Watershed Protection and Environmental Quality

Courtesy of Seneca County NY Tourism White Deer / Ross Bamburg

GOALS:

A. **Protect and improve the quality of the water in Seneca and Cayuga Lakes.**

B. **Preserve the quality of water in the streams that flow into Seneca and Cayuga Lakes.**

C. **Protect the quality of groundwater.**

D. **Protect environmentally sensitive natural areas such as woodlands and wetlands.**

E. **Preserve wildlife habitat, including that of significant bird populations and the white deer herd.**

Existing Plans, Programs and Regulations

State and Federal Wetlands Regulations

Wetlands regulated by the State and Federal governments and located within the Towns of Fayette and Varick are depicted on Map 8: Regulated State and Federal Wetlands. The exact boundaries of regulated wetlands must be verified in the field by a qualified individual.

New York State's Freshwater Wetlands Act and regulations protect all delineated wetlands of 12.4 acres or more in size. State regulations also restrict development within the adjacent one hundred foot buffer area that extends beyond the delineated limits of the wetland.

In addition to the State's Freshwater Wetlands, development that affects wetlands smaller than 12.4 acres are regulated by the federal government through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Flood Hazard Zones

Flood Hazard zones and floodways are located along watercourses and lake shore). Those areas within the one hundred year flood boundary could be expected to be flooded once in every hundred years, on average. The Town has adopted a local flood control ordinance that specifies, consistent with federal standards, the conditions under which development can occur in such areas. As a result, federal flood insurance is available to landowners within flood hazard zones

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Background Information

Natural features and environmental quality are highly valued resources in the Towns of Fayette and Varick. Significant features and resources include Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, streams, woodlands, wetlands, and groundwater.

Topography

The topography of the Towns of Fayette and Varick is depicted in Map 6. Significant features include steep slopes along stream corridors and along the east shore of Seneca Lake.

Soils

Map 7 summarizes the drainage of soils in the Towns of Fayette and Varick. This map is based on information from the Soil Survey prepared by the USDA for Seneca County.

In those areas with "poorly drained" soils, a conventional septic tank with an absorption field may not be able to properly treat sewage. In these cases, a "raised bed" or other alternative may be required.

Seneca and Cayuga Lakes and Watersheds

The Towns of Fayette and Varick border both Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, which are the two largest Finger Lakes. The Lakes provides recreational opportunities including swimming, boating and fishing. The Lakes provides a habitat for fish and other animals and vegetation. The Lakes also define distinct residential communities in the two Towns. Wineries and tourist-oriented businesses along the lakeshores offer the potential for economic development.

As depicted in Map 8: Watersheds and Streams, most of the Town of Varick is located within the watersheds of Cayuga and Seneca Lake. In the Town of Fayette, land in the eastern part of the Town drains into Cayuga Lake and land in the western portion drains toward Seneca Lake. Land in the center drains northward into the Seneca River, which flows into the northern tip of Cayuga Lake.

Streams

The Seneca River marks a portion of the northern boundary of the Town of Fayette. Kendig Creek and other tributaries to the Seneca River flow from south to north through the Towns of Varick and Fayette. Map 8: Watersheds and Streams depicts the named and

unnamed streams in the towns.

Reeder Creek flows through the former Seneca Army Depot into Seneca Lake. Canoga Creek passes through the wetlands to the north of the Hamlet of Canoga into Cayuga Lake. Numerous unnamed tributaries flow into Seneca and Cayuga Lakes.

Wetlands

Wetlands, such as swamps, marshes, or wet meadows where the ground water level is near or above the surface, provide several ecological benefits. They can store, like a sponge, large quantities of stormwater runoff, and provide unique habitats for a variety of plants and animals.

As shown in Map 9, several areas of State-regulated wetlands are located in the Towns of Fayette and Varick.

Groundwater

Groundwater provides drinking water for Town residents who do not receive public water. The quality and quantity of groundwater resources varies widely within the two Towns.

Woodlands

Woodlands provide habitat for wildlife. Some areas are logged privately. Some of the wooded areas are used as private hunting areas or are part of farms.

Mineral Resources

Seneca Stone Corporation quarries and produces crushed stone and rip rap at a facility off Canoga Road. Mined land may be reclaimed for agriculture, or as a pond.

White Deer Herd

A herd of white deer has become established within the fenced area of the former Seneca Army Depot. As the white color is a recessive trait, the continuation of the species depends upon maintaining the fence at the former Depot in order to prevent interbreeding with the deer population of surrounding areas.

Existing Plans, Programs and Regulations

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State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR)

All municipalities must follow the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process before acting on any funding or development approval. The SEQR process provides a framework for government agencies to evaluate the potential impacts of their actions on the environment. Nearly all site plan, subdivision, variance, and rezoning applications are subject to review, as well as actions that involve the purchase of property or the change in use of buildings or land. By requiring developers to document any potential environmental impacts of a project, the regulations ensure that the potential environmental impacts of a development proposal are considered by the local boards during the review process.

Mined Land Reclamation Law

The NYS Mined Land Reclamation Law requires mine operators to obtain a permit from NYSDEC. The permit establishes operating standards and requires a plan for reclamation of the land once mining is complete. The law requires mine operators to post a bond in an amount sufficient to ensure that the land is reclaimed.

OTHER LAWS & REGULATIONS

- *DEC regulations on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations*
- *Seneca County Septic System regulations*

Preserved Land

Canoga Marsh Wildlife Management Area

Canoga Marsh Wildlife Management Area is a 104-acre preserve managed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation located on the western shore of Cayuga Lake in Fayette. This natural wetland is one of the few freshwater marshes on Cayuga Lake and provides habitat for fish spawning, marsh birds, waterfowl and songbirds as well as deer, raccoons and other mammals.

The land is open to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, picnicking. Snowmobiling, camping, swimming and use of off-road vehicles are prohibited. Access is from Route 89 or by boat from Cayuga Lake.

Henry Hanley Biological Field Preserve

The Henry Hanley Biological Field Preserve, located near Cayuga Lake in the Town of Fayette, includes 108 acres of gently sloping land with over 60 natural and man-made ponds. Burrough's Creek runs through the preserve, eventually draining into Cayuga Lake. The major vegetation types include agricultural fields, deciduous forest, old field/scrub, and a small stand of pines. The preserve hosts a wide diversity of plants and animals, including whitetail deer, coyotes, red fox, beaver, mink, muskrats, redtail hawks, great blue herons, green herons, Canada geese and many species of ducks.

The property is owned by Hobart & William Smith Colleges and is used for research and educational programs. The Richard Ryan Field Laboratory building was opened on the preserve in 1994.

Bishop Nature Preserve

The Finger Lakes Land Trust maintains the Bishop Nature Preserve, a 28-acre former farm field that was reforested by Bruce Bishop between 1959 and 1993. The preserve is located in the Town of Fayette on West River Road along a former railroad bed and adjoins State land between the former railroad and the Seneca River (Barge Canal).

Forest Land Enhancement Program

The Forest Land Enhancement Program, which was funded under the Federal 2002 Farm Bill, promotes sound stewardship of non-industrial, privately-owned forest land by offering owners technical assistance, educational programs and cost-sharing grants.

Professional foresters on staff with the NYS DEC Bureau of Private Land Services are available to provide guidance to private forest landowners to promote sound forest resource management practices and forest stewardship on the ground. DEC foresters should be contacted before a landowner initiates any projects with hopes of receiving cost-share payments. DEC foresters can make free visit to your property for consultation and can provide a list of Cooperating Foresters.

The FLEP educational program is coordinated by the State Extension Forester in consultation with the DEC, through the Cornell Cooperative Extension system.

Cost-share programs reimburse forest owners for a portion of actual expenses associated with forest management practices. Forest owners need a DEC-approved Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan before they are eligible for cost-sharing. However, the FLEP may reimburse the landowner for up to 75% of the cost of preparing a plan.

Cost sharing of up to 50% or 75%, depending on the practice, is available for the following practices:

Afforestation or Reforestation: *To encourage regeneration of forest cover through site preparation, planting, seeding, fencing, or tree shelters for the purposes of timber or fiber production or carbon sequestration. (50% reimbursement)*

Forest Stand Improvement: *To enhance growth and quality of wood fiber through activities such as tree marking, thinning, cull removal, or grapevine removal. (75% reimbursement)*

Water Quality Improvement: *To improve or protect water quality, riparian areas, forest wetlands and forest watersheds. Approved practices include design and layout of access corridors, and soil stabilization with plants to restrict erosion and protect water quality. (75% reimbursement)*

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement: *To create, protect, or maintain fish and wildlife habitat through activities such as wildlife crop tree release, wild fruit tree maintenance, installing artificial cavities and hibernacula, creating forest openings, establishing streamside vegetation, and enhancing seeps. (50% reimbursement)*

FLEP 7 - Forest Health Practices: *To improve, protect, and restore forest health relative to detection of or damage by insects, disease, and animals affecting established stands. Approved activities include tree marking for stand improvement and thinning but do not include applications of chemical or biological agents for control of forest pests such as gypsy moth. (75% reimbursement)*

Any landowner with 5 or more acres of forest land or land suitable for establishing forest may receive cost-share. The landowner must agree to maintain the practices for 10 years.

To apply for funding, landowners must submit an application to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's regional office. Once plans are approved, the landowner must complete the practices within six months.

Private Hunting Preserves

New York law requires a license to operate a game breeding facility and shooting preserve. All persons holding such a license "shall keep a continuous record of their operations and furnish an annual report to the department not later than April fifth of each year." New York Fish and Wildlife Regulations §153.1(a).

NY Forest Owners Association (NYFOA)

The New York Forest Owners Association provides information to members about forest stewardship and other issues of interest to private owners of woodlands.

Important Bird Areas

"Important Bird Areas" as defined by the National Audubon Society include Cayuga and Seneca Lakes and the former Seneca Army Depot. The criteria used to designate these areas were developed by BirdLife International in the 1980s and adapted for use in New York State. The criteria are based on sites providing habitat for Species at Risk (NY-1), for Assemblages of Responsibility Species (those species that rely on habitat that is found primarily within the planning area) (NY-2), and for Assemblages of Birds (birds that congregate in large numbers for breeding, or migration (NY-3).

Cayuga Lake is important to waterfowl during migration and both Lakes support large numbers of waterfowl during the winter. For example, 11% of the state's population of American Black Ducks (a species "at risk"), and large congregations of other waterfowl, such as 45% of its Redheads, winter along Cayuga Lake. Common Loons use the airspace over the Lake while migrating from Lake Ontario to Delaware Bay.

The former Seneca Army Depot contains approximately 8,000 acres (80% of the total) of "early successional forest habitats, including old field/ pastures, shrub swamps, successional hardwoods and successional shrubs, as well as some forest and wetland habitat. This relatively large habitat supports several "responsibility" bird species including American Woodcock, Willow Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Blue-winged Warbler, Eastern Towhee and Field Sparrow.

Additional information about these bird habitats may be found in the publication Important Bird Areas of New York: Habitats Worth Protecting," by Michael F. Burger and Jillian M. Liner, Audubon New York, 2005.

Organizations, Plans and Programs Addressing Watershed Protection

With frontage on both Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, the Towns of Fayette and Varick work with several organizations that help to monitor and protect water quality.

The **Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization (IO),** created in 1998, consists of municipalities and counties within the watershed, as well as non-voting collaborative members. The IO and its committees continue to meet on a regular basis in various locations within the watershed. The Towns of Fayette and Varick have both signed a "CALL FOR COOPERATION and RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE A WATERSHED STUDY FOR CAYUGA LAKE" and have appointed representatives to the Intermunicipal Organization. A paid Watershed Project Manager staffs the IO.

In September 2000, the IO published the *Cayuga Lake Preliminary Watershed Characterization,* a comprehensive assessment of conditions in the watershed. The *Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Plan*, completed in 2002, presents a comprehensive strategy to improve water quality, enhance public awareness of watershed protection, and monitor watershed conditions. (See www.cayugawatershed.org .)

The **Cayuga Lake Watershed Network** is a grassroots membership organization that works closely with the IO to "maintain and improve the ecological health, economic vitality and overall beauty of the watershed, which supports thriving and prosperous communities." Staff include a Watershed Steward, Watershed Educator, and Office Manager based in Ithaca. (See www.cayugalake.org for more information.)

Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association (SLPWA) is a membership organization devoted to educational and research activities relating to Seneca Lake. . (See www.senecalake.org) for more information. In 1995, SLPWA initiated a study of the environmental quality of Seneca Lake and the watershed and subsequently published the report, "Seneca Lake Watershed Study: Developing an Understanding of an Important Natural Resource."

In 1996, SLPWA organized representatives of local, county and state government to work together as the **Seneca Lake Area Partners in Five Counties (SLAP-5)** to prepare and implement a comprehensive watershed management plan. The Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan: Setting a Course for Seneca Lake was completed in 1999. SLAP-5 and its "Oversight Committee" continue to meet to guide the implementation of the plan's recommendations. Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association and SLAP-5 are staffed by an Executive Director based in Geneva.

The **Finger Lakes Institute** is a federally-funded clearinghouse for information about watershed protection based at Hobart-William Smith Colleges in Geneva.

The **Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District** provides technical assistance to landowners in erosion control and stormwater management. Contact Philip Griswold, District Manager at (315) 568-4366.

The **US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** administers cost-sharing programs to reduce runoff of nutrients and chemicals from barnyards and farm fields. The Agricultural Environmental Management program is coordinated by this office. Contact Ronald Vanacore, District Conservationist, at (315) 568-6346.

The **Finger Lakes Land Trust** is a private, non-profit land trust based in Ithaca that provides for land conservation and stewardship. The Land Trust accepts donations of property or development rights and works with individual landowners and community leaders to protect land resources.

Residents Survey Highlights

- *61% of respondents identified "close to Seneca and Cayuga Lakes" in response to the question, "What do you like most about living in Fayette or Varick?" Only one other response was selected more often, with 62%.*
- *52% indicated that "Easy access to Seneca and/or Cayuga Lake" is important to the quality of life in their neighborhood. Only 40% indicated that "high quality water in Seneca and/or Cayuga Lake" was important to the quality of life in their neighborhood.*
- *A total of 79% "strongly support" and 16% "somewhat support" regulations to protect the environment, i.e., air quality, stream and lake water quality, groundwater quality?*

Issues and Opportunities

A major environmental quality issue in the Towns of Fayette and Varick is the protection of the water quality of Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. Other issues include the need to protect sensitive natural areas such as woodlands, wetlands and stream corridors.

Watershed Protection

The quality of water in Seneca and Cayuga Lakes and in the streams that contribute water to the lake can be affected by contaminants in stormwater runoff or groundwater. Potential sources of contamination may include manure and chemicals from farms, erosion and sedimentation along the lakeshore and streambanks, leachate from septic systems, and lawn care chemicals used in residential properties. Good water quality is essential to the use of the Lakes for drinking water, fish habitat, recreation and other activities.

Agricultural runoff

Agricultural runoff has the potential to add nutrients and chemicals to Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, as these substances may be carried in stormwater and eroded soil into the Lakes and their tributaries. Higher risk of pollution is associated with raising livestock and the runoff of nutrients and pesticides from farm fields.

Various techniques used by local farmers help to manage the amount of nutrients added to the soil, control the runoff of animal waste and reduce soil erosion to limit the amount of agricultural runoff that enters Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. These techniques include barnyard management, installation of grassed waterways, surface water diversions, and streambank erosion control. Several programs existing to assist farmers to implement best management practices to contain animal waste and minimize erosion.

Septic Systems

Properties that are not served by public sanitary sewers process their wastewater with on-site septic systems. These systems rely on soil and its natural bacteria to filter and process the pathogens contained in household sewage.

Proper operation of septic systems requires sufficient land, the proper soil types, and appropriate sizing of the system. Many shoreline cottages may rely on septic systems that were sized for seasonal use. In addition, lot sizes are often too small to accommodate an effective leach field. Soil conditions such as shallow depth to groundwater also interfere with the operation of septic systems.

Cayuga County has instituted an inspection program to identify failing systems. Inspections are required more frequently for dwellings that

are closest to the Lake and others within the watershed. In Seneca County, inspections are not required for existing systems unless a complaint is reported. Proper maintenance of septic systems depends on responsible actions by the owners of residential properties.

Sedimentation and erosion

Sediments that are carried into streams and the lake affect the clarity of the water and compromise fish habitats. Sediments may contain contaminants that degrade the quality of water.

Erosion occurs naturally along streambanks and the lakeshore, as the water scours the banks along bends in the streams. Natural vegetation helps to slow erosion, as roots hold soil in place. When natural vegetation is removed, streambanks and the lakeshore are highly vulnerable to erosion and sedimentation.

Erosion and sedimentation also occur during construction, as soil is exposed to rain. Roadside ditches also contribute sediments to the lake, as stormwater scours the bottom of the ditch. In areas of steep slopes, erosion can be accelerated.

Minimizing erosion and sedimentation usually requires stablizing areas where bare soil has been exposed or preventing soil from being carried off in stormwater runoff.. For example, highway crews may use a hydroseeder to revegetate roadside drainage ditches following maintenance. Developers may construct sediment traps, using hay bales or stone, as part of their stormwater management system.

Eroded streambanks also contribute sediment to the Lakes. However, the streams in Fayette and Varick contribute relatively small amounts of sediment due to the soil type, steepness and the natural vegetation that surrounds the banks. (The Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan rated each of the Seneca Lake subwatersheds in Fayette and Varick "LOW" for streambank erosion potential.)

Chemicals

Pollution from chemicals may occur from former landfills or dumps, underground storage tanks, permitted discharges or industrial spills. The Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan includes an inventory of potential sources of pollution.

The Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan identified two facilities that have permits from NYS DEC under the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for discharges in the watershed:

- Crow's Nest Restaurant at 415 Boody Hill Road. Non-toxic discharge into the Seneca River
- Lakeside Cottage Co East Lake Road. Non-toxic discharge to groundwater within the Wilcox Creek subwatershed.

Summary of Watershed Focus Group Discussion

The Watershed Protection Focus Group met on April 25 at the Fayette Fire Hall. The following resource people presented information about water quality and watershed protection:

- *Edith Davey, Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District presented information about on-site septic systems and their regulation.*
- *Matt Gillette, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) presented information about the DEC's regulation of concentrated Animal feeding operations (CAFOs).*
- *Jason Haremza, Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council presented information about local regulation of stormwater management, erosion control, lot size/ coverage and lakeshore land use.*
- *Darby Kiley presented information about the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network.*
- *Marianne Balyszck was present to represent the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association.*

Discussion topics included:

- *Conservation Board/ Conservation Advisory Council.*
- *Erosion from roadside ditch cleaning and private driveways on steep slopes.*
- *Groundwater mapping.*

The Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan identified a former private dump in the Town of Fayette that is located near a stream that is tributary to Seneca Lake on soils that are shallow to bedrock. The location warrants continued monitoring, although there is no confirmed knowledge that toxins are present, no elevated measurements of significant contaminants were found after testing, and the site has been completely covered with vegetation and dirt.

Groundwater Protection

Properties in the most areas of the Towns rely on private, on-site wells for water supply. The quality of water depends on preventing contaminants from entering the groundwater.

Potential sources of groundwater contamination include chemicals and nutrients applied to the ground on farms, golf courses and residences, as well as improperly working septic systems and spilled chemicals.

Wildlife

The herd of white deer within the fenced area of the former Seneca Army Depot is a resource within the Town of Varick. A private organization, Seneca White Deer, Inc., has been formed to advocate preservation of the herd.

Hunting and fishing are popular activities among the residents of Fayette and Varick. Three sportsmen's clubs are located in the Town of Fayette: the 10-acre Canoga Sportsment's Club at 3228 Cemetery Road; the 16-acre MacDougall Sportsmen's Association at 3800 MacDougall Road; and Kuneytown Sportsmen Club at 3735 Hoster Road. In addition, the Waterloo Rifle and Pistol Club owns a 28-acre facility at 1392 West River Road.

Tools and Techniques

Protecting the water quality of Seneca and Cayuga Lakes requires consideration of the many ways that water quality can be compromised. Contaminants may be carried into the Lakes in stormwater, either via tributaries or over lakeshore land. Such contaminants may include fertilizers from lawns, agricultural chemicals or nutrients in manure, or sediment from eroded highway ditches or construction sites. Other sources of pollution may include leachate from septic systems and petroleum leaks from boats or fuel storage.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater management utilizes a system of vegetative and structural measures to control the increased rate and volume of stormwater runoff that results from new development. Such measures must be designed as part of new development to ensure that stormwater is properly filtered before flowing into streams or the Lake, and that the flow is managed to prevent flooding. Specific techniques include retention ponds, drainage swales, and artificial wetlands.

Local governments must require developers to plan for effective stormwater management techniques as part of the design of new development. Individual property owners can help to manage stormwater by limiting the amount of impermeable surfaces and allowing stormwater to filter into the ground before flowing into streams or the Lake.

Erosion and Sedimentation Controls

The prevention of erosion during construction requires the use of specific techniques designed to retain soil on site. Local governments typically require such techniques as part of the subdivision or site plan review process.

Stream Corridor Protection

Stream corridor management helps to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation in the tributaries leading to Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. The most effective stream corridor management typically involves the preservation or restoration of the natural vegetation along streambanks. In some locations, streambanks must be stabilized with stone rip rap to avoid further erosion.

"Overlay" zoning regulations designed to protect stream corridors typically limit the removal of natural vegetation within a certain distance (e.g., 50 feet) of the stream bank. These requirements are applied in addition to the land use and area requirements of the underlying zoning.

Conservation Overlays

Conservation Overlay Districts (also known as EPODs-Environmental Protection Overlay Districts) can be incorporated into zoning regulations to provide additional protections to stream corridors, as well as to significant woodlots and areas of steep slopes. The requirements of the Conservation Overlay District (or EPOD) supplement the land use and dimensional requirements of the underlying zoning district.

Overlay regulations for woodlots typically require Town approval before trees larger than a specified size are removed. The requirements would only apply to woodlots that are designated on a resource map and meet clearly specified criteria.

Requirements for areas of steep slopes typically restrict the removal of vegetation in areas with slopes of 15% or more.

Programs to reduce agricultural runoff

Agricultural Environmental Management Program

Farmers, Cooperative Extension, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts have established the Agricultural Environmental Management Program to encourage agricultural practices that help to protect the environment. The voluntary program pro- vides farmers with advice and financial assistance to meet the following goals:

- Address environmental concerns in a comprehensive and cost-effective way, while maintaining the farm as a viable business
- Protect the quality of ground and surface waters
- Comply with environmental rules and regulations
- Direct personnel and financial resources to farms where they are most needed.

The AEM program is based on a five tier process to direct resources to those projects that would have the greatest impact on the environment.

The AEM approach to "whole farm planning" is supported by nine different government agencies: NYSDEC, NYS Department of State, US EPA, NYS DOH, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), NYS Agriculture and Markets, and NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee.

Rotational grazing is another agricultural management program intended to reduce soil erosion and animal waste runoff and protect water quality.

Summary of Opportunities for Local Action

Tools and techniques that may be pursued at the Town government level include:

- Development regulations to preserve vegetated buffer zones along streams and along the lakeshore
- Development regulations to control erosion during construction
- Development regulations to manage stormwater runoff after construction.

Other actions may require voluntary cooperation from individual landowners (such as agricultural management programs), regulatory action by other levels of government, such as Seneca County or New York State, or educational work by independent community organizations.

Recommended Actions:

Natural Resource Protection

1. Establish a Conservation Advisory Committee. Prepare an Open Space Index that maps specific resources to protect, including high quality farmland, wildlife corridors, viewsheds and sensitive natural areas. Seek grant funding to support the preparation of an Open Space Index.

2. Incorporate protection of the white deer herd into redevelopment plans for the former Seneca Army Depot.

Watershed Protection—General

3. Continue to participate in the Intermunicipal Organization for Cayuga Lake and the Seneca County SLAP-5.

4. Encourage Town planning board members to attend regional training sessions on on-site wastewater management and the municipal regulation of stormwater management and erosion control.

Erosion and Sedimentation

5. Require strict erosion and sedimentation control measures as a condition of subdivision and site plan approval, particularly in areas with steep slopes. Ensure that such measures are constructed as planned. Consider enacting a local Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance.

6. Work with the Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District and other organizations to assist in the restoration of stream corridors and the design and implementation of erosion and sedimentation control measures.

7. Revise zoning regulations to establish building setbacks from streams and/or require the maintenance of a vegetated buffer within designated stream corridors.

Stormwater Runoff

8. As part of site plan and subdivision review, require development designs that minimize impacts of new development on water quality. Such requirements should include:
   - prohibit the discharge of stormwater to wetland areas without prior treatment such as vegetated filter strips;
   - maintain the volume of runoff at predevelopment levels by using structural controls and pollution prevention strategies;
   - maintain provisions in zoning and subdivision regulations that prohibit development in areas subject to flooding.

9. Work with the Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to encourage farmland owners to install conservation practices that reduce runoff from agricultural land.

10. Revise zoning regulations to limit the percentage of a lot, especially along the lakeshore, that may be built upon or covered with an impervious surface.

11. Prepare a regional stormwater management strategy.

Wastewater Management

12. Encourage Seneca County to revise its sanitary code to require periodic inspections of septic systems within 500 feet of Cayuga and Seneca Lakes and within 150 feet of tributaries, and to require substandard systems to install holding tanks until systems can be brought into compliance.

13. Seek funding and conduct the necessary studies to extend sewer service to additional properties along the shores of Cayuga and Seneca Lakes.

Public Education

14. Work with private organizations to increase public awareness about watershed protection. Distribute information to lakeshore property owners regarding the maintenance of on-site waste disposal systems, stormwater management, protecting water quality from household, lawn and garden chemicals and the need to control litter and pet waste.

Roadway Management

15. Encourage Town Highway Department personnel to attend training sponsored by Cornell University on road construction and maintenance, erosion control and road deicing practices.

16. Work with the Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District to hydroseed and mulch eroded roadside drainage swales.

17. Install structural measures along steep roads, road banks and high flow ditches to control erosion and sedimentation and to minimize downstream flooding.

18. Utilize deicing materials judiciously to minimize their impact on Cayuga and Seneca Lakes and their tributaries. Develop guidelines and implement sensible deicing procedures. Use sensible material application procedure (e.g. intersections, posting of signs, driver education).

19. Construct a covered storage facility and maintain an impermeable surface to store road salt. (Town of Fayette only), construct a containment area adjacent to the existing storage facility to mix and load deicing materials.