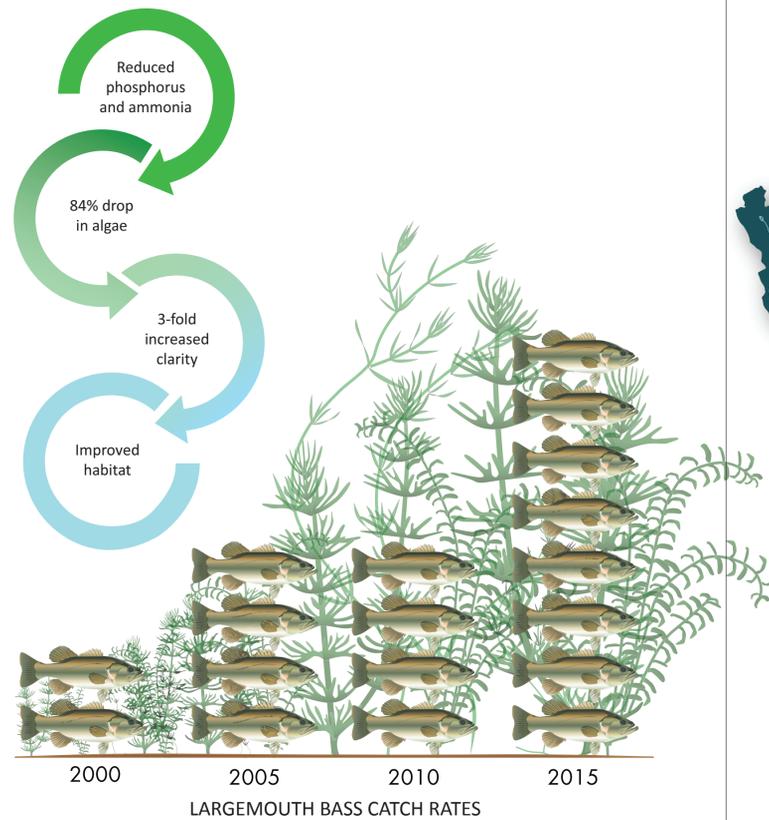


# A Watershed Moment for Onondaga Lake

Onondaga County celebrates success in the lake and looks upstream for continued water quality improvement

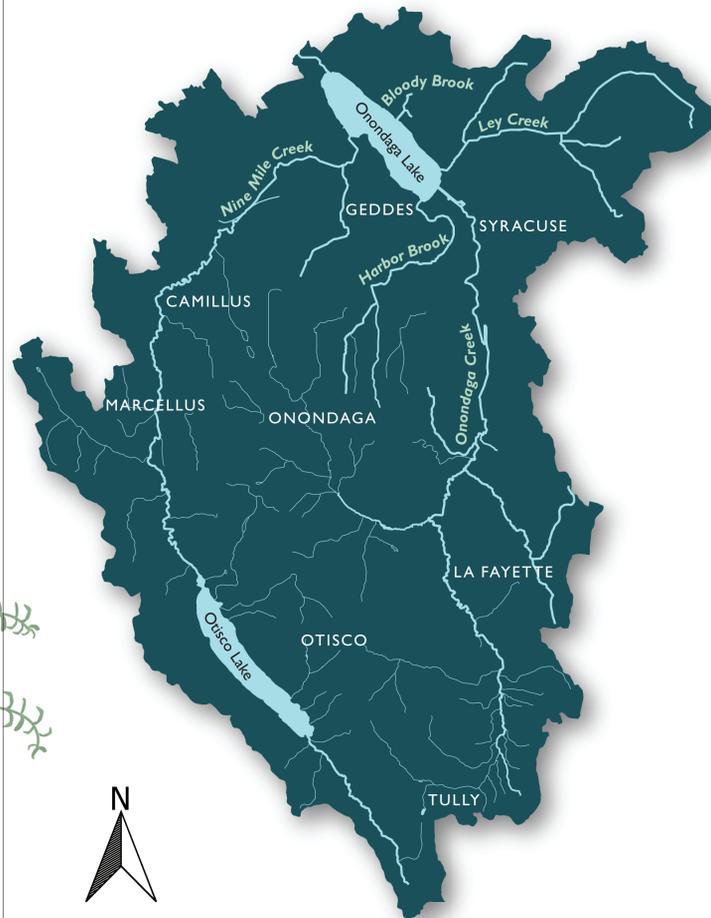
## Fish Are Thriving in the Lake

- Since 2004, advanced wastewater treatment at the Metropolitan Syracuse Wastewater Treatment Plant (Metro) has dramatically reduced phosphorus and ammonia levels in the lake, which in turn has improved water clarity and restored aquatic plants that serve as habitat for fish.
- Innovative stormwater solutions have reduced the volume of runoff. Green and gray infrastructure projects now capture more than 95% of combined sewer overflow (CSO) volume.



Water quality improvements and the restoration of aquatic plants have led to a robust aquatic community, including a significant increase in largemouth bass.

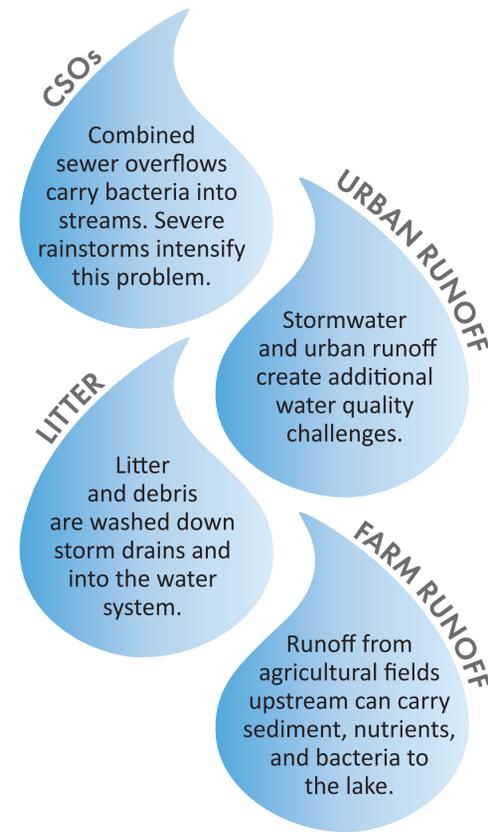
## ENTERING ONONDAGA LAKE WATERSHED



Water flows northward and enters Onondaga Lake through five major tributaries. Activities throughout the watershed affect lake water quality.

## More Work Remains...

- The County's Save the Rain program spearheads green infrastructure projects to reduce the volume of storm runoff entering the combined sewer system. More than 200 unique projects have been installed across Syracuse to date, which prevents about 154 million gallons of stormwater from reaching the collection system.
- Despite tremendous wastewater and stormwater management improvements, sources of bacteria persist in the watershed. Many municipalities with older infrastructure face similar challenges.



We all have a role to play in this challenge. Residents can help by picking up litter and debris, using rain barrels, and planting trees. Learn more at [savetherain.us/drops](http://savetherain.us/drops).

## Our Path Forward

- **Expand green infrastructure** through innovative projects like rain gardens, green roofs, and porous pavement, all of which absorb stormwater.
- **Maintain gray infrastructure**, which captures and treats CSOs.



- **Continue to invest wisely.** As of 2017, our total infrastructure investment has been over \$640 million. Onondaga County will build on the success we've achieved to ensure continued improvement.



**Focus on solutions.** Engage residents and partners as we strive to continue improving the health of Onondaga Lake and its watershed.



J. Ryan McMahon II  
County Executive



Tom Rhoads, P.E.  
Commissioner



Learn more:  
[www.ongov.net/wep](http://www.ongov.net/wep)



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