Water Quality

Annual Members Meeting – 2025

Ben Fergus and Chrissy Craffey

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Water Quality Committee's Mission

The FLWF Water Quality Committee is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the quality and beauty of Findley Lake and its surrounding watershed.

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Top Water Quality Goals

- Slow/ reverse eutrophication, minimize HABs, healthy O_2 levels throughout water column
- Manage rooted aquatic plants (weeds) to enhance recreational uses of the lake
- Monitor water quality as participant in CSLAP
- Stop transport of invasive species to/from lake

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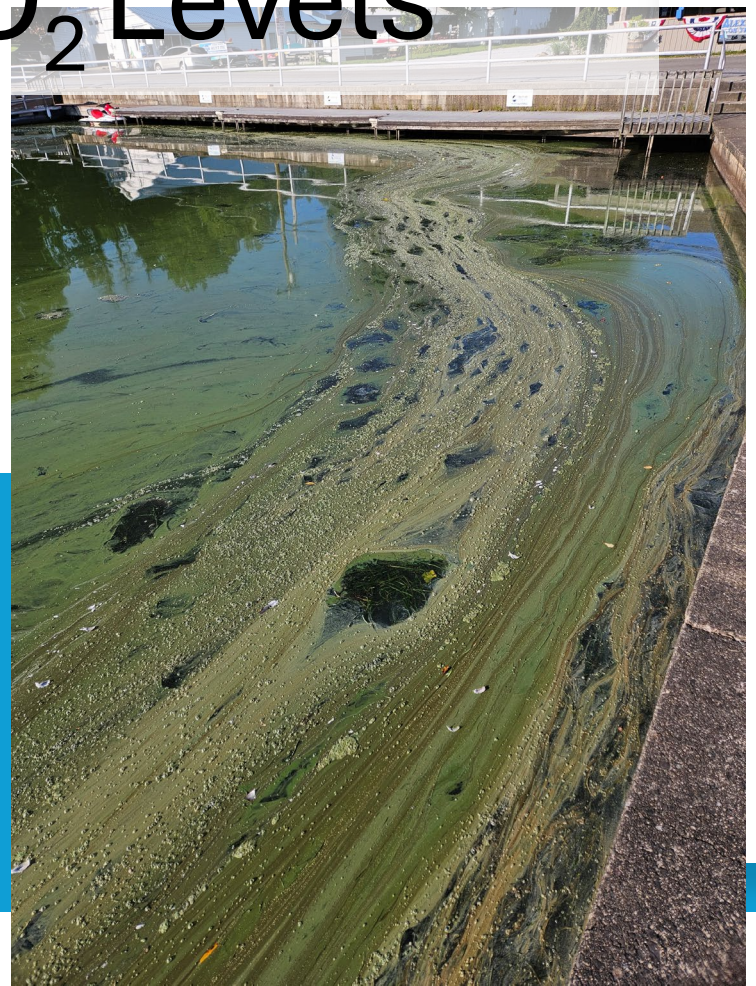
Actions for HABs and O_2 Levels



- Aeration or Oxygen Saturation Technology – Town is leading this
  - Feasibility study done
  - Bathymetry and SOD studies done
  - Next step: Princeton Hydro
- HAB Treatment – FLWF has DEC permit to treat up to ½ of lake with $CuSO_4$ one time during bloom ($12,400) – Option is SeClear Algaecide & Water Quality Enhancer that binds P ($25,850) – Both 24 hr no swimming

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WEEDS!

Eurasian Water Milfoil

Treatment – effective 3 yrs

2024 – 41A in N ~$50K

2025 – 48A in S ~$35K

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WEEDS!
Other Nuisance Weeds – Treatment Effective 1 yr
2025 – 6A in S ~$10.5K

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Initial Plans for 2026

Curly-leaf Pondweed and Sago Pondweed

- *There isn't a systemic herbicide that provides multi-season control.*
- *The key is to manage the plants before the curly-leaf pondweed forms turions (buds underground) (<60F water temp), and before the Sago pondweed forms tubers (< July).*
- *Whether you treat or you harvest, **<u>do it as early as possible</u>**. We can treat both plants with Aquathol k. Curly-leaf pondweed responds to a lower dose than Sago Pondweed, but Curly-leaf also harvests easier.*
- ***Suggestion is to harvest the Curly-leaf early in May, treat the shallow areas of Sago, and harvest the deeper areas.***
  – Glenn Sullivan – Ready Scout

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Initial Plans for 2026 (continued)

- **Eurasian Water Milfoil** – *no treatment expected in 2026*

- **New permits** - *You will probably need a wetland permit for any harvesting and herbicide use. Wetland jurisdiction stops at 6' water depth, so you will be able to harvest in deeper areas without the permit, if needed. I doubt they will limit where you can harvest, just where you can use herbicides.*

- **Algae Blooms** – *Seems like its worth getting the permit to treat with an algaecide again. SeClear is a better algaecide than copper sulfate and binds P as well, but is twice 2X cost.*

– Glenn Sullivan – Ready Scout

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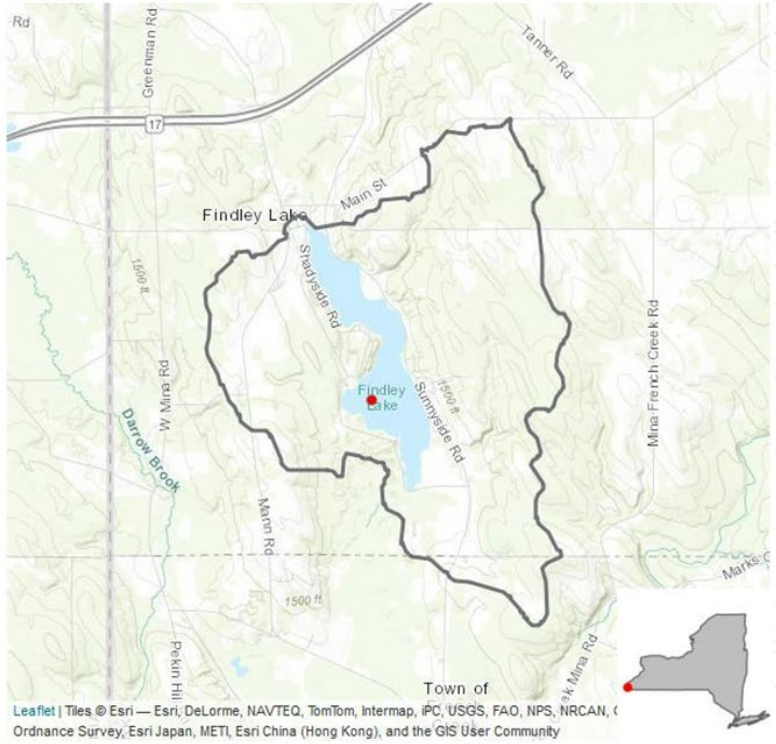
2024 | Findley Lake | Town(s) of Mina | Chautauqua County | Allegheny River Basin



LAKE CHARACTERISTICS	
Lake Classification	B
Dam Classification	A
Public Water Supply	No
Lake Size (AC)	283.7
Maximum Depth (m)	22

WATERSHED CHARACTERISTICS	
Watershed Area (AC)	3199
Watershed to Lake Ratio	11
Open Water %	9
Wetlands %	2
Barren Land %	0
Shrub Scrub %	0
Grassland Herbaceous %	0
Forest %	53
Developed %	8
Agriculture %	27

CSLAP Participation	
Years in CSLAP	1986-2000, 2003-2013, 2015, 2017-2020, 2023-2024

Waterbody Assessment	Trophic State	HABs Frequency	Invasive Species
Download Assessment Here	Eutrophic	Frequent Blooms	Invasives Reported

Summary | Evaluated Data | Trophic State | HABs | Invasive Species | Depth Profile | Other Parameters | Data

How to read this report:

This goal of this report is to answer the common question, "How is Findley Lake doing?" As there is more than one way to answer this question, the report has been broken down into six sections, described below, to give a comprehensive understanding of the waterbody's condition.

For a detailed summary of the data sources and analyses used to generate this report, see the 2023 Lake Reports Data Sources and Analyses.

Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP)

Run by DEC and NYSFOLA – For long-term trends

- Sampling both shallow and deep - 4 times this summer
- Shipping delays last year – now by air (paid by DEC)
- New lead for the DEC-Alene Onion has started monthly team meetings to talk about CSLAP and issues lake teams are having.
- Results/ reports are available on DEC website
- Chrissy & Mark Craffey sampling

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Stop the Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species into and out of Findley Lake

Findley Lake already has:

- Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
- Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)
- Brittle naiad (*Najas minor*).
- Invasive species made up ~42% of the total species.
- Zebra mussels

We do NOT want Asian carp from the Mississippi River watershed to the Great Lakes Basin.

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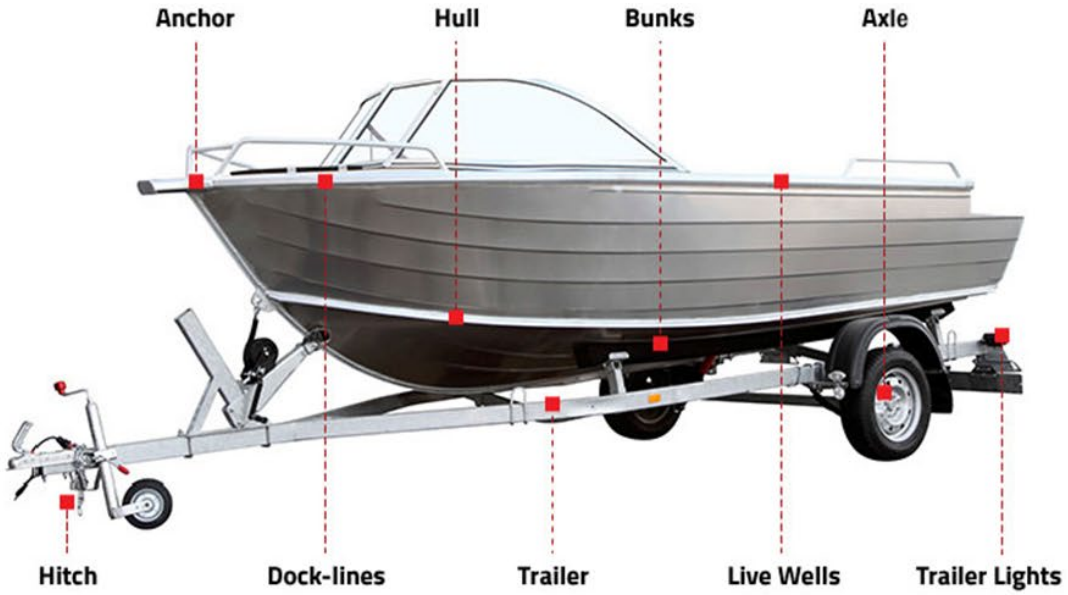
Example Signage

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

Help Protect Lake Hopatcong

Stop the Transport of Invasive Species:

- **CLEAN** off visible aquatic plants, animals, mud, and algae from ALL equipment before leaving water access.
- **DRAIN** motor, bilge, livewell, and other water containing devices before leaving water access.
- **DRY** everything for at least five days OR wipe with a towel before reuse.



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Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.

StopAquaticHitchhikers.org

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Buffer Gardens – Help reduce nutrients entering the lake in runoff…

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Water Quality Questions?

HABs

Clean, Drain, Dry

Weeds

Buffers

CSLAP