Community Planning and Water Resources: (at least) 7 Things to Consider for the Future

How to help guide your town or village into a prosperous future

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE, EXCEPT FROM A VENDING MACHINE.

Stop and Think...

- What does your community look like today?
 - Landscape
 - Activities
 - Amenities
 - Demographic composition
- What will your community look like in 30 years?
- What do you want it to look like?
- Who will live there?
- What are past, present and future challenges and how do you plan for them?

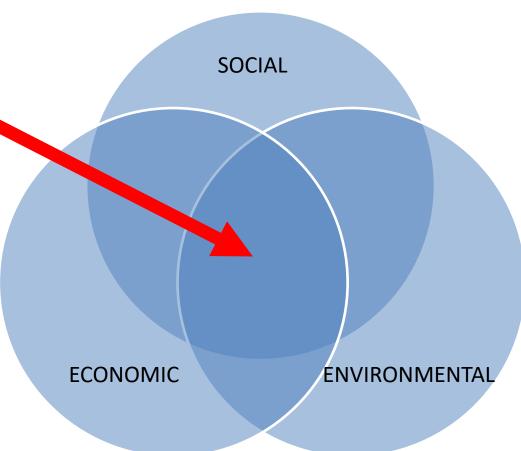




It's all inter-related

YOU ARE HERE!

- Community resilience
- Stormwater
- Agriculture
- Harmful Algal Blooms
- infrastructure
- Drinking water source protection
- Water resource management
- Transportation
- Septics and other nutrient inputs
- Planning
- Tourism
- AND, MORE!



And, our communities are changing whether we want them to or not







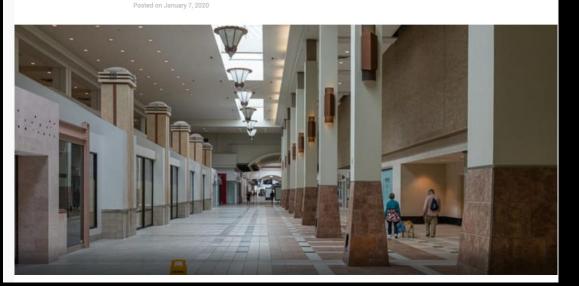


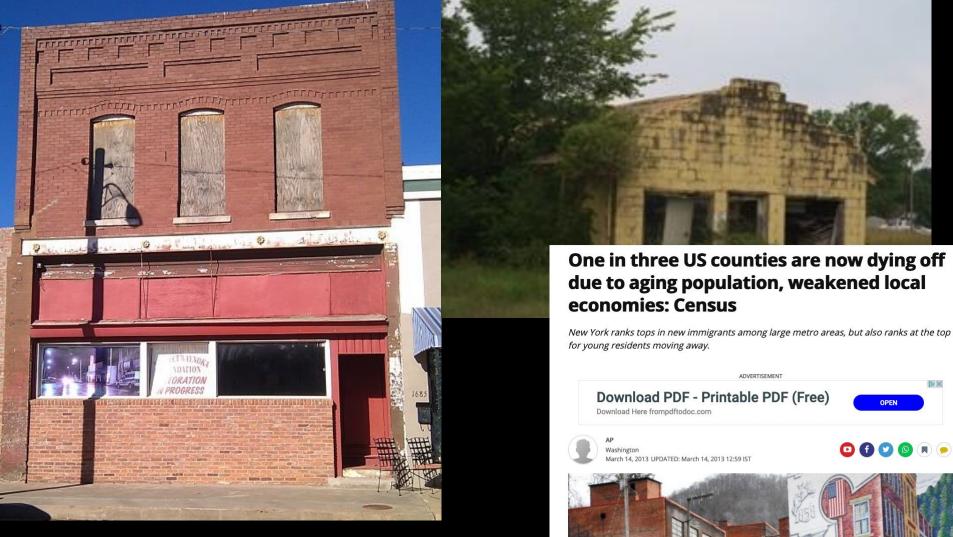
GRUBHUB[™]



Mall Vacancy Rate Reaches 20-Year High

By PYMNTS 💆 🔤





Weakened local economies



Changing Land Use





Culture & Demographics

Crime & Health (services)

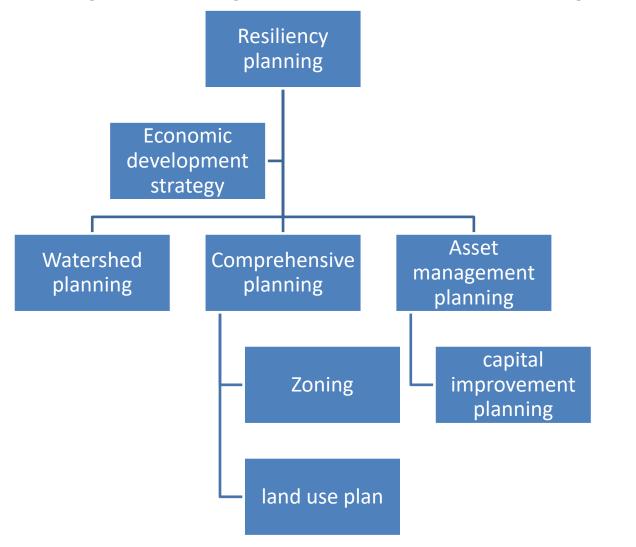
change is inevitable progress is optional

- Tony Robbins

Planning for Resiliency

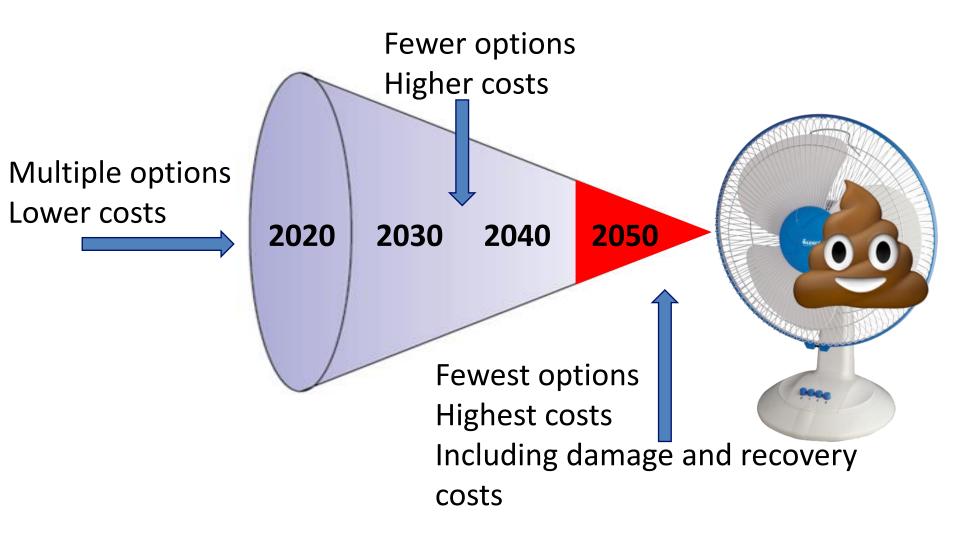
- ✓ Comprehensive Plans
- ✓ Zoning
- Asset Management Planning

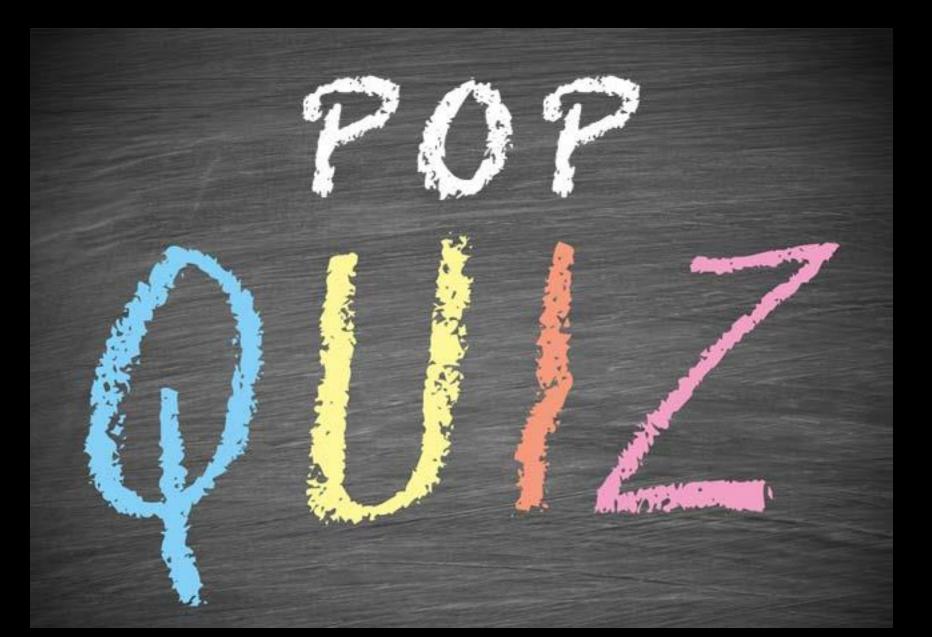
- ✓ Capital Improvement Planning
- ✓ Land-Use Planning
- ✓ Watershed Planning





The Hard Sell





A comprehensive plan is:

- a. Meant to serve as the foundation for zoning regulations
- b. A document or culmination of materials that provide an outline for orderly growth
- c. A land use plan
- d. All of the above

All of the above: All of these things are part of a Comprehensive Plan!

Comprehensive Plan

- Expression of goals and recommended action to achieve those goals
- 2. Providing continued guidance for decision-making
- 3. Focuses on immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development

Importance

- ✓ Zoning must be in accordance with comprehensive plan
- Defense against spot zoning challenges
- ✓ Can also provide the basis for other actions affecting development
- ✓ Grant applications
- ✓ Capital Improvements

Peek Inside a Comprehensive Plan

- Introduction
- Public Participation
- Plan Structure
- Chapter 1 Goals and Recommendations
 - Community Vision Statement
 - Agriculture and Open Space
 - Land Use Regulation
 - Environmental Stewardship and Water Quality Protection
 - Public Utilities and Community Services
 - Economic Development and Cultural Heritage
 - Recreation and Tourism
- Chapter 2 Adopting and Implementing the Plan
 - Adopting the Comprehensive Plan
 - Review and Maintenance of the Comprehensive Plan
 - Implementing the Comprehensive Plan

"Failing to plan is planning to fail."

Waiting until a controversial land use proposal is at the door before deciding a comprehensive plan is necessary or needs updating is not a recommended approach. Many controversial decisions and issues are best handled through the development and maintenance of a comprehensive plan.

A note on Tourism

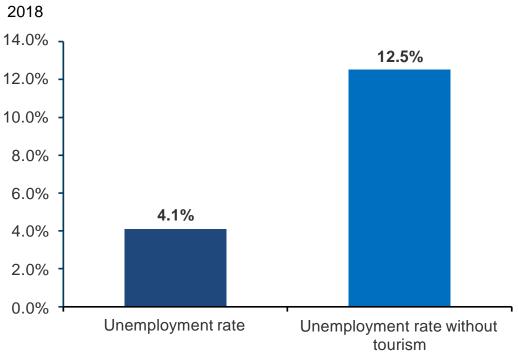
New York State's tourism economy in 2018 with 6.2% growth in traveler spending, reaching a new high of \$71.8 billion.

- Travel & tourism is a substantial and growing component of the New York State economy.
- Direct spending of \$71.8 billion generated nearly \$115 billion in total business sales including indirect and induced impacts.



Tourism is vital to the NYS labor market

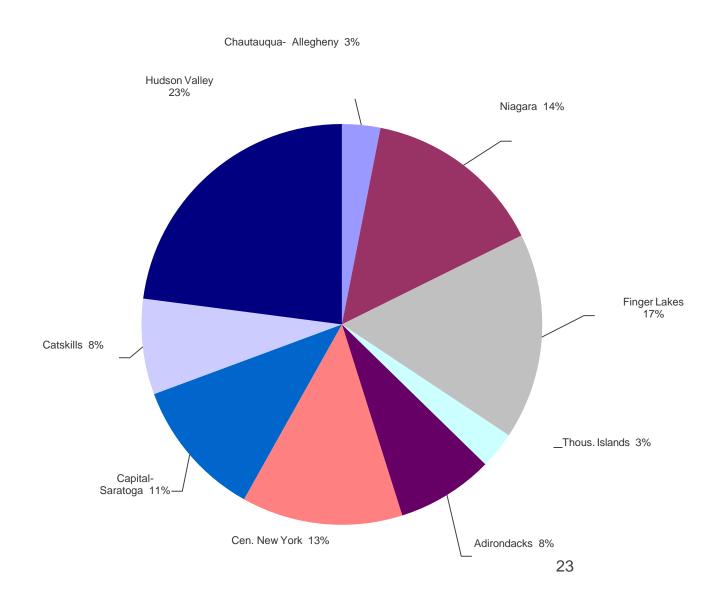
Unemployment Rate in New York State



Source: BLS, Tourism Economics

The unemployment rate in New York State was 4.1% in 2018. If the jobs sustained by travelers were eliminated, the unemployment rate would rise to 12.5%.

Upstate traveler spending by region—2018



Regional tourism summary (2018)

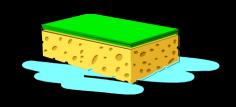
Tourism Economic Impact

Combined Direct, Indirect, and Induced

| Tourism Economic Impact | Direct Sales, | | Labor Income, | | Employment, | Local Taxes, | | State Taxes, | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| | '000s | | '000s | | Persons | '000s | | '000s | |
| 1. Chautauqua-Allegheny | \$ | 588,668 | \$ | 264,505 | 11,383 | \$ | 39,923 | \$ | 32,106 |
| 2. Greater Niagara | \$ | 2,777,872 | \$ | 1,516,478 | 53,009 | \$ | 184,503 | \$ | 151,506 |
| 3. Finger Lakes | \$ | 3,168,690 | \$ | 1,571,380 | 58,853 | \$ | 225,684 | \$ | 172,821 |
| 4. Thousand Islands | \$ | 564,236 | \$ | 246,478 | 9,074 | \$ | 36,295 | \$ | 30,774 |
| 5. Adirondacks | \$ | 1,490,681 | \$ | 705,605 | 21,089 | \$ | 101,585 | \$ | 81,302 |
| 6. Central New York | \$ | 2,473,007 | \$ | 1,400,603 | 37,015 | \$ | 153,292 | \$ | 134,879 |
| 7. Capital-Saratoga | \$ | 2,136,117 | \$ | 1,181,885 | 38,406 | \$ | 142,855 | \$ | 116,505 |
| 8. Catskills | \$ | 1,468,595 | \$ | 674,800 | 19,526 | \$ | 96,621 | \$ | 80,098 |
| 9. Hudson Valley | \$ | 4,365,871 | \$ | 2,256,370 | 62,262 | \$ | 307,421 | \$ | 238,116 |
| 10. Long Island | \$ | 6,135,235 | \$ | 3,281,344 | 81,735 | \$ | 405,707 | \$ | 334,618 |
| 11. New York City | \$ | 46,649,839 | \$ | 25,128,860 | 414,693 | \$ | 3,306,343 | \$ | 2,544,298 |
| TOTAL | \$ | 71,818,812 | \$ | 38,228,308 | 807,047 | \$ | 5,000,229 | \$ | 3,917,022 |



WATERSHEDS—THE FUNNEL, THE SPONGE, AND THE SLIDE





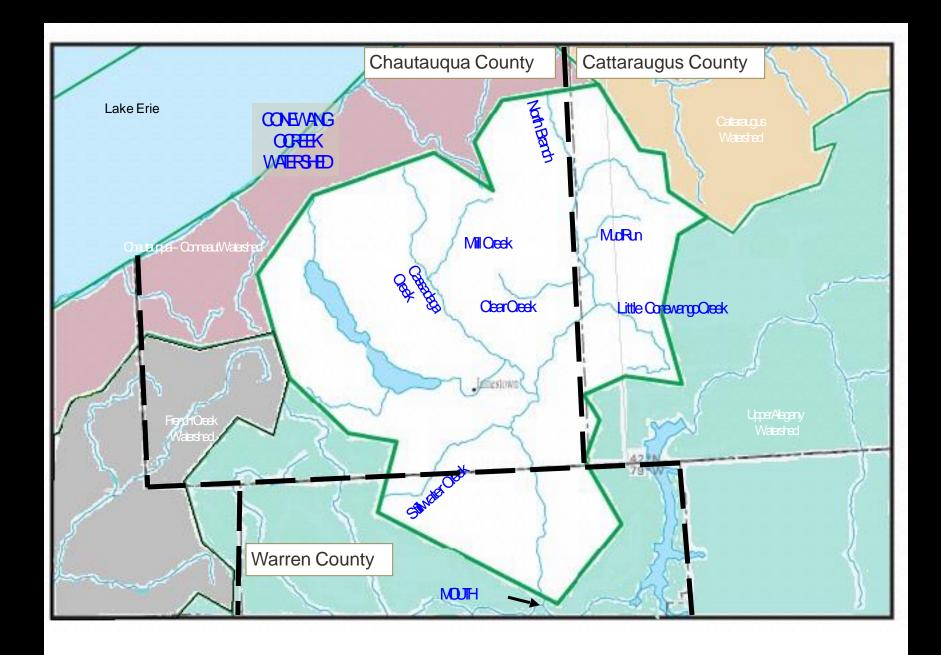
Who's 'in-charge' of watershed management?



Who's 'in-charge' of watershed management?

- No One
- Mayors / Supervisors
- Business Owners
- Conservation Groups
- Planning / Zoning
- Highway Departments
- NYS DEC
- Private Landowners
- All Of The Above



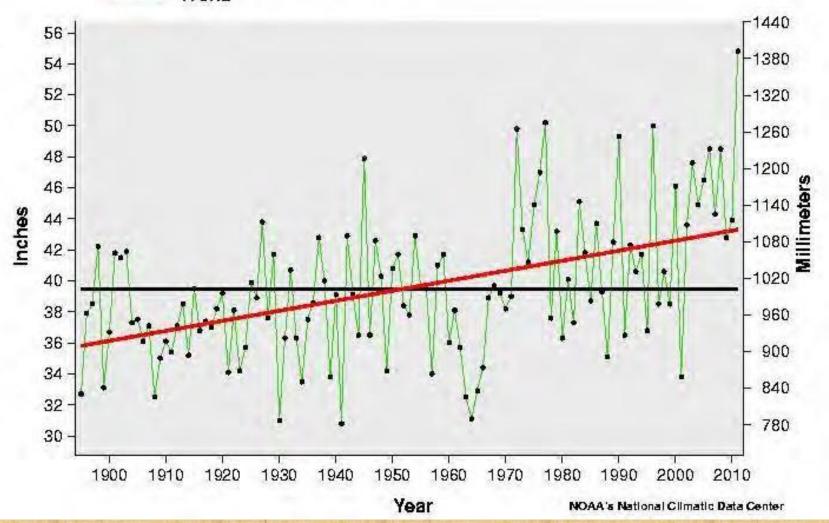


Annual 1895 - 2011 Average = 39.54 Inches Annual 1895 - 2011 Trend = 0.65 Inches / Decade

Actual Precipitation

Average Precipitation

Trend



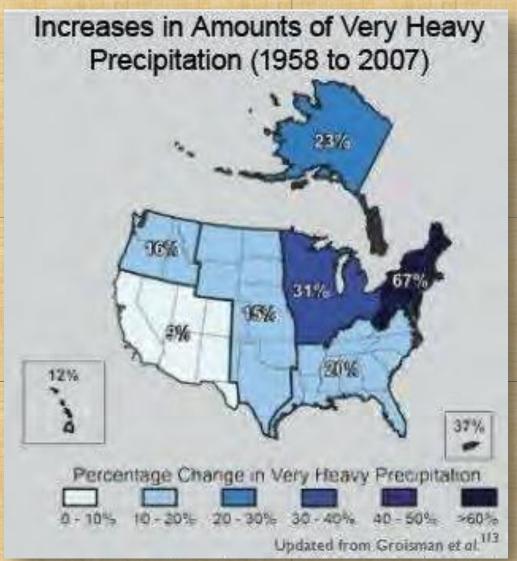
Getting Real About Rainfall Rates

"We have seen a 67% increase in the number of 2-inch rainfall events occurring over a 48-hour period since the 1950s."

Climate Change Facts, Dept. of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Cornell University

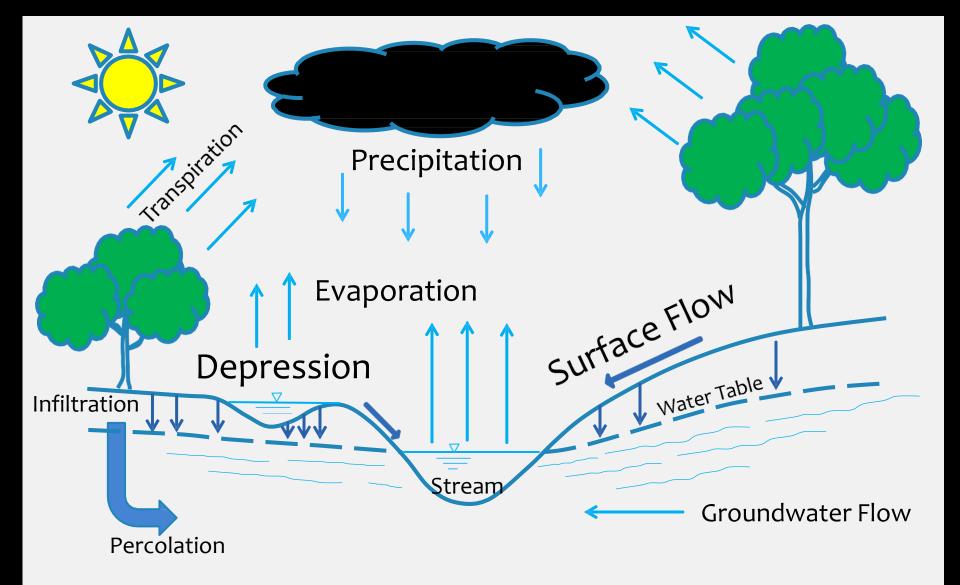
Storms are *more frequent* and *more extreme* than they used to be. Have you noticed?

Increase in Rainfall Rates, Nationwide

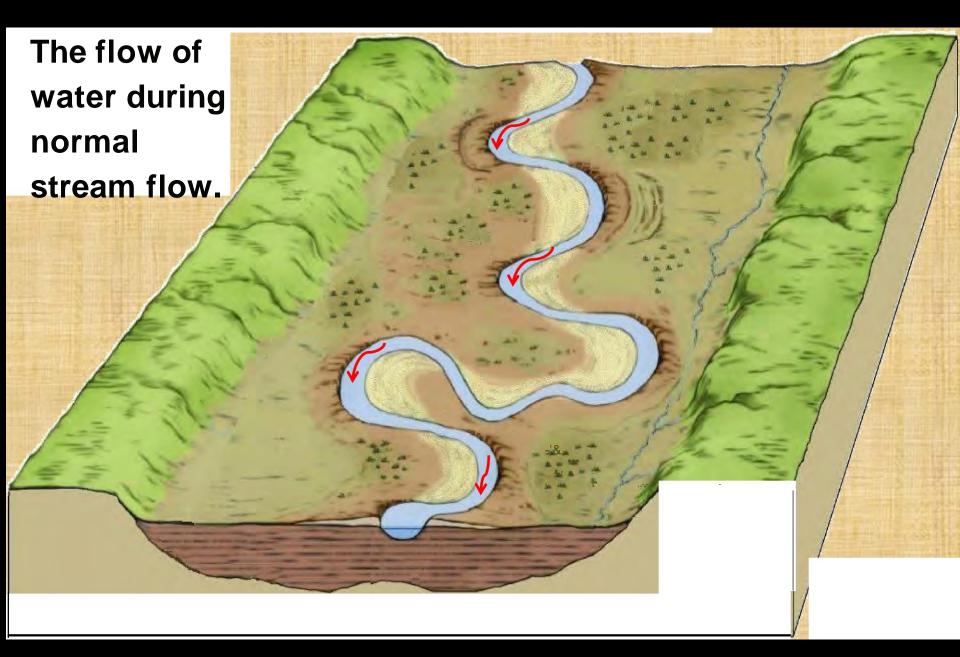


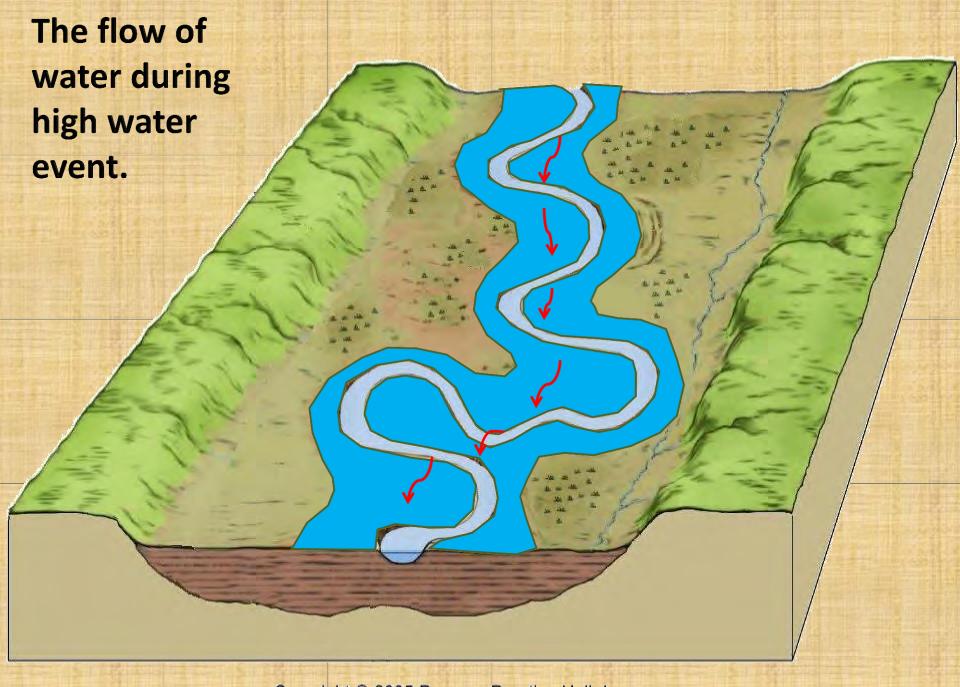
The map shows the percent increase in very heavy precipitation events (defined as the heaviest 1 percent of all daily events).

Info: Pavel Groisman, University Corp. for Atmospheric Research & National Climatic Data Center

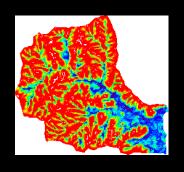


Water Cycle

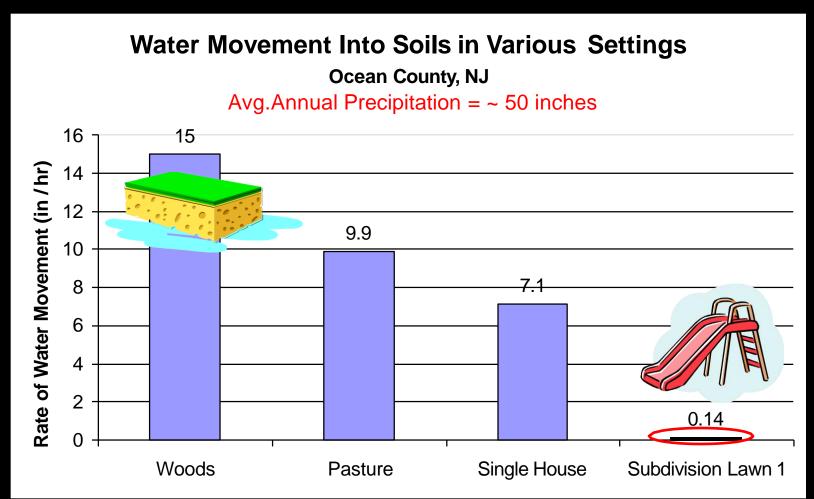




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Compaction Effects





Cumulative Effects

SCENARIO A:

Development Proposal:

- 20 New Homes 20 acres
- All within the same watershed
- Constructed in 2015

Triggers:

- SEQR
- NYS DEC SWPPP

Municipal Discussions?

- Wastewater Management
- Emergency Services, etc.

SCENARIO B-1 (2015):

•10 Existing Homes – 10 acres



SCENARIO B-2 (2017):

•10 Existing Homes – 10 acres

No Proposal:

- •3 Additional Homes 3 acres
- •All within the samewatershed

Triggers:

Municipal Discussions?



SCENARIO B-3 (2020):

•10 Existing Homes – 10 acres

No Proposal:

- •4 Additional Homes 4 acres
- All within the samewatershed

Triggers:

Municipal Discussions?



SCENARIO B-4 (2023):

•10 Existing Homes – 10 acres

No Proposal:

- •3 Additional Homes 3 acres
- All within the samewatershed

Triggers:

Municipal Discussions?



Municipal Costs



Municipal Costs



Rebuilt 5 times In 3 years: \$15,000

Stabilized in 2005: \$3,500

Municipal Costs Benefits



Rebuilt 5 times In 3 years: \$15,000

Stabilized in 2005: \$3,500

Until present: \$0



Syracuse, 2011: 2 inches, 30 minutes, \$50 million in damages

The Eight Tools of Watershed "Investment"





Who's 'in-charge' -- of watershed management?

- > Mayors / Supervisors
- > Business Owners
- ➤ Conservation Groups
- > Planning / Zoning
- > Highway Departments

- > NYS DEC
- >> Private Landowners
- Aii Of The Above



Proactive Planning Be Prepared to React











Incentivizing the Private Sector



Location: Broome County, NY
Area: 11.14 square miles

Founded: 1867

Population: 46,551

SHARING THE COST

50/50

... of green stormwater projects with residents and businesses

STORMWATER MANGEMENT FUND

NFWF sponsored program where the City splits the cost of GI projects with developers and landowners up to \$25,000 for going above and beyond the required level stormwater management



GREEN STORMWATER AND LANDSCAPING MATCHING FUND

Οφοροφοροφο

Local foundation sponsored program where the City provides matching funds for residents, nonprofits, and small businesses who want to install small-scale GI practices such as rain gardens, rain barrels, shade trees, and pervious paving

Incentivizing the Private Sector

Upper Susquehanna Coalition: berm removal, constructed wetlands, buy-backs, streambed

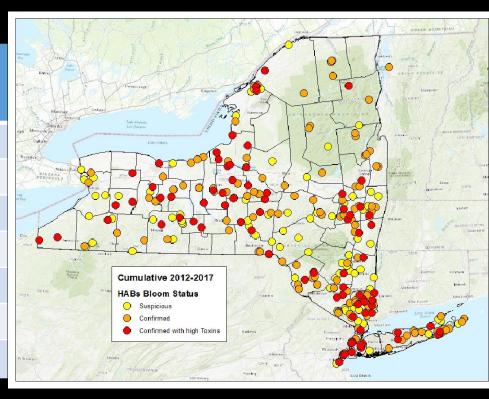
restoration...



Image courtesy Alliance for the Bay

HABs in New York 2012-2017

| Year | Suspicious | Confirmed | High Toxins | Total |
|-------|------------|-----------|----------------|-------|
| 2012 | 20 | 29 | 9 | 58 |
| 2013 | 17 | 37 | 22 | 76 |
| 2014 | 19 | 51 | 23 | 93 |
| 2015 | 40 | 62 | 35 | 137 |
| 2016 | 41 | 95 | 38 | 174 |
| 2017 | 48 | 85 | 35 | 168 |
| 12-17 | 75 | 133 | 77 | 340 |



Stormwater Management Plan

- 1.Inventory ditches, culverts, bridges, drainage, pipes and outlets
- 2. What condition (probability) are they in?
- 3. How critical (impact) are they?
- 4. Rank & Prioritize
- 5. Capital Improvement Plan

Good condition?



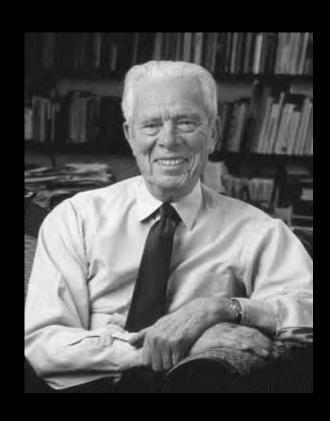
What's the Impact?



| | | Impact | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------|--------|----------|--------|---------|--|--|
| | | Trivial | Minor | Moderate | Major | Extreme | | |
| Probability | Rare | Low | Low | Low | Medium | Medium | | |
| | Unlikely | Low | Low | Medium | Medium | Medium | | |
| | Moderate | Low | Medium | Medium | Medium | High | | |
| | Likely | Medium | Medium | Medium | High | High | | |
| | Very likely | Medium | Medium | High | High | High | | |



"Floods are acts of God, but flood losses are largely acts of man"



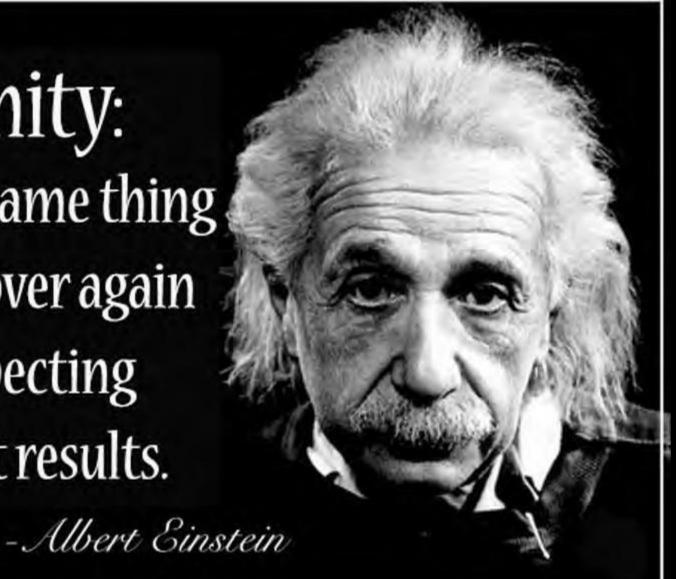








Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.







What happens when steams are reconnected to their natural floodplains?



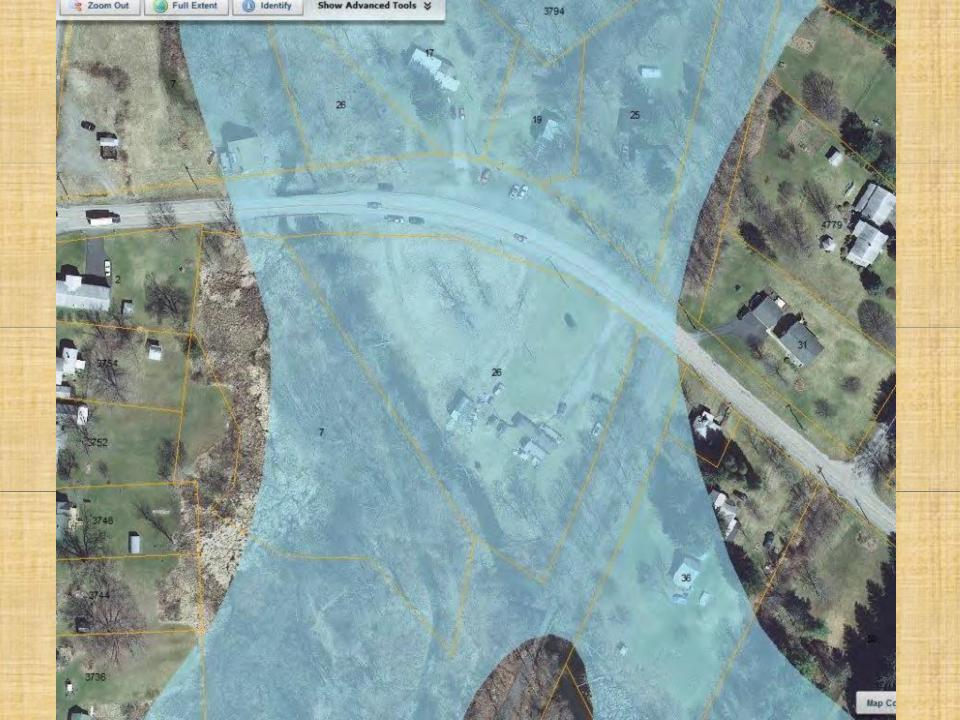












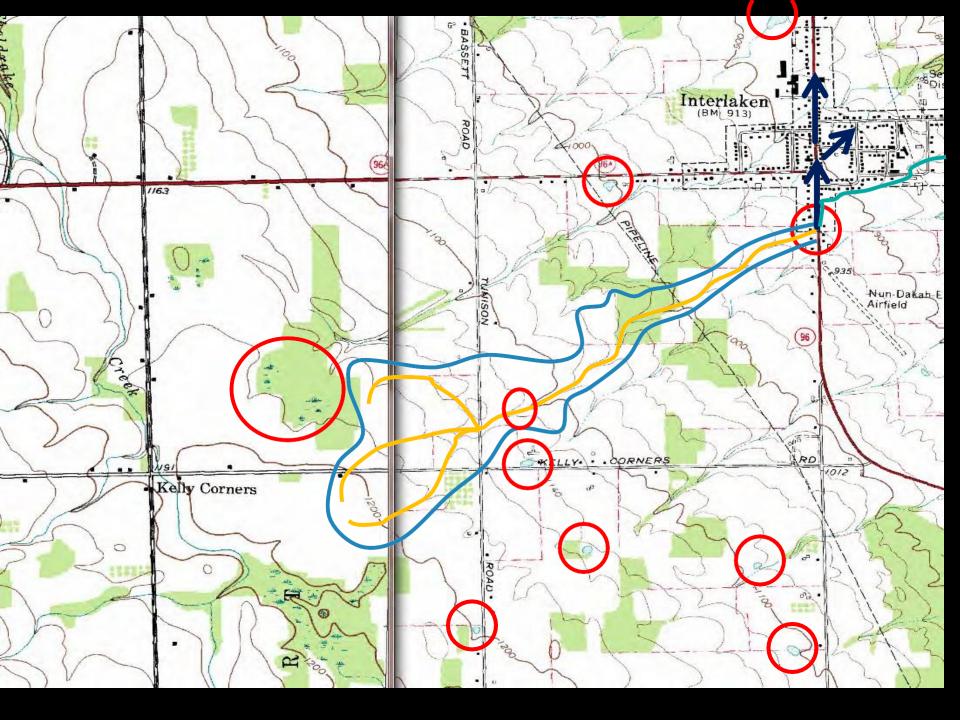
VILLAGE OF INTERLAKEN

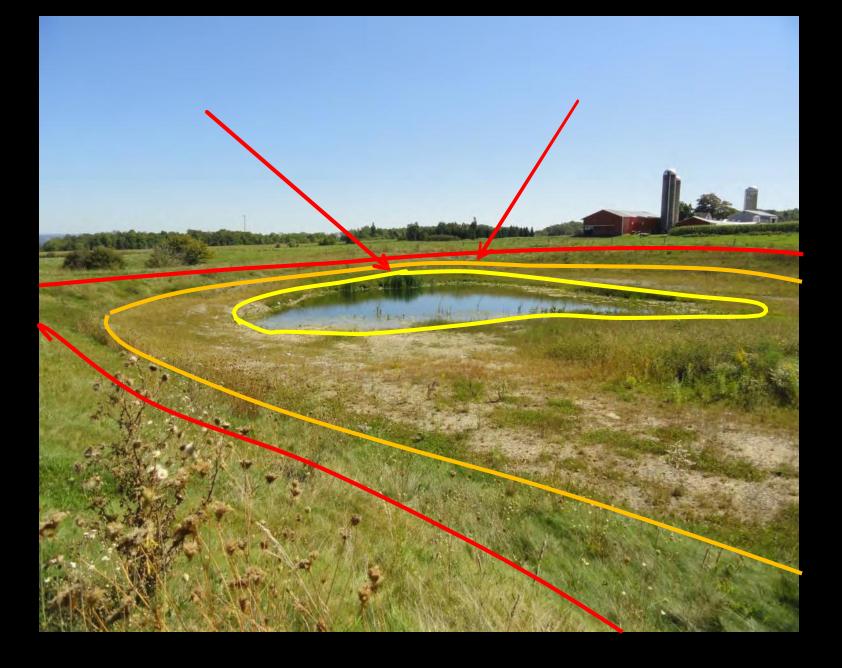
Flooding











Phew!



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