

# COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

*TIER 1*

*SURVEY of COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS*



*INSERT MAP OF PROJECT AREA HERE*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Entity/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Municipality(s) in assessment area: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the type of area being assessed:

- Community/Municipality, Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Wellhead Protection Area, Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Watershed, Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT LAND USE INFORMATION**

High Density Residential _____%	Forest _____%
Low Density Residential _____%	Open Water _____%
Commercial/Industrial/Transportation _____%	Wetlands _____%
Agricultural-pasture/hay _____%	Quarries/strip mines/gravel pits _____%
Agricultural-row crops/orchards _____%	
Urban/recreational grasses (e.g. golf courses) _____%	

**IMPORTANT WATERBODIES**

Significant waterbodies within area to be assessed, please list:

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Do these waterbodies also provide significant fisheries and/or recreational benefits to the community?

- yes     no     unknown

Explain:

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NYSDEC Priority Waterbodies List Summary Information

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Division of Water maintains a Priority Waterbodies List (PWL) of waterbodies that have water quality impairments due to nonpoint sources of pollution. These lists can be obtained from your Regional NYSDEC Office. Summarize information from the PWL for your assessment area.

Segment ID And Location	Water Use Classification	Primary Use Affected	Severity of Impairment	Pollutant(s) of Concern	Suspected Source(s)



## **BEGIN COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT:**

1. How many people participated? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you anticipate significant land use changes within your assessment area in the next 5 years?  yes  no  unknown

If yes, please describe the type of land use changes you anticipate:

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“How can we ensure that development in our communities is sustainable and based on sound ecological principles?” The simple answer is that the tools and techniques for encouraging and facilitating sustainable development habits are available. The more difficult issue to cope with is that sustainability requires that our emphasis shift from “managing resources” to managing *ourselves*, and that we learn to live as part of nature rather than apart from it, and that our economics become a component of human ecology and intimately intertwined with nature. This set of worksheets begins to lay out the vision and raise questions that need to be addressed in terms of planning for a more sustainable future.

Issue	Yes	No	?	Level of Concern			Location(s)	<b>Recommended CEM Assessment Worksheet(s)</b>  <b>Sustainable Development</b>
				H	M	L		
Growth is occurring without planning for environmental sustainability.								
Village centers abandoned in favor of strip development.								
Subdivisions designed and built without consideration of natural resource of the site.								
Rural countryside left vulnerable to future development which could threaten natural entities that are valued by the town.								
Sprawl (unplanned growth) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss/encroachment on farmland</li> <li>• Loss of open space and scenic amenities</li> </ul>								
Additional Comments related to Sustainable Development:								
59								

# FLOODING

In the past century, we have seen a rise in the amount of damage to public and private property from flooding. While it may be linked to climatic fluctuations (e.g. El Nino), it is most permanently affected by land use changes that have occurred as a result of development. For the most part, lack of understanding of ecosystem function, poor planning, and general indifference have jeopardized our safety when it comes to flooding. These land use changes are limiting the area that is available to manage these excessive flows, and as a result, life and property are at risk.

Issue	Yes	No	?	Level of Concern			Location(s)	<b>Recommended CEM Assessment Worksheet(s)</b>  <b>Flooding</b>  <b>Related Worksheets: Stormwater</b>
				H	M	L		
Storm sewers backing up								
Culverts and Bridges overtopped and damaged during storm events								
Streams overtopping more frequently								
Failure of existing flood control structures								
Flooding of homes, businesses, public buildings and highways								
Community lacks consensus on flood management issues and what can be done to address them								
Increased operating and maintenance costs for the existing flood management infrastructure								
Additional Comments related to Flooding:								
69								

## HIGHWAY AND RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) MAINTENANCE

Our economy relies on effective transportation of goods and people along safe and convenient roads. Unfortunately, roads are often significant contributors to poor water quality. Runoff from natural rain events and melting snow washes over the landscape and picks up material as it travels along. As runoff flows over roadways, road construction sites, highway maintenance garages and road maintenance operations, it picks up sediment, heavy metals, oils, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, road salt and debris. These contaminants are transported into our streams, lakes, wetlands and rivers, impairing their water quality and decreasing their aesthetic value. This in turn can lead to a negative effect on tourism and the economy.

Issue	Yes	No	?	Level of Concern			Location(s)	<b>Recommended CEM Assessment Worksheet(s)</b>  <b>Highway &amp; Right of Way Maintenance</b>  <b>Related Worksheets: Stormwater Management &amp; Flooding</b>
				H	M	L		
Streams flood over the road and/or flooding has removed road								
Water overflows road at culvert or catch basins are backing up								
Erosion is occurring around culverts, or there has been culvert blowouts								
The bottom and/or sides of ditches are eroding or slumping								
We have mud flows and/or chronic black ice on roadways								
Muddy water is running off highway construction and/or maintenance sites								
We are concerned about how best to manage winter weather operations								
We are concerned about how best to manage vegetation along roadways								
Additional Comments related to Highway & ROW Maintenance:								

# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Either through lack of information about of ecosystem functions, poor planning, or just plain indifference to natural stormwater runoff processes, humans, through construction and development activities, have created a number of problems for themselves and nature. The first and perhaps most obvious problem is development in floodplains, putting life and possessions in jeopardy. Second, the development and urbanization of uplands has increased erosion and accelerated the runoff process altering natural resource patterns and increasing the flood hazard. Finally, many of civilization's contaminants are transported in stormwater runoff, which ultimately can enter and degrade the quality of streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and estuaries.

Issue	Yes	No	?	Level of Concern			Location(s)	<b>Recommended CEM Assessment Worksheet(s)</b>  <b>Stormwater Management</b>  <b>Related Worksheets: Highway &amp; ROW &amp; Flooding</b>
				H	M	L		
Frequent overtopping of stream banks or Increase in frequency and duration of overtopping of ditches, culverts, roads or bridges								
Decreased groundwater recharge and decreased stream base flows								
Increased stream temperatures								
Unstable stream channels								
Water quality impairments								
Additional Comments related to Stormwater Management:								

# AQUATIC FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Aquatic fish and wildlife habitat encompasses many different types of natural features, including stream and river corridors, wetlands, lakes, ponds and reservoirs. Aquatic habitat is not only important to the fish and wildlife that inhabit them, but also to the people around them. The health of this habitat has a real impact on the quality of life, recreational value, and economic benefits in your community. As a result, it is important to maintain necessary habitats in order to maintain individual species, ecosystems, and biodiversity.

Issue	Yes	No	?	Level of Concern			Location(s)	<b>Recommended CEM Assessment Worksheet(s)</b>  <b>Aquatic Fish &amp; Wildlife Habitat Management</b>  <b>Related Worksheets: Stormwater Management &amp; Flooding</b>
				H	M	L		
Loss of aquatic habitat in streams, rivers, lakes, ponds and reservoirs ___ Loss of spawning areas ___ Loss of feeding & growth habitat ___ Loss of resting & shelter area ___ Loss of winter habitat								
There are barriers to migration for fish & other organisms in streams and rivers								
Degraded health of streams, rivers, lakes, ponds & reservoirs diminishing capacity to sustain/support aquatic species)								
Algae blooms and excessive weed growth								
Degraded wetland/vernal pool health								
Invasive Species								
Additional Comments related to Aquatic Fish & Wildlife Habitat Management:								
63								

# TERRESTRIAL FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Terrestrial fish and wildlife habitat encompasses many different types of natural features, including forests, shrublands, grasslands, vernal pools, wetlands, early successional areas, and unique natural areas. Terrestrial habitat is not only important to the fish and wildlife that inhabit them, but also to the people around them. The health of this habitat has a real impact on the quality of life, recreational value, and economic benefits in your community. As a result, it is important to maintain necessary habitats in order to maintain individual species, ecosystems, and biodiversity

Issue	Yes	No	?	Level of Concern			Location(s)	<b>Recommended CEM Assessment Worksheet(s)</b>  <b>Terrestrial Fish &amp; Wildlife Habitat Management</b>  <b>Related Worksheets: Sustainable Development</b>
				H	M	L		
We have problems with nuisance wildlife ___Deer ___Geese ___Beaver _____Other(s)								
Do you have health concerns about: ___Lyme disease ___West Nile Virus ___Rabies ___Chronic Wasting Disease								
Loss of recreational land and/or access (e.g. hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, viewsheds)								
Invasive species are crowding out native species (e.g. Asian Longhorn Beetle, Phragmites, Purple Loosetrife, Japanese Knotweed, Mute Swans)								
Loss of types and number of species due to habitat loss and degradation:								
Loss of travel corridors for wildlife								
Loss of ecosystem function								
Additional Comments related to Terrestrial Fish & Wildlife Habitat Management:								

## ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

In New York State, local governments have the principal responsibility for controlling development activities through their planning and regulatory functions. This role carries with it the responsibility for ensuring that development is undertaken with public health and safety in mind, and in a manner that is compatible with the protection and enhancement of natural resources, especially water. As community development continues to increase, the number of sites with suitable soils, slopes, and sufficient area for septic systems can be expected to decrease. If sewers are not affordable, there will be greater demand for replacement of failed systems and design review for new systems. Federal and State technical standards do not fully consider all the natural resource impacts from developments that rely on septic systems. It is up to communities to take the initiative to manage the wastewater from these developments to protect themselves from decreased property values, possible public health problems, and reduced water quality.

Issue	Yes	No	?	Level of Concern			Location(s)	<b>Recommended CEM Assessment Worksheet(s)</b>  <b>Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Management</b>
				H	M	L		
Septic effluent is surfacing in yards and roadside ditches, or backing up into homes.								
Septage transporters have insufficient access to permitted/approved waste treatment and disposal facilities .								
Algae blooms or weed growth are a nuisance.								
Questions about soil suitability and site limitation for onsite wastewater treatment.								
Old, outdated and/or non-compliant systems								
Additional Comments related to Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Management:								
65								

## FARMLAND PROTECTION

Fertile soils take thousands of years to develop. Creating them takes a combination of climate, geology, biology and good luck. So far, no one has found a way to manufacture them. Thus, productive agricultural land is a finite and irreplaceable natural resource. Agricultural land also supplies products with little market value, but enormous cultural and ecological importance. Some are more immediate, such as social heritage, scenic views, open space and community character. Long-range environmental benefits include wildlife habitat, clean air and water, flood control, groundwater recharge and carbon sequestration. Yet, despite its importance to individual communities, the nation and the world, our farmland is at risk. It is imperiled by poorly planned development, especially in urban influenced areas, and by the complex forces driving conversion.

Issue	Yes	No	?	Level of Concern			Location(s)	<b>Recommended CEM Assessment Worksheet(s)</b>  <b>Farmland Protection</b>  <b>Related Worksheets: Sustainable Development</b>
				H	M	L		
Unplanned or poorly planned suburban Development (sprawl)								
Erosion of the local agricultural economy								
Public works projects (ex: post offices, schools) built on prime agricultural land when other alternatives exist								
Decline in agricultural support infrastructure								
Closing of long standing farm operations								
Neighbor complaints and lawsuits regarding routine farm operations								
Additional Comments related to Farmland Protection:								

# DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

2 pages

Source Water is the water from rivers, streams, lakes and ground water that is used to supply communities with drinking water. Source water protection involves taking positive steps to manage potential sources of contamination and to prevent pollutants from reaching or contaminating sources of drinking water. Wellhead protection, for example, seeks to prevent the contamination of ground water that supplies public and private drinking water wells. Protecting the water source from contamination is often more efficient and cost-effective than treating drinking water later to make it safe to drink. The types of protection measures that a community can implement include local land use controls such as land acquisition and ordinances and other management tools such as contingency plans and public education initiatives. The protection activities that a community pursues will depend on the how susceptible to different types of contamination the water source is, as well as the resources identified or available for use in protection as specified in the source water protection plan.

Issue	Yes	No	?	Level of Concern			Location(s)	
				H	M	L		
Committee for Source Water Protection, Involving Local, State, and Federal Agencies and other interested parties has not been organized, or Coordination of Programs Addressing Source Water Resources (aquifer protection, drinking water watershed protection) is lacking								
Drinking Water Contamination or Contamination Threat Insufficiently Characterized								
Available Information about Drinking Water Sources Does not Provide Basis for Effective Protection								
Inventory of Practices or Potential Sources of Contamination is not Complete, so Protection Needs have not Been Identified								
Proposed Land Use Changes (or specific proposed projects) may Increase Potential for Impact on Drinking Water Source								
<b>CONTINUED NEXT PAGE</b>								

**Recommended  
CEM Assessment  
Worksheet(s)**

**Drinking Water  
Source Protection**

**For Private Water  
Supplies use  
Home\*A\*Syst**

Security or Emergency Response Plan for Source Area Protection is Missing, Incomplete, or Inadequate								<b>Recommended CEM Assessment Worksheet(s)</b>  <b>Drinking Water Source Protection</b>  <b>For Private Water Supplies use Home*A*Syst</b>
Regulations or Existing Management Plans not Sufficient to Manage Source Water area & the Ability to enforce existing regulations lacking or unclear								
Water Quantity Insufficient								

Additional Comments related to Drinking Water Source Protection:

# MARINAS AND RECREATIONAL BOATING

Many people enjoy being “on the water.” Fishing, sailing, racing and cruising are an integral parts of our state’s recreational activities and economy. Keeping our marinas and waterways free from the potential negative impacts of these activities will ensure future recreational opportunities in the years to come.

Issue	Yes	No	?	Level of Concern			Location(s)	
				H	M	L		
Insufficient information on how to design and construct marinas and ports for water quality and habitat protection.								<b>Recommended CEM Assessment Worksheet(s)</b>
Known maintenance activity problems								
Improper Hazardous Material Handling, Transport and Storage								<b>Marinas and Recreational Boating</b>
Improper Disposal of Solid Waste								
Marina Runoff polluting waterways								<b>Related Worksheets: Stormwater Management</b>

Additional Comments related to Marinas and Recreational Boating:

