



# WATER RESOURCES BOARD

of the

Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance

(An Affiliate of the Finger Lakes Association, Inc.)

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FIMS Helps Public Become Familiar with Local Water Quality Projects**

The Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA) would like to invite interested citizens to visit [www.fllowpamap.org](http://www.fllowpamap.org) to access the FL-LOWPA Interactive Mapping System (FIMS). This unique, web-based tool allows users to obtain information on a wide variety of water resource related projects being conducted throughout 25 New York State counties in the Lake Ontario drainage basin. Interested citizens will find valuable information about the diverse range of water quality projects occurring in their community, in addition to obtaining valuable contact information for technical assistance and cost sharing opportunities to address their own water resource concerns. The FIMS includes information on agricultural best management practices, invasive species, septic system management, water quality monitoring, non point source pollution prevention, streambank stabilization and restoration, and public education and outreach programs. To date, over 50 projects have been catalogued in the system, with detailed information about the project's purpose, status, results, primary points of contact, data collected, photos and other important information. In addition to the FL-LOWPA projects, county and watershed boundaries, public lands, lakes and streams and land cover can be easily displayed in FIMS. This interactive mapping system was developed for FL-LOWPA by the Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology. Funding for this project was provided through a grant from the Environmental Protection Fund.

About FL-LOWPA: FL-LOWPA is an alliance of 25 New York State counties wholly or partially in the Lake Ontario drainage basin. Each county develops and implements a FL-LOWPA program to protect and manage freshwater resources of value to local communities. The Alliance promotes grassroots programs with participation from numerous organizations, local governments, and individual landowners to control nonpoint sources of pollution. FL-LOWPA programs address identified needs as defined in county water quality strategies, comprehensive watershed management plans, state and federal plans, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's *Priority Waterbody List*. The Alliance facilitates the transfer of information, techniques, and resources among the 25 counties so water quality problems can be managed more effectively at the watershed level, despite crosscutting political boundaries and agency jurisdictions. Since SFY 1997-98, FL-LOWPA has been funded under New York State's Environmental Protection Fund.