

Concerns	Supported by Data?	Evidence	Able to Quantify?	Within Project Scope?	Steering Committee Wants to Focus On?
		Gary Sanitary District WWTP CSO Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2009- 64 events • 2010- 80 events • 2011- 44 events • 2012- 24 events • 2013- 48 events 			
Litter Left Behind After Floodwaters Recede	Yes	Litter deposited in floodplains after floodwaters receded. Litter accumulated in woody debris within stream channel.	Yes	Yes	Yes
		Litter collected by volunteers during stream clean up (NWI Paddlers Association event on Deep River below Lake George).			
		Litter accumulated on beach inside Burns Waterway harbor.			

Table 61 Analysis of stakeholder concerns

6 Problems & Causes

Concern	Problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stream Habitat Loss and Riparian Encroachment • Wetland Habitat Loss and Degradation • Ability of Watershed to Store and Filter Storm Water Runoff While Providing Habitat 	Forest and wetland habitat loss is negatively affecting our watershed’s natural ability to store and filter storm water runoff while also providing important habitat.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for Conserved Open Spaces, Riparian Corridor Acquisition, Recreational Access • Ability of Watershed to Store and Filter Storm Water Runoff While Providing Habitat • Habitat Restoration and Long-Term Management of Natural Areas • Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Species 	Natural area acquisition, conservation, restoration and accessibility needs to be increased in our watershed to benefit people and the environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative Impact of Impaired Waterways to Recreational Use, Property Values, and Economic Development 	Our streams are frequently turbid and nuisance levels of aquatic plant growth and algal blooms occur on Lake George.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative Impact of Impaired Waterways to Recreational Use, Property Values, and Economic Development 	Pathogens pose a health risk to full body contact recreational use of our streams.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative Impact of Impaired Waterways to Recreational Use, Property Values, and Economic Development 	Poor fish community structure and numbers limit recreational use of our streams and lakes.

Concern	Problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination Between Municipalities, Business, and Residents • Enforcement of Existing Regulations Protective of Stream Health • Maintenance of Existing Plans 	Increased awareness and collaboration is needed to restore and protect the streams, lakes and natural areas of our watershed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciling Need for Drainage While Also Protecting Water Quality and Aquatic Life • Negative Impacts Associated with Dams 	Hydromodification is negatively affecting water quality, aquatic habitats, aquatic life, and recreational use within our watershed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive Sediment and Nutrient Loading from Urban and Agricultural Land Uses • Sedimentation of Lake George and Burns Ditch 	Excessive sediment and nutrient loading threaten the health of our watershed’s streams and lakes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Storm Water Runoff Volume Causing Streambank and Shoreline Erosion 	Increased storm water runoff volume from watershed devegetation, wetland loss and impervious surface cover is contributing to streambank and shoreline erosion.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding, Floodplain Encroachment, and Stream Flashiness 	Losses in upland and wetland habitats, floodplain encroachment, and increases in impervious surface cover exacerbate flooding and stream flashiness in our watershed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Absentee Agricultural Landowners Seem to be Land Speculators with Less Interest in Investing in BMPs to Protect Water Quality • Soil Health 	Further collaboration and outreach is needed to promote the economic and environmental benefits of conservation practices that improve soil health.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Involvement 	Awareness of watershed issues and opportunities for public involvement need to be increased.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failing Septic Systems • Combined Sewer and Sanitary Sewer Overflows 	Pathogens loading from failing septic systems, CSOs, and SSOs pose a health risk to full body contact recreational use of our streams.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter Left Behind After Floodwaters Recede 	Public awareness of impacts of littering and illegal dumping needs to be increased.

Table 62 Problems reflecting stakeholder concerns

Problem	Potential Cause(s)
Forest and wetland habitat loss is negatively affecting our watershed’s natural ability to store and filter storm water runoff while also providing important habitat.	Forest and wetland habitat conversion to development and agricultural land uses.
Natural area acquisition, conservation, restoration and accessibility needs to be increased in our watershed to benefit people and the environment.	Limited resources and/or awareness of need.
Our streams are frequently turbid and nuisance levels of aquatic plant growth and algal blooms occur on Lake George.	
Pathogens pose a health risk to full body contact recreational use of our streams.	<i>E. coli</i> levels frequently exceed the water quality standard during the recreational season.
Poor fish communities limit recreational use of our streams.	Poor habitat quality, low dissolved oxygen levels, and excess sediment and nutrient loading have caused changes to fish populations and community structure.