits from multiple classes and student clubs from seven universities and colleges from the region



Onondaga Lake Marina Updates

To prepare for this work, the County performed sediment sampling within the marina basin.

Sediment samples within the marina basin had mercury levels ranging from 0.031 mg/kg to 5.7 mg/kg. Eight of the 17 samples had concentrations that exceeded the Onondaga Lake Record of Decision mercury cleanup goal of 2.2 mg/kg.



Work to be Performed

- Excavating sediments from the perimeter of the marina basin and sampling post-excavation.
- Capping of an approximate 2-acre area in the center of the marina basin. The cap will be consistent with the remedy performed in other parts of the lake and will consist of sand and gravel.
- Community air monitoring during work to ensure there is no impact to the public.
- Implementing sediment management and erosion control measures.

Current work at Onondaga Lake Remediation Sites

Long-term operation, maintenance, and monitoring is now being performed for Onondaga Lake remediation sites, including routine inspections to identify issues, repairs, and maintenance.

DEC continues to work closely with Honeywell and its contractors to improve the remedial system.

In addition to previously completed remedies at each site, this year several enhancements and repairs have been or will be performed:

Solvay Wastebeds 1-8: Installing of sheetpile along the lake and Ninemile Creek shoreline to improve groundwater collection system performance. Investigating and addressing seepage and removing Solvay waste in several areas.

Semet Residue Ponds: Cleaning pipes, removing sediment, and lining pipes to prevent contaminated groundwater infiltration in stormwater drainage system.

Current work at Onondaga Lake Remediation Sites continued

Willis Ave.: Repairing hazardous chemical collection system by replacing pumps and sensors. Adding two extraction wells on the shoreline to improve groundwater collection. Expanding existing collection system in the drainage ditch along State Fair Boulevard to address seepage.

Wastebed B/Harbor Brook: Investigating and cleanup work to address groundwater seeps and staining at the pedestrian trail bridge over Harbor Brook began in 2025 to address indications of shoreline staining and will continue to be performed by Honeywell in 2026.



Onondaga County Water Environment Protection Compliance Orders

Freeman Ave Trunk Sewer — 7/9/2025

DEC approved OCWEP's Workplan 9/23/2025

Monthly submissions ongoing

Basis of Design Report due 7/20/2027

Ley Creek Force Main — 1/7/2025

DEC received Implementation Schedule 3/18/25

Phase 1 construction completion 9/24/27

Phase 2 Basis of Design Report due 1/30/2027

Meadowbrook Limestone Wastewater Treatment Plant — 4/1/2020

DEC received 2025 Annual Report 1/30/2026

WWTP Upgrade Facility Plan Report due 1/31/27 if exceedances in flows persist following I/I abatement efforts

Post ACJ — 10/8/2021

Ongoing technical discussions following OCWEP 4/8/2026

Revised CSO Long Term Control Plan submission





Grant Opportunities

Learn more: <https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/grant-applications>

Environmental Justice Community Impact Grants

Community Impact Grants provide community-based, not-for-profit and Tribal Organizations with funding for projects that address various environmental and public health concerns.

This grant opportunity supports projects that address various environmental and public health concerns in disadvantaged and environmental justice communities. Projects should focus on finding solutions to disproportionate burdens that these communities may experience.

The deadline to apply is 3 p.m. on July 1, 2026.



Climate Smart Community Grants

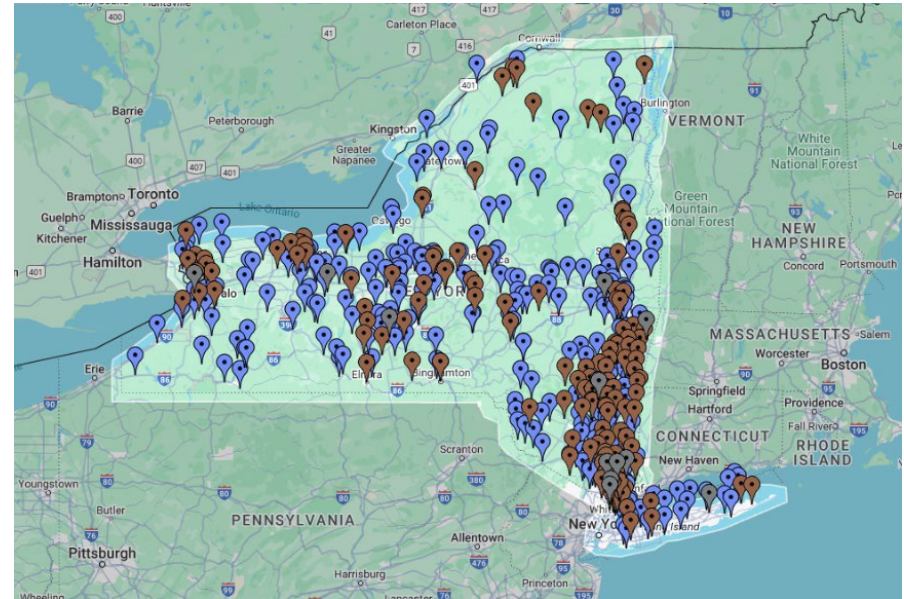
DEC recently announced \$18 million for Climate Smart Community Grants

This grant opportunity is funding for communities to support local climate action to reduce emissions, improve air quality, and increase resilience

This program helps municipalities take action to address climate change. Eligible projects help reduce flooding and protect critical infrastructure, support decreasing transportation emissions through cycling and walkability projects, reduce emissions from food waste and landfills, and undertake feasibility studies to advance climate projects.

Counties, towns, cities, villages, Indian Nations, local public authorities, and local public benefit corporations eligible.

The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. on July 31, 2026.



Water Quality improvement Project Grant

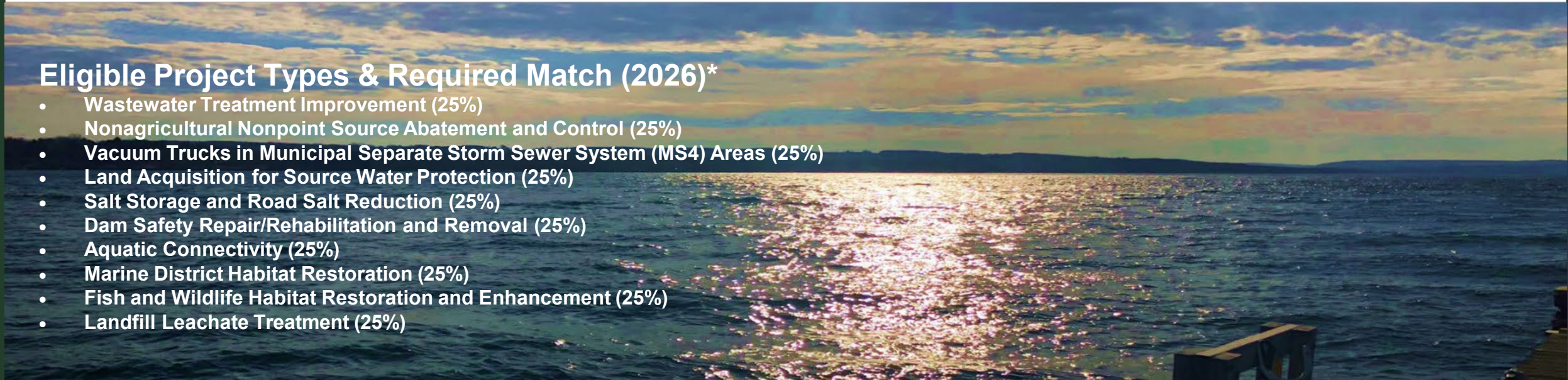
The Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program is a competitive, statewide reimbursement grant program that funds projects that directly **improve water quality or habitat, promote flood risk reduction, restoration, and enhanced flood and climate resiliency, or protect a drinking water source.**

Municipalities, including Indian Nations and municipal corporations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Not-for-profit corporations are eligible.

The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. on July 31, 2026.

Eligible Project Types & Required Match (2026)*

- Wastewater Treatment Improvement (25%)
- Nonagricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control (25%)
- Vacuum Trucks in Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Areas (25%)
- Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection (25%)
- Salt Storage and Road Salt Reduction (25%)
- Dam Safety Repair/Rehabilitation and Removal (25%)
- Aquatic Connectivity (25%)
- Marine District Habitat Restoration (25%)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Enhancement (25%)
- Landfill Leachate Treatment (25%)



Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source and MS4 Planning Grant (NPG)

The Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source and MS4 Planning Grant (NPG) is grant program that funds planning reports for nonpoint source water quality improvement projects and mapping of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s).

The program aims to prepare nonpoint source projects for construction and application for implementation funding.

Municipalities, including Indian Nations and municipal corporations, and Soil and Water Conservation District are eligible.

The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. on July 31, 2026.

Open Urban and Community Forestry Grants

DEC announced a new round of Open Urban and Community Forestry grants

This funding supports urban and community forestry management projects for enhanced environmental quality, increased tree health and diversity, and climate mitigation.

This grant opportunity is available to municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, Indian Nations and Tribes, and other community-based organizations.

The deadline to apply is 2 p.m. on August 12, 2026.



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Department of Environmental Conservation

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