

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan (HLWMP) focuses on the second smallest of the Finger Lakes of New York State. Honeoye Lake is located in the Western Finger Lakes region of New York State and considered part of the metropolitan area of the City of Rochester which is located 28 miles north of the lake (Figure ES-1). The watershed extends throughout six towns in two counties: the Towns of Bristol, Canadice, Naples, Richmond, and South Bristol in Ontario County and the Town of Springwater in Livingston County. The Honeoye Lake shoreline lies entirely within the Towns of Canadice and Richmond.



Figure ES-1: Location of Honeoye Lake in New York State

The HLWMP is a document that identifies major action items needed to protect and improve the water quality of Honeoye Lake. The HLWMP characterizes the natural resources, habitats, and environment of the watershed, identifies water quality and living resource impairments, recommends actions to protect the watershed from further degradation, and develops a strategy to restore the watershed. The plan also forms a framework to guide future decisions and provides a point of reference by which progress can be measured.

Section 2, *Watershed Characterization*, reviews the geographic setting of the Honeoye Lake and its watershed, including the physical characteristics, flora and fauna, human characteristics, and history.

Section 3, *Water Quality Characterization*, includes the examination of water quality classifications broken down by physical, chemical, and biological characteristics and trophic indicators.

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Section 4, *Subwatershed Prioritization*, identifies the existing drainage infrastructure and connectivity within the watershed and examines water inflow, pollutant loading, sources of nutrient loading, and the combined effects of both the hydrologic and nutrients budgets within the ten (10) subwatershed areas of Honeoye Lake.

Section 5, *Assessment of Local Laws and Practices*, includes analysis of land use regulations from the watershed municipalities and prioritizes recommendations for improved water quality protection.

Section 6, *Protection and Management Recommendations*, identifies recommendations for habitat protection, public watershed knowledge, and point and nonpoint sources of pollution prevention. The recommendations are contained in a matrix and grouped by description, a list of prioritized action items, feasibility of the action, cost estimate, and the agent with primary responsibility. Pollution sources have been broken down into 14 different categories.

Section 7, *Implementation Strategies*, identifies coordination efforts, revisions to existing policies and programs, and sources of funding necessary to execute the proposed actions and recommendations. As an example, a prioritized plan with potential financing has been included.

In order to advance the HLWMP's goals and objectives, this document recommends that a number of measures be undertaken. These recommendations are summarized as follows:

- *Habitat protection and management recommendations* including wetland and fish habitat restoration measures such as wetlands restoration, riparian zone management, invasive species removal, hydrologic improvements, improvements to fish passage, and instream habitat research.
- *Educational and outreach recommendations* including increasing knowledge of pollution impacts to homeowners, boaters, and commercial establishments, expanding watershed and tributary identification signage and providing interpretive exhibits, and expanding school watershed educational programs.
- *Point and nonpoint source pollution management and control recommendations* to include increasing monitoring programs and educational efforts and implementing programs for road maintenance, pest management, and sanitary system review to reduce pollution loads generation.

Several priority actions and target projects have been identified as having the greatest potential individual impacts on the water quality in the Honeoye Lake Watershed. The priority actions include:

- Adoption of a model forestry regulation to minimize detrimental effects of logging operations;
- Create a macrophyte management plan to manage excessive macrophyte growth in Honeoye Lake;
- Conduct field surveys to identify the most severely eroding streambanks and shorelines and implement, where feasible, a program to minimize sediment loading to Honeoye Lake; and,
- Adopt municipal land use regulations to minimize erosion.