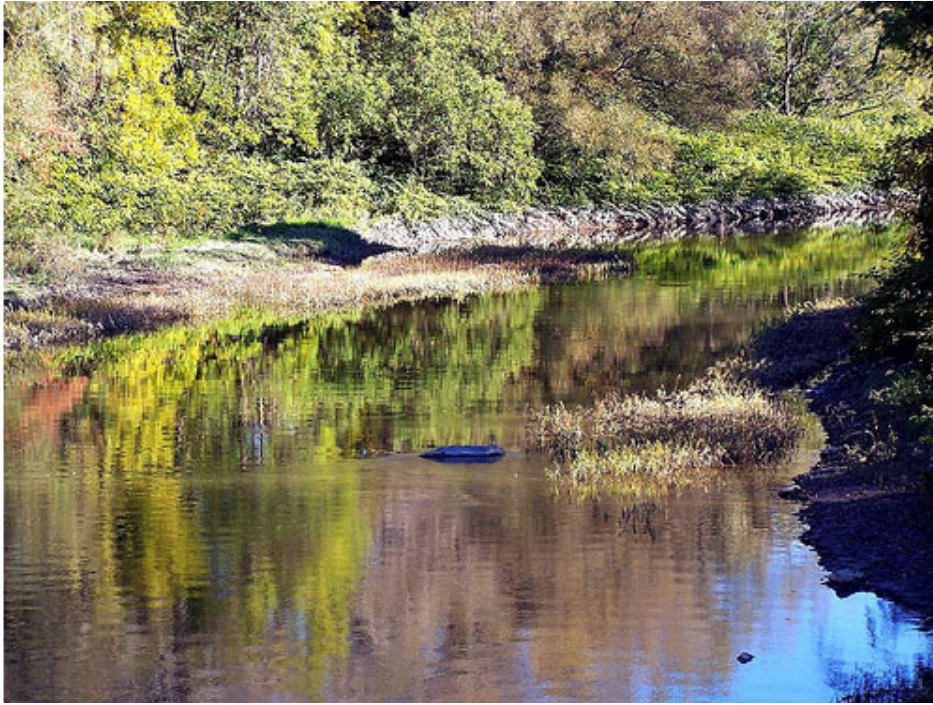


LOCI *fact sheet*

TMDL Project



Oak Orchard Creek is a tributary of Lake Ontario in Orleans County and Genesee County, New York in the United States.

Oak Orchard Creek

What is Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)?

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, as amended in 1987, requires each state to identify those waters within its boundaries not meeting water quality standards for any given pollutant applicable to the water's designated uses.

Section 303(d) requires EPA and the states to establish a formal process to develop TMDLs for all pollutants violating or causing violation of applicable water standards for each impaired water body.

Informed by the best available information and using a scientific approach, a TMDL determines the maximum amount of pollutant

("load") that a water body is capable of assimilating while continuing to meet the existing water quality standards.

Such "loads" of pollutants are established for all the point and nonpoint sources of pollution that cause the impairment and then "adjusted" so that the water will meet the applicable standards with consideration given to seasonal variations and a margin of safety.

TMDLs provide the framework to allow states to establish and implement pollution control and management plans to meet the goals of the Clean Water Act: "Water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and recreation in and on the water, wherever attainable."

Why Oak Orchard Creek?

Oak Orchard Creek has been identified as impaired by excessive nutrients, especially phosphorus, in testing performed by the NYS DEC Rotating Integrated Basin Study program and SUNY Brockport. Oak Orchard Creek is on the NYS DEC Priority Waterbodies List.

Oak Orchard Creek has also been the subject of public concern, as exemplified by the formation of the Oak Orchard Creek Watershed Protection Alliance. Studies such as the Oak Orchard Watershed State of Basin Report (2005) and Oak Orchard Watershed-The Location of Sources of Pollution, Annual Loss of Nutrients and Soil to Lake Ontario... (2009) indicate public-private support and expenditures to remedy water quality impairments.

Who is Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (LOCI)?

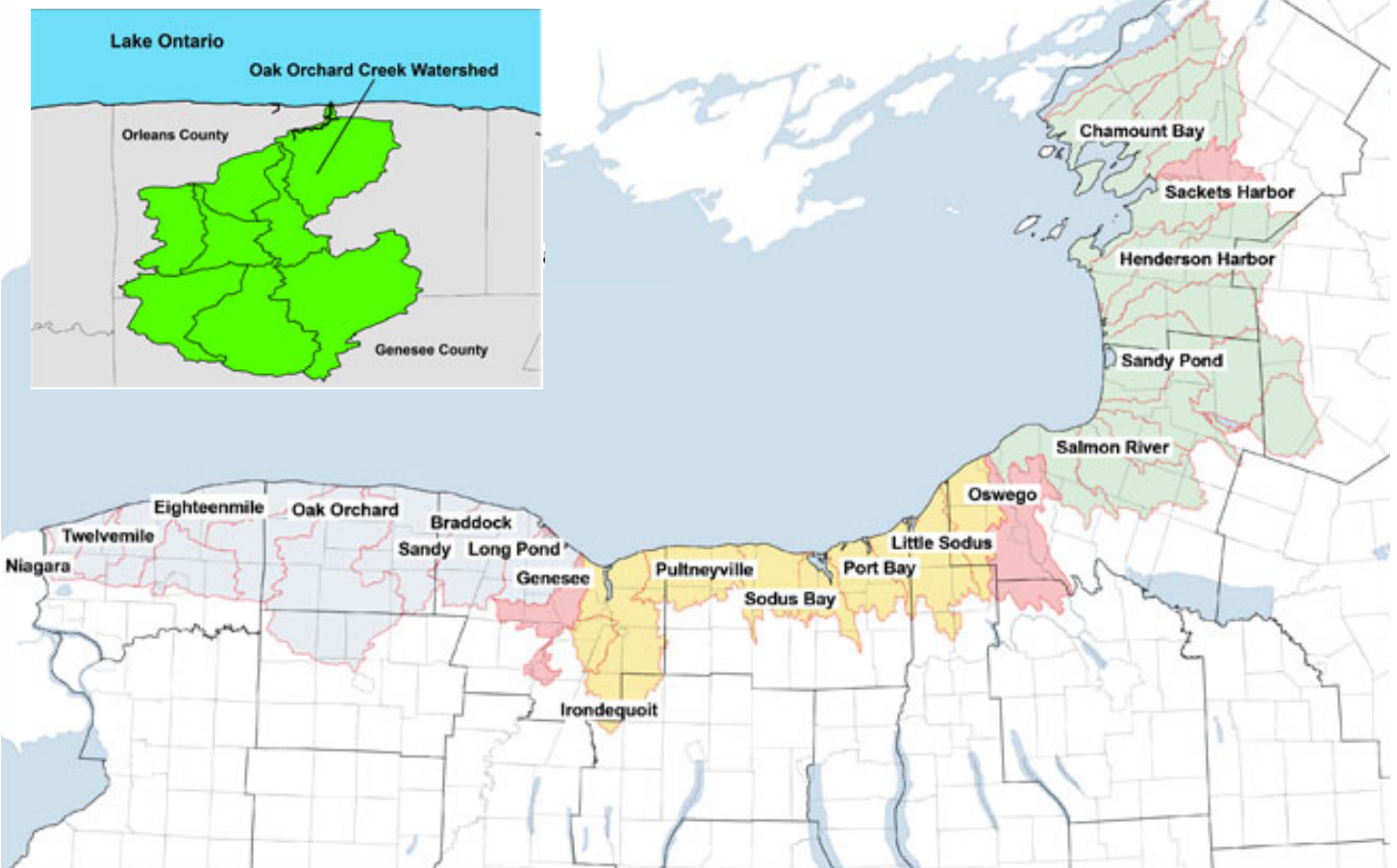
The Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (LOCI) is a joint project of the non-profit Center for Environmental Information, Inc. of Rochester, NY; SUNY Brockport; and the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, an association of county planning departments and soil and water conservation districts.

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) describes a value of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive while still meeting water quality standards.

The mission of the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative, encompassing all New York State North Coast stakeholders from the Niagara River to the Saint Lawrence River, is to enlist and retain broad public commitment for remediation, restoration, protection, conservation and sustainable use of the coastal region. This mission will be accomplished by securing funds and resources to achieve scientific understanding, educate citizens, and implement locally supported priorities, programs and projects as identified through this Initiative.

LOCI, in partnership with the Great Lakes Commission, applied for and has been granted Clean Water Act Section 604(b) Project and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds in the amount of \$254,695 to carry out TMDL analysis on eight 303(d) listed streams tributary to Lake Ontario.

Map shows the Lake Ontario coastal area.
Insert: Oak Orchard Creek



What is involved for Oak Orchard Creek?

Eight steps to be carried out in the next 12 to 18 months:

1. Characterize the Oak Orchard Creek watershed and pollution sources
2. Quantify watershed's land uses and land use management practices
3. Describe the hydrologic characteristics of Oak Orchard Creek
4. Identify through selected in-stream monitoring and/or model the loads from all sources (point and nonpoint)
5. Select a publicly available computer model and tie pollutant loads to water quality objectives and targets
6. Develop pollutant allocation scenarios attributable to current

and future pollution sources in the Oak Orchard Creek watershed

7. Assess seasonal variation of pollutant loads in Oak Orchard Creek to meet water quality objectives
8. Facilitate the development of implementation plans for the Oak Orchard Creek watershed

What is the Goal?

The goal of this project is to carry out the technical assessment, interact with the Oak Orchard Creek watershed community, and develop a TMDL for Oak Orchard Creek that allows unimpaired use of Oak Orchard Creek's waters of all classes for fish, shellfish, wildlife and humans.