



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Chautauqua Lake 2026 Update

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March 21, 2026

Agenda

- Mayville PFAS
- Wetlands Law
Implementation and
general permits
- Nutrient Management
Strategy and TMDL
- 2026 Herbicide Permits
- Fisheries Update

Chautauqua Lake Watershed Program
Webpage



Mayville PFAS

Purpose of Remedial Investigation

Objectives:

- Evaluate known and suspected sources;
- Develop an understanding of subsurface geology;
- Delineate nature/extent of contamination;
- Assess contaminant migration; and
- Assess remedial options to address ongoing discharge.



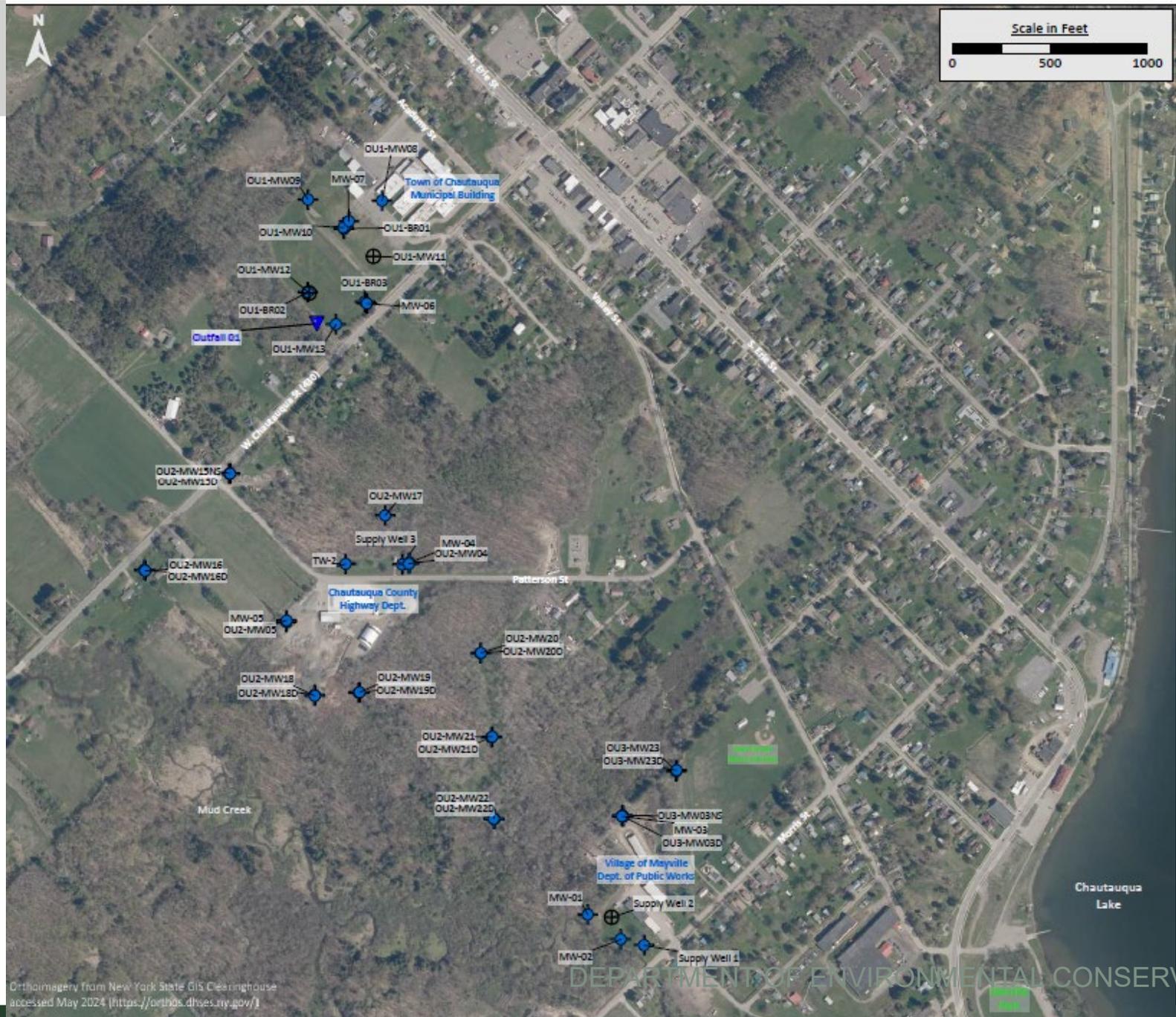
PFAS Remedial Investigation Update

Field work completed in 2025:

- Soil boring investigation
 - 53 soil borings
 - 249 soil samples analyzed
- Overburden and bedrock well installation
 - 30 new wells installed
- Groundwater sampling
 - 30 wells and 10 existing wells
- Surface water and sediment sampling at 11 locations

The data collected is being analyzed.

Monitoring Wells



Wetlands Regulation

Freshwater Wetlands GP (GP-0-25-003)

- Went into effect June 13, 2025
- Allow:
 - Repair, replacement, or removal of existing structures
 - and facilities;
 - Construction or modification of various residential, commercial, industrial, or public structures;
 - Temporary installation of access roads and laydown areas;
 - Cutting trees and vegetation;
 - Drilling test wells;
 - Routine beach maintenance and replenishment in areas under DEC jurisdiction.



Lakes and Shorelines GP (GP-0-25-007)

- Went into effect August 1, 2025
- Allow
 - Shoreline erosion protection
 - Repair and replacement of existing functional shoreline protection
 - In-kind replacement or repair of boat or access ramps
 - Repair or replacement of existing functional boat houses, docks, platforms, or similar over water structures
 - Installation of new residential docking facility
 - Demolition of structures and removal of structural fill
 - Maintenance dredging of existing residential dockages
 - New navigational dredging
 - Install of dry fire hydrants, water intake lines, or beach well



Proposed Management of Invasive Species GP (GP-0-25-008)

- The existing Management of Invasive Species GP (GP-0-21-4) is proposed to be modified and reissued.
- Comment period ended on March 11, 2026 and DEC is evaluating the comments received.
- Allow the management of invasive and nuisance species by various methods:
 - Hand harvesting
 - Suction harvesting
 - Aquatic pesticides
 - Benthic barriers
 - Mechanical harvesting and cutting.



For more information about Freshwater Wetland Regulations

Freshwater Wetland Program Webpage:



Email:

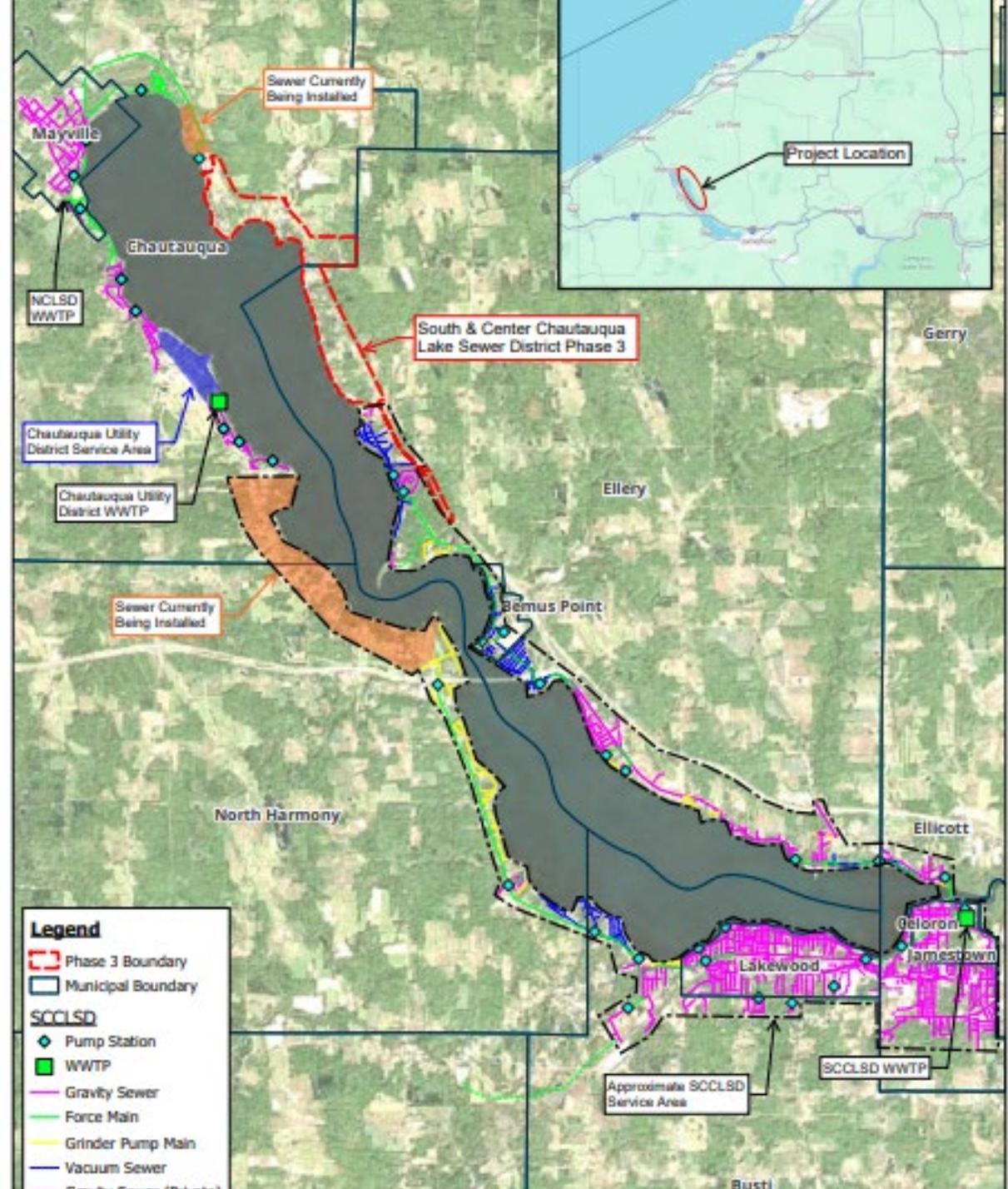
fw.ecohealth@dec.ny.gov

Nutrient Management

Sewer Extension – Status-

South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer District Phase 3

- Town of Chautauqua and Town of Ellery.
- 395 developed parcels and 68 undeveloped vacant buildable parcels.
- The maximum amount to be expended for the South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer District Sewer Phase 3 is \$35,590,000.



2025 Update: State Water Investments \$27 million

Grant	Recipient	Project	Award
WIIA	Town of Busti	Water District Infrastructure Improvement Project	\$4,072,740
WIIA	Chautauqua County	South and Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer District Phase 3 Extension	\$17,795,000
WIIA	Jamestown Board of Public Utilities	Capital Improvement Project	\$5,000,000
WQIP	Town of Chautauqua	Chautauqua Elmwood Road Stream Culvert Replacement Project	\$ 410,757
WQIP	Town of Chautauqua	Chautauqua Wright Road Stream Culvert Replacement Project	\$ 508,363

TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan Development Project

Background

- Chautauqua Lake has a history of phosphorus impairment.
- A TMDL for total phosphorus was finalized in 2012, prescribing a limit to phosphorus inputs.
- Communities have implemented important projects towards reducing phosphorus loads to including:
 - upgrades to wastewater treatment plants,
 - converting septic systems to sewer systems,
 - green infrastructure for stormwater management.
- Total phosphorus concentrations in the lake are still above the TMDL target concentration of 20 µg/L indicating that more implementation is still needed.
- DEC is developing a TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan to provide recommendations for the next steps of implementation of phosphorus reduction.

TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan

The TMDL WIP will incorporate:

- Trends in lake phosphorus concentrations since the finalization of the TMDL
- Analysis of land-use changes since the finalization of the TMDL
- Summary of implementation projects completed and their estimated phosphorus reductions
- Consultation with stakeholders about suspected sources of phosphorus loads and potential projects to address problem areas
- Select studies to fill knowledge gaps e.g. Internal loading
- List of recommendations for projects in different sectors including urban, agriculture, septic, and natural

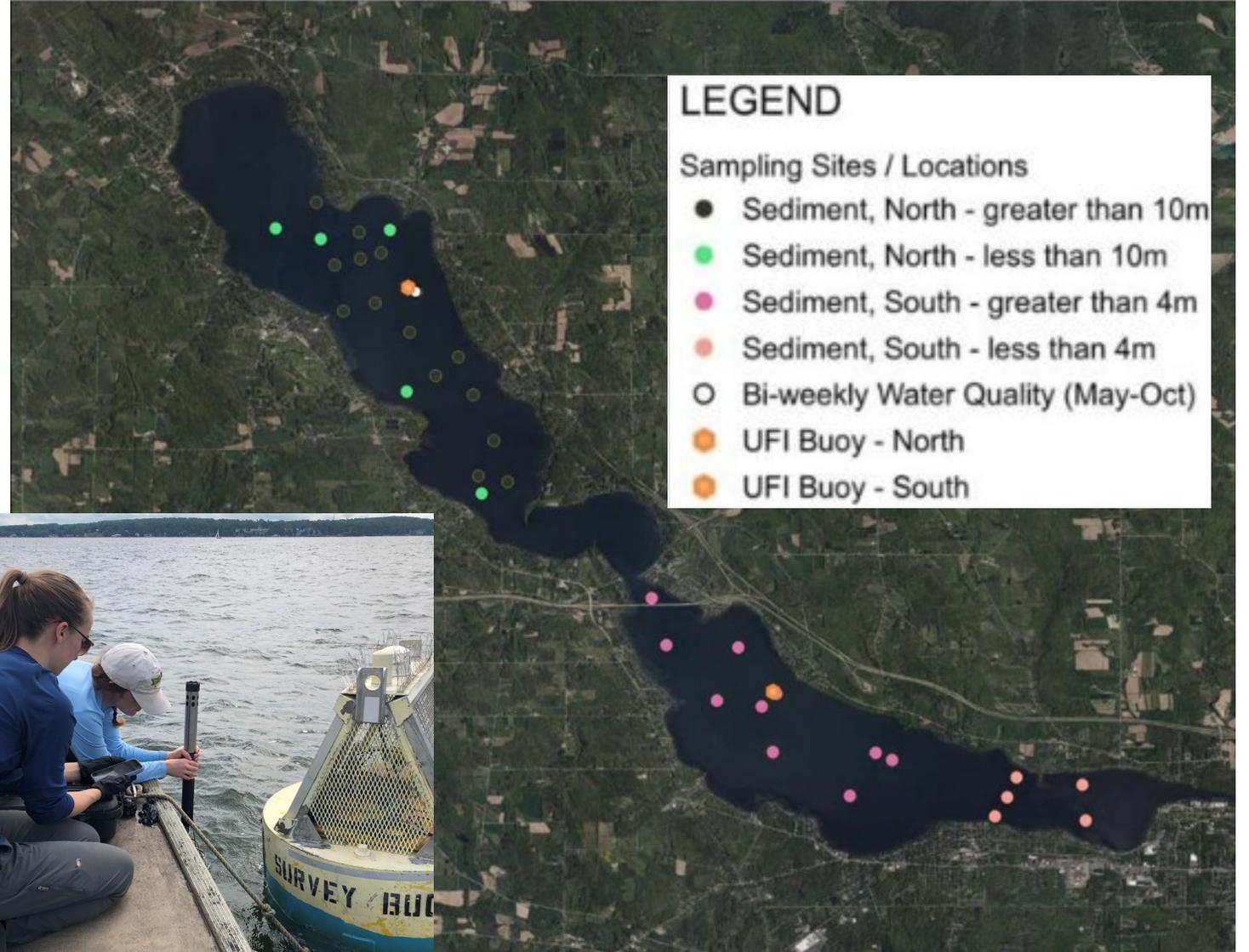
Progress in the Internal Loading Study

Internal loading has been identified as a knowledge gap. The 2012 TMDL estimated internal loading, as opposed to directly measuring the load.

DEC is conducting this study with assistance from Ramboll and the Upstate Freshwater Institute.

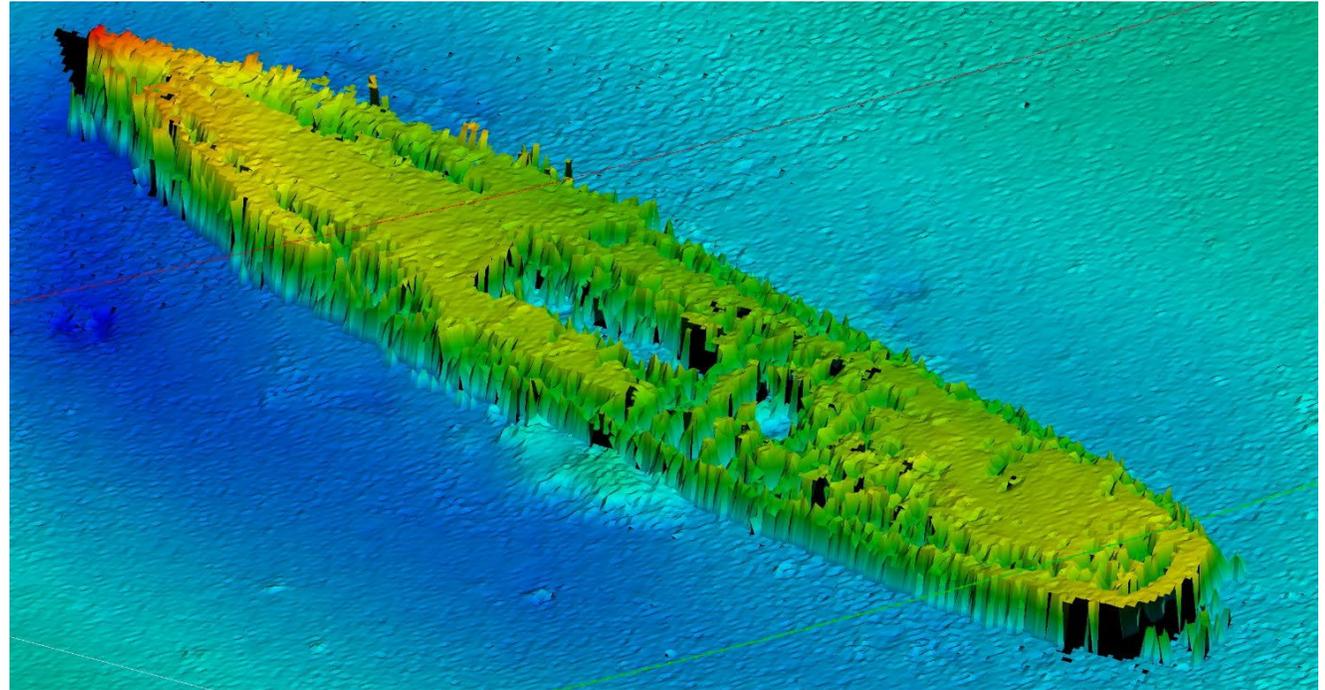
Summer 2025 data collection:

- Water chemistry
- Continuous monitoring of temperature and dissolved oxygen
- Sediment chemistry
- Bathymetry



Next Steps in the Internal Loading Study

- Sediment and water sample data is currently undergoing QA/QC review.
- Full Bathymetric mapping of Chautauqua Lake is complete; datasets and deliverables undergoing final QA/QC approval.
- Internal loading calculations are currently being conducted by Ramboll, results can be expected in late 2026.
- Developing a report to quantify internal loading and list potential implementation strategies to address internal phosphorus loads.



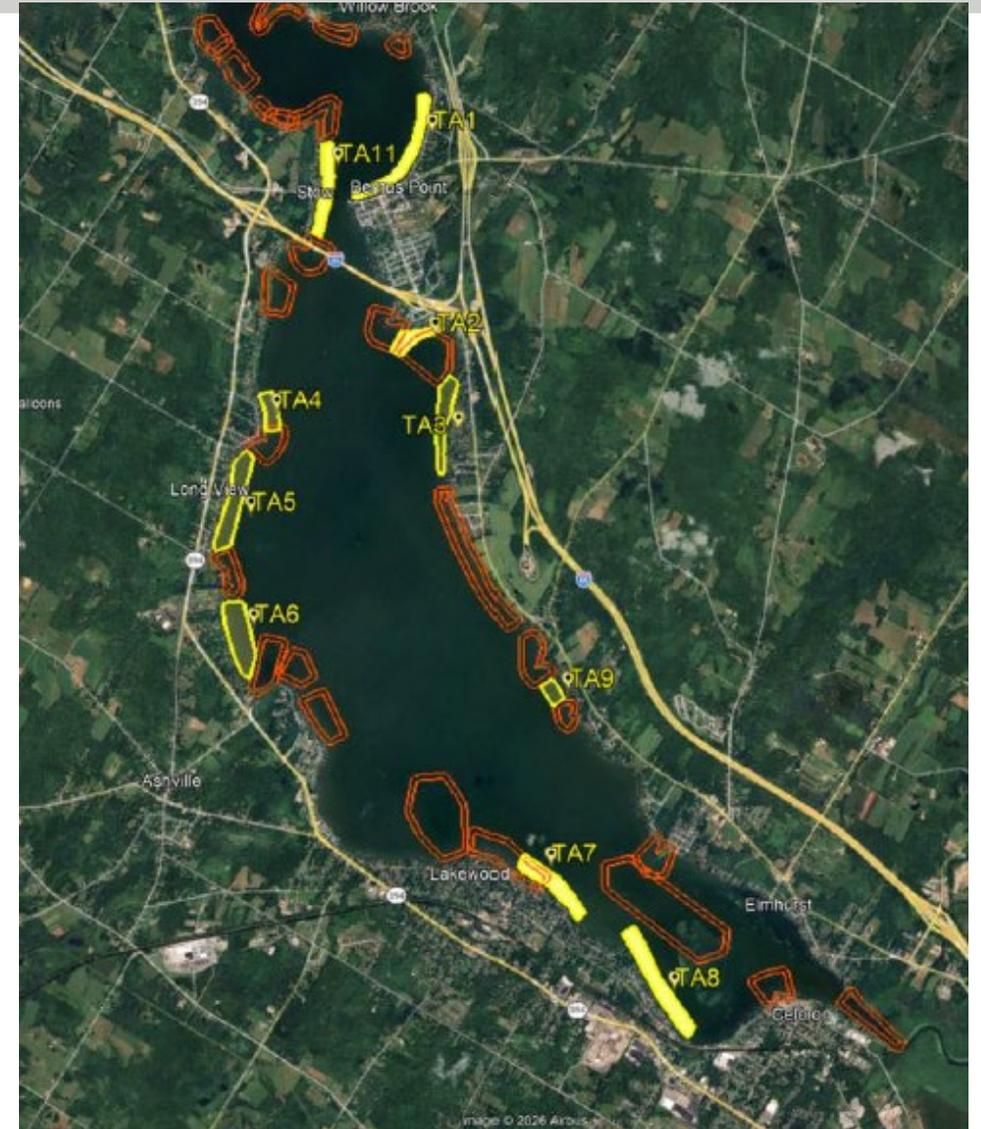
Shipwreck in Northern section of Chautauqua Lake, as shown in the bathymetric survey

Herbicide Permits

2026 Herbicide Permits- Curly Leaf Pondweed

Clearcast

- 11 sites totaling 435 acres (yellow)
 - Tier 1 (solid yellow)
 - Tier 2 (yellow outline)
- Treatment to occur by April 30
- Red outlined areas are fish exclusion zones (Fish habitat areas)

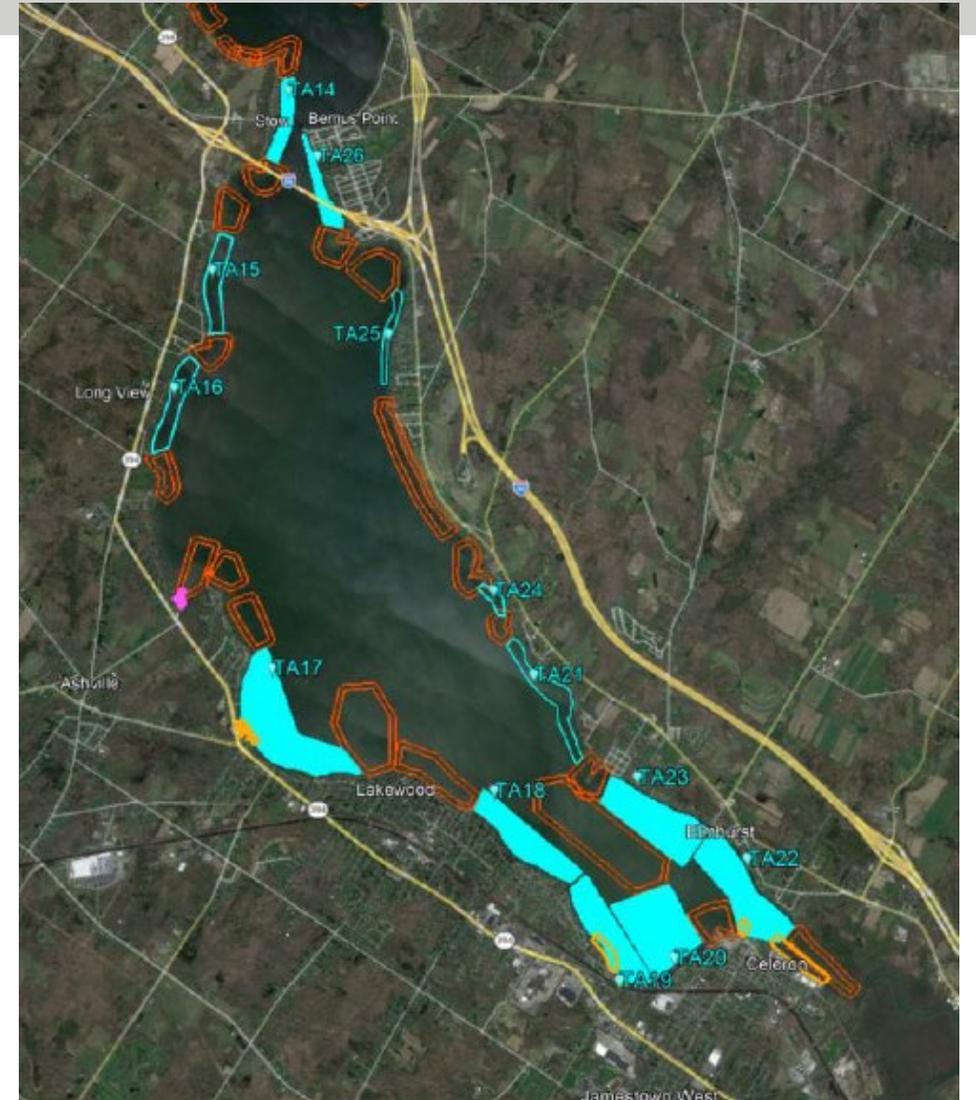


2026 Herbicide Permits- Eurasian Watermilfoil

ProcellaCor

- 13 sites totaling 944 acres
 - Tier 1 (solid blue)
 - Tier 2 (blue outline)
- Treatment will not exceed 600 acres
- Treatment to Occur - June to August
- Up to 2 treatments

- Red outlined areas are fish exclusion zones (Fish habitat areas)



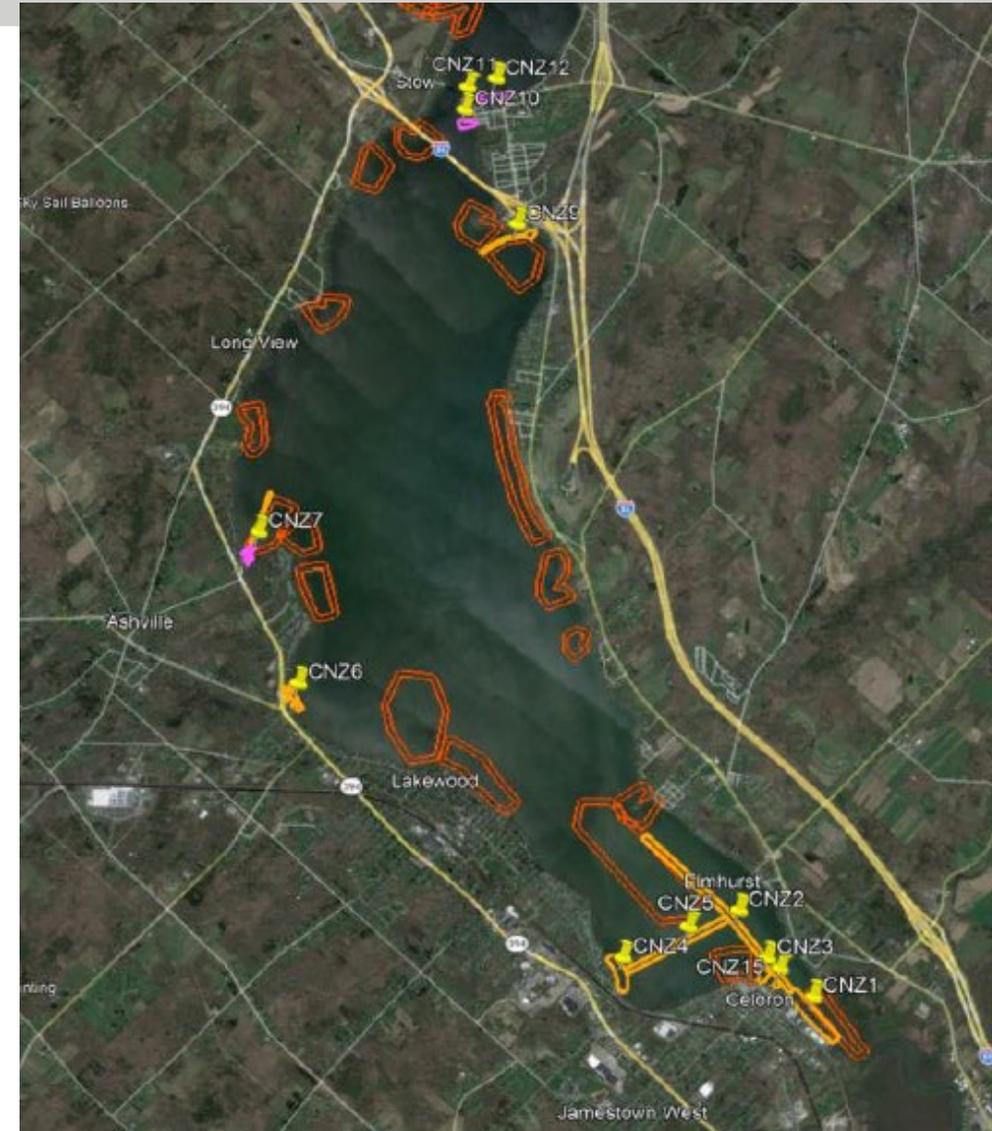
2026 Herbicide Permits- Starry Stonewort

- One site treated with Captain XTR and one with Komeen. Trial to determine effectiveness. (green outline)
- Treated areas not expected to exceed 5 acres.
- Treatment will occur between July 2 and August 30.
- Red outlined areas are fish exclusion zones (Fish habitat areas)



2026 Herbicide Permits – Commercial Navigation Zones

- Treatments will occur May-August
- Captain XTR or Komeen
 - 12 sites
 - High Priority (orange)
 - Low Priority (pink)
- Red outlined areas are fish exclusion zones (Fish habitat areas)



Fisheries

Fisheries Update

Chautauqua lake is managed as a high-quality multi-species fishery, with muskellunge, walleye, largemouth and smallmouth bass as the primary sportfish, along with abundant panfish populations.

- Muskellunge: The adult muskellunge population was above long-term measures of abundance in 2025. About 44% of muskies collected in 2025 were over 40 inches, and the largest muskie sampled was 50 inches and weighed over 30 lbs., as seen in the picture to the right!
- Walleye: Walleye abundance remains near the long-term average. Walleye abundance has been slowly declining in recent years due to poor reproduction since 2020.
- Bass: While not assessed every year, populations of both largemouth and smallmouth continue to thrive. The lake continues to host several local and national bass tournaments annually.
- Panfish: Anglers reported quality ice fishing this past winter with good sized yellow perch and bluegill being caught all around the lake. Abundant crappie and sunfish populations are expected to provide excellent fishing this spring following ice-out.



Fish & Wildlife Technicians Alek (left) and Erik (right) with a BIG Muskie caught out of Chautauqua Lake

Upcoming Fisheries Meetings

Join DEC to discuss the status of walleye in Chautauqua Lake.
Registration is not required.

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

6:30–8:00 p.m.

Carlson Community Center at
Lakeside Park
78 Water Street Route 394 in
Mayville.

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

6:30–8:00 p.m.

The Lawson Center
73 Lakeside Dr in Bemus Point



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