

# Protecting What Connects Us

## Our Systems Level Approach to Restoring and Protecting Chautauqua Lake

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CHAUTAUQUA  
WATERSHED  
CONSERVANCY





# Shared Understanding

Chautauqua Lake is an important part of our daily lives and our regional economy.

People, wildlife, water, and land are all connected in an ecosystem - they either function as a system or fail as a system.

Restoring and protecting our lake is going to take a systems level approach.

## What We're Seeing

We are experiencing weed growth, more frequent harmful algal blooms, and threats from new and emerging invasive species.

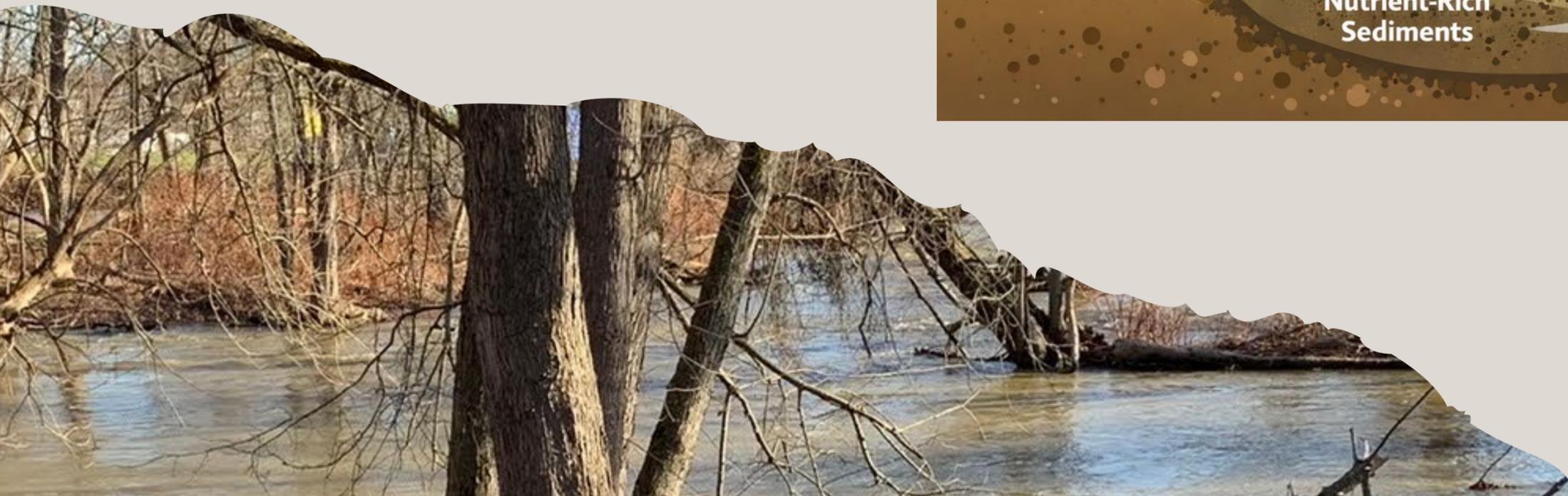
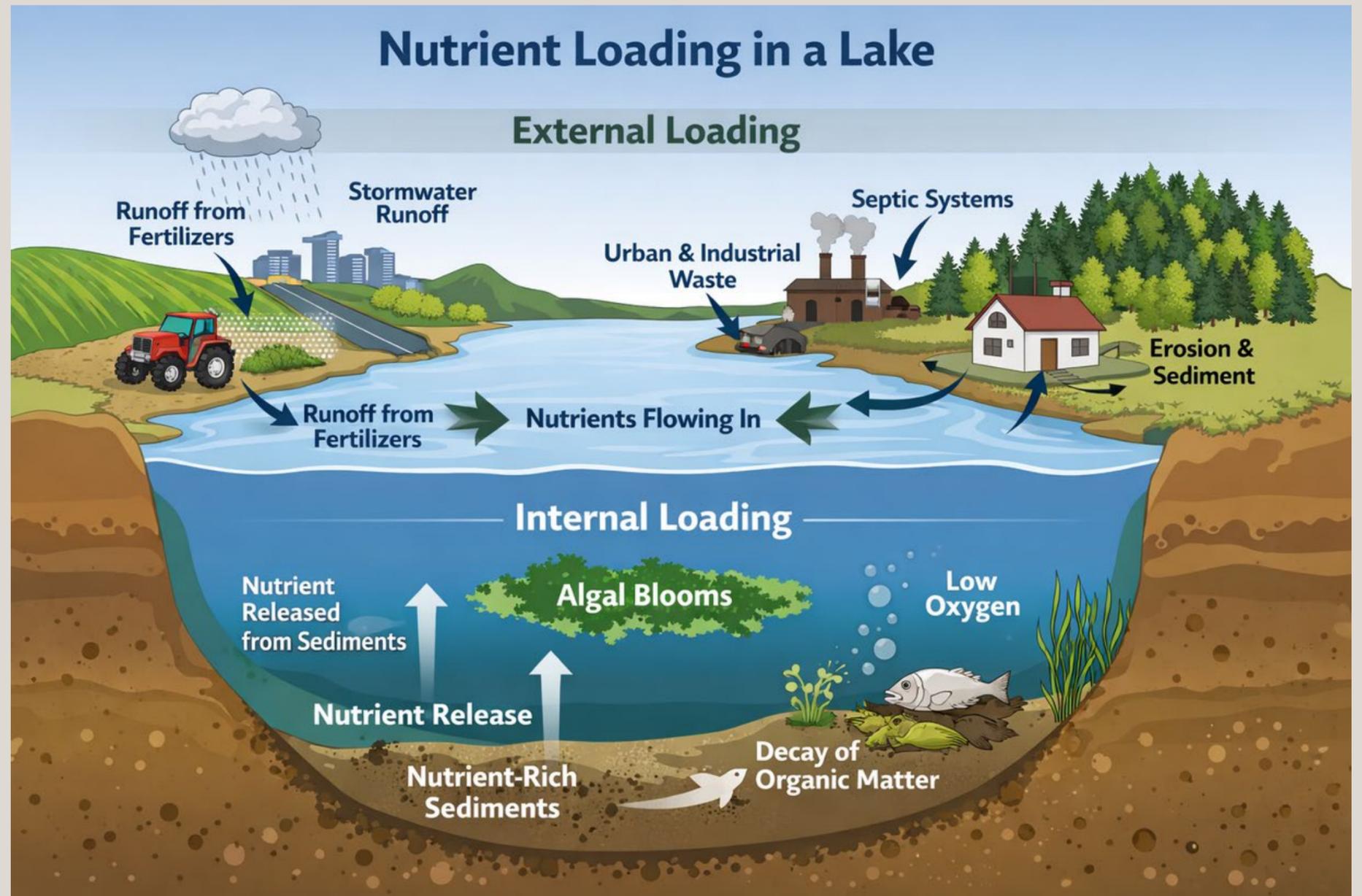


# Why It's Happening

There are too many nutrients moving through the system - internal and external.

Climate change is causing more extreme weather events.

Landscapes that once slowed and filtered our water have been altered.





# Our Shared Responsibility

We need a balanced, systems level approach for a systems level problem.

Preventative Strategies  
Restoration Strategies  
Mitigation Strategies

# A Watershed Approach to Stewardship



**We Protect**  
Caring for the  
Lands that Protect  
Our Waters



**We Defend**  
Early Detection and  
Removal of  
Invasive Species



**We Restore**  
Strengthening Our  
Natural Systems



**We Equip**  
Supporting Community  
Stewardship



# We Protect Caring for the Lands That Protect our Water

We start with strategic conservation of the landscapes throughout our region that play an outsized role in shaping water quality and ecosystem health.



By strategically protecting land we ensure cleaner water, access to outdoor recreation, and climate resilience for our communities.





# We Restore Strengthening Our Natural Systems

Many of the natural systems that used to protect our lake have been impacted by development, invasive species, and a changing climate.

We work to strengthen and restore them using experience and practical design to support systems that can function well today and into the future.

# We Defend

## Early Detection and Removal of Invasive Species



We get experienced and knowledgeable staff out on the water to identify and remove new and early emerging aquatic invasive species including:

- Water Chestnut
- Hydrilla
- Brittle Naiad

We continue to partner and help lead local monitoring and response efforts to keep starry stonewort at bay.

This work is about staying informed, responding thoughtfully, and protecting the lake as conditions evolve.



# We Equip Supporting Community Stewardship

When people understand how their actions connect to the system, stewardship becomes something shared.

Where small actions, across a community, can have a meaningful impact.

# Protecting What Connects Us

## Our Systems Level Approach to Restoring and Protecting Chautauqua Lake

When we care for the land and water together, we sustain the systems that support our communities, our economy, our environment, and our shared future.



# Thank you!

## Connect with us



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