

Strategic Management Plan for Findley Lake and the Watershed

***STATUS REPORT TO
MEMBERS***

July 22, 2024



FINDLEY LAKE
Watershed Foundation

LAKE STEWARDS SINCE 1949



Purpose

To have an updated comprehensive, integrated plan and schedule to improve the water quality and usability of Findley Lake for generations to come

Categories for Strategic Objectives, Plans, and Status

Lake Water
Quality

Water Quality
Health Hazards

Rooted Aquatic
Plant
Management

Aquatic
Invasive
Species Control

Lake Level
Management

Water Safety



Strategies, Objectives and Plans

Category: Lake Water Quality

Goal: Slow or reverse eutrophication of Findley Lake.

In-Waterbody nutrient controls – Town

External nutrient source elimination – Town

Nutrient source controls for stormwater runoff – Town

Reduce nutrients from agricultural runoff– Lant

Reduce nutrients from adjacent properties– Chrissy

Canada Goose management – Ben

Reduce nutrients entering the lake from agricultural runoff

1. Coordinate with the County Soil and Water Conservation District office, the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, and farm owners with significant operations within the watershed to understand current plans and monitoring results and any need or benefits for changes. (2024)
2. Decide what BMPs (if any) to implement. [County, Farm Owners] (2025)
3. Identify potential funding sources and secure funding. [County, Farm Owners] (2025-26)
4. Implement projects. [Farm owners] (TBD)

Reduce nutrients entering the lake from runoff from adjacent properties around the lake

- Continue to educate, publicize and encourage property owners around the lake to plant buffer gardens. Publicize implementations. (Ongoing)

Canada Goose Mgt DEC Suggestions and Advice

All Canada geese, including resident flocks, are protected by Federal and State laws and regulations.

Persistent application of a combination of methods to discourage/minimize the geese population is usually necessary and yields the best results.

| Allow Hunting | Install Fencing or Plant Barriers | Goose Repellants | Control Goose Nesting | Capture, Remove and Process | Capture and Relocation | Less Effective or Not Appropriate |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is hunting safe around Findley Lake?• Goose hunting is permitted during September• Requires: State hunting license, a federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, and be registered in New York's Harvest Information Program. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If not complete – they will get around• Around large fields has little effect since they will fly over fence | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ReJeXiT® - only approved product.• Individual homeowners• About \$125/acre per application. X 3• Cannot be used in the water or within 100 ft of regulated wetlands. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treat all eggs with 100% corn oil to prevent hatching. If destroy eggs, they may simply lay more. May be required every year for 5-10 years to reduce population significantly. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required Federal and State Permits• May be controversial and challenges from animal rights advocates can be expected.• Typically needed for several years to get maximum results | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NOT APPROVED BY DEC at this time | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noisemakers or Scaring with remote-controlled boats or Visual Scaring Devices |



Strategies, Objectives and Plans

Category: Water Quality Health Hazards

Goal: Protect Human and Pet Health

Monitor for HABs and e-coli and
communicate any unhealthy conditions. County, Chrissy

Reduce/ eliminate sources (*covered in Water
Quality Plans*)

Water Quality Health Hazards

- Monitor regularly for unhealthy water quality – namely Hazardous Algal Blooms (HABs) and e-coli and communicate any unhealthy conditions. (Ongoing)
 - FLWF monitors and reports suspected HABs to DEC – will communicate all confirmed HABs
 - YOU can monitor and report suspected HABs – See Facebook and Website Post
 - County monitors beaches at Paradise Bay and The Camp at Findley.



Strategies, Objectives and Plans

Category: Rooted Aquatic Plant Management

Goal: Maintain a proper balance of plants for a healthy ecosystem while promoting recreational uses and fisheries

Create a rooted aquatic plant management plan Chrissy

In 2024, continue harvesting operations in weed beds not treated with herbicides Chrissy

Applied DEC-approved herbicide (ProcellaCOR EC) to Eurasian watermilfoil beds in northern half of the lake Chrissy

Prepare a plan to address remaining weeds (small pondweed and ??) throughout the lake for 2025. Chrissy

Prepare and implement “muck” management plan Ben

Rooted Aquatic Plant Management

- Apply DEC-approved herbicide (ProcellaCOR EC) to Eurasian watermilfoil beds in the northern half of the lake. *DONE!*
 - *Results and Current Status of Weeds*
- Prepare rooted aquatic plant management plan for Findley Lake for the long-term ecological health of the lake, and the community's use and enjoyment of the lake. (2024-25)
- Consider need to treat Eurasian watermilfoil beds in the southern half of the lake. (2024-2025)

Prepare and implement “muck” management plan

- Goals:
 1. Reduce the Phosphorus contribution from anoxic muck (this is addressed in the Town’s In-Waterbody nutrient controls project).
 2. Reduce the amount of muck in shallow areas to enhance the usability of these areas for swimming.
- Muck Mgt Plan will consider options such as individual property owner water thrusters/ “muck blasters”, dredging, and other mechanical and biological systems. (2025)



Strategies, Objectives and Plans

Category: Aquatic Invasive Species Control

Goal: Minimize or eliminate the introduction of aquatic invasive species.

Prepare and implement an aquatic invasive species (AIS) control plan. Chrissy

Aquatic Invasive Species Control

- Goal: Minimize or eliminate the introduction of aquatic invasive species into the lake.
- Engage consultant and prepare and implement an Aquatic Invasive Species Control Plan for Findley Lake (with input from the public). – May include “Clean, Drain and Dry” signage, boat stewards and cleaning facilities at boat launches? (2025)



Strategies, Objectives and Plans

Category: Lake Level Management

Goal: Predictable lake level as much as reasonable using those factors we can control and Dam Safety

Manage lake level throughout the year per the written policy of the FLWF and communicate changes and variances to the community. Ed

Comply with all NYS DEC Dam Safety regulations and inspections. Follow appropriate DEC Bureau of Flood Protection guidance for maintenance. Lex

Lake Level Management

- Goal: To manage lake level throughout the year per the written policy of the FLWF and communicate changes and variances to the community.
- Implement all management actions in accordance with the lake level management policy.
- Routinely check the dam gate for buildup of weeds or debris and clear to maintain free-flowing overflow.
- Communicate significant lake level management actions to the community.
- Install and maintain a lake level gauge.

Dam safety, integrity, and maintenance

- Findley Lake Dam is owned by the FLWF and is a New York State Hazard Class C (“High Hazard”) Dam
- Originally constructed in 1815, major repairs completed in 2017
- NYSDEC Law Article 15-057 requires FLWF to have an Inspection & Maintenance Plan
- FLWF shall maintain and conform to this I&M Plan
- Hazard Class C dams require biannual Safety Inspections & Engineering Assessments every 10 years
- On schedule for fall 2024 Safety Inspection utilizing McMahon & Mann Consulting Engineers
- Engineering Assessment scheduled for 2028



Strategies, Objectives and Plans

Category: Water Safety

Goal: Safe and enjoyable boating/ water sports and fishing

Maximize compliance with New York Boating Laws and Regulations, the Town of Mina laws regarding the lake, and the FLWF Boating Guidelines

Debbie and Jeff

New Boating Certification Requirements

- Starting January 1, 2025, a safety certificate will be required of all operators, regardless of age.
 - How do you ensure that you are covered?
 - Take a class!
Resource: <https://parks.ny.gov/boating/education.aspx>
 - If you took the class, but can't locate a physical copy of your license you can apply for a replacement at the same address above.
 - If you have a license from another state, that's okay, New York recognizes your certificate



Boating Certification Requirements

- Once Boater's Safety Requirement (Safety Course) are met the following can occur:
 - A person at least 10 years old may operate a recreational boat – other than a Personal Water Craft (PWC)
 - A person at least 14 years old may operate a PWC
 - In order to operate a vessel a Boater's Safety Certificate must be on board with the driver.



Requirements: Life Jackets

- Every vessel including canoes, kayaks and rowboats operated upon the waters of NYS must have on board one U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable PFD (life jacket) for each person on the vessel.
- Youth ages 12 and under must be wearing the PFD (life jacket) at all times, while on board any motorized or non-motorized vessel.

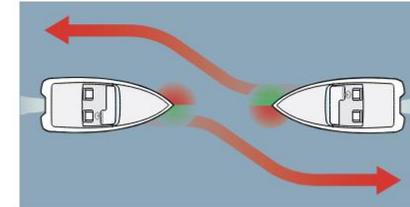
Operational Requirements for Findley Lake

- All vessels on Findley Lake should travel in a counter-clockwise rotation.
- Non-motorized vessels should attempt to operate in the same manner and close to shore to ensure safety due to visibility.
- All swim platforms and/or rafts placed on Findley Lake must be securely anchored no more than 35 feet from the shoreline. Reflectors must be placed on all four sides.
- The anchoring or mooring of vessels used as living or sleeping quarters is strictly prohibited at Findley Lake.

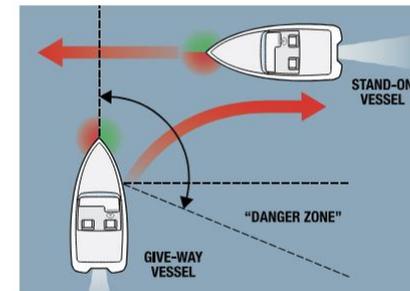
Rules of the Nautical Road

- The rules require that every operator conduct his/her vessel in a prudent manner, at a safe speed, while constantly maintaining a proper lookout by all means available.
- The following are common situations that boaters will encounter on the water.

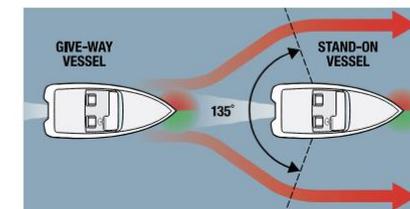
THE SITUATIONS



Meeting



Crossing



Overtaking

Rules of the Nautical Road

- Who has the right of way?

Highest Priority



- a. A vessel not under command (unable to maneuver)
- b. A vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver
- c. A vessel engaged in fishing*
- d. A sailing vessel
- e. A power driven vessel

Lowest Priority

- Buoys are present in the lake to warn boaters of shallow water or other obstructions in the water that could damage your boat. Use caution and have no wake when entering these areas.

Additional Information

- The prior slides only highlight key aspects of boaters' safety, the following resource will provide you with additional details specific to New York State.
- Please inform yourself before going out on the water.
- [New York State Boaters Guide](#)





Questions or Comments?