

# 2019 Annual Report of the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance



The Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) formed in 2012 as an alliance of municipal officials and concerned stakeholders working together within the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed including Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Erie counties. The mission of LEWPA is to foster collaboration and partnerships within the watershed to address regional water quality and quantity concerns, and in doing so, protect and enhance our Lake Erie resource.

## HOW WATERSHEDS WORK

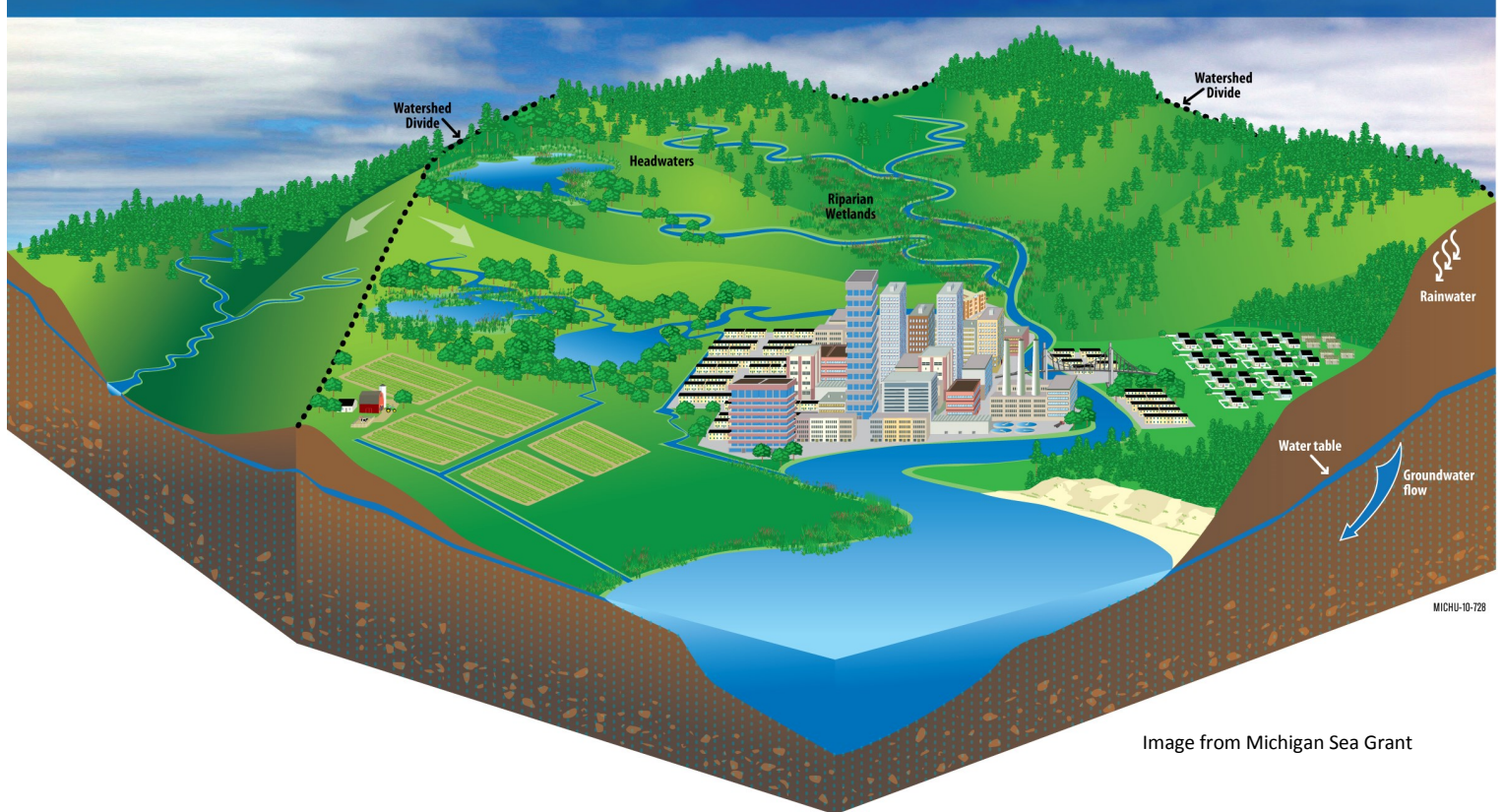


Image from Michigan Sea Grant

- Watersheds are areas where the water that flows off the land or below the surface drains to a particular body of water.
- Precipitation flows over forests, fields, lawns, streets, roofs, etc. before entering our waterways as stormwater runoff.
- Along the way, it picks up chemicals, nutrients, bacteria, and sediment—all of which are considered pollutants.
- LEWPA is implementing projects to increase water infiltration and reduce the amount of polluted stormwater runoff that reaches our streams and ultimately, Lake Erie and the Niagara River.

## Year One Measures of Success:

Projects funded through FY2016 of New York State Environmental Protection Fund reduced erosion, prevented sediment & nutrient pollution, educated the public throughout the watershed, and leveraged nearly 3 times the funding amount.

3 feasibility studies	23 acres hydroseeded	1,100 people educated about aquatic invasive species	1,562 tons of sediment & 4,789 pounds of nutrients reduced
2,900 linear feet of bank stabilization			Invasive species management on 11 acre property

## Year Two Projects Underway:

- Riparian buffer plantings
- Hydroseeding in 3 counties
- Silage leachate collection and treatment
- Community assistance with flood prevention
- Increasing aquatic connectivity for steelhead
- 9 stream bank or road bank stabilization projects
- Aquatic invasive species education at Barcelona Harbor
- “Entering the Watershed” signage in Cattaraugus County
- Terrestrial invasive species control on a 131-acre property
- Stormwater engineering feasibility studies at 2 locations



## Year Three Projects Approved:

- ◇ Sampling for bacteria at 19 sites across the watershed
- ◇ Assisting with a dam decommissioning
- ◇ 10 stream bank stabilization projects
- ◇ Feasibility study for stormwater management in Fredonia
- ◇ Hydroseeding in 3 counties
- ◇ Watershed signage in Chautauqua County
- ◇ Boat Stewards along Lake Erie teaching about invasive species
- ◇ Storm drain stenciling in Dunkirk and East Aurora
- ◇ Rain barrel distribution and education in East Aurora
- ◇ Riparian buffer plantings