

Rural Climate Resilience: Findings of the ACORN Project

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Today's Topics

1. About ACORN
2. ACORN's findings - local & regional
3. Meaningful climate resilience work



Think Globally.

Act Neighborly.



ACORN's goal is to plant the seeds that will get the regional climate conversation going, connect neighbors with neighbors, and foster community-level leadership that builds on the strength of our region from the ground up.



**PAUL
SMITH'S**
COLLEGE



Adirondack
Research
Consortium



ADIRONDACK
FOUNDATION

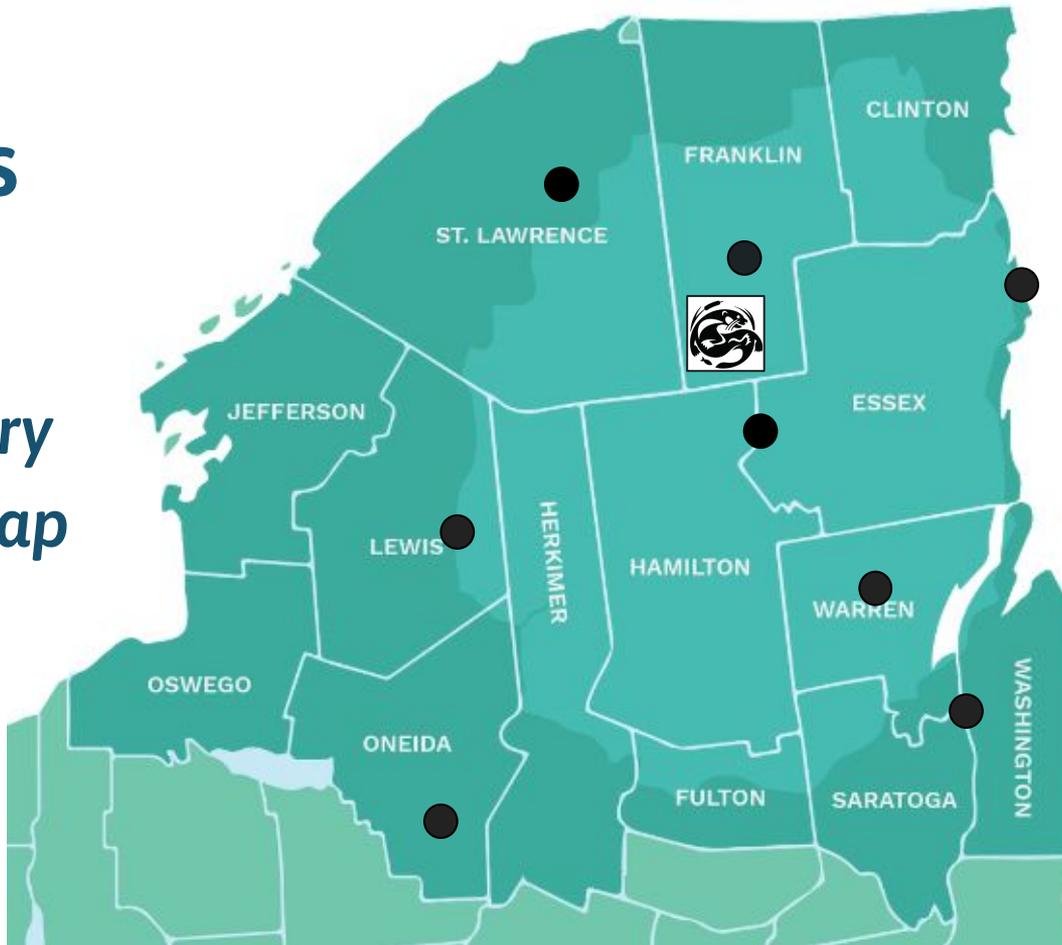


NYSERDA

11 Community Listening Sessions

Oct 2024 - April 2025

May 2025 - *North Country
Rural Resilience Roadmap*



TRANSFORMING OUR ENERGY ECOSYSTEM

CARING FOR OUR ONE HOME



ADIRONDACK
CLIMATE CONFERENCE



Plenary Sessions

www.wildcenter.org/live/

THE
WILD
CENTER

VISIT

SUPPORT

OUR WORK

ABOUT US

SHOP

DONATE

BUY TICKETS

NOW STREAMING

Adirondack Climate Conference

March 6, 2025



Plenary Sessions 5

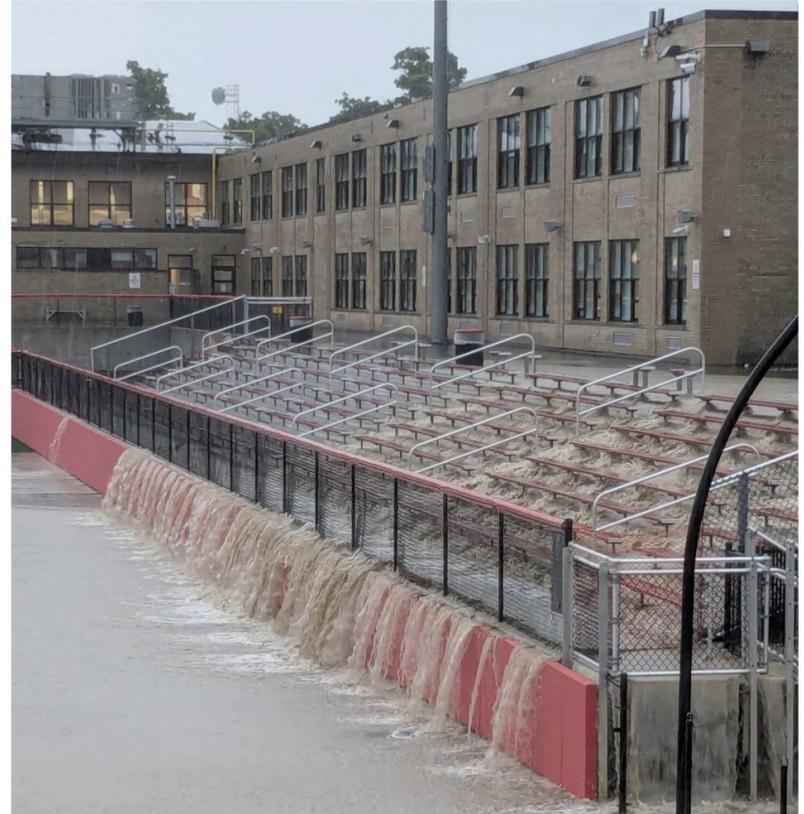
Watch on YouTube



--- Social Cohesion! ---



Regional Themes

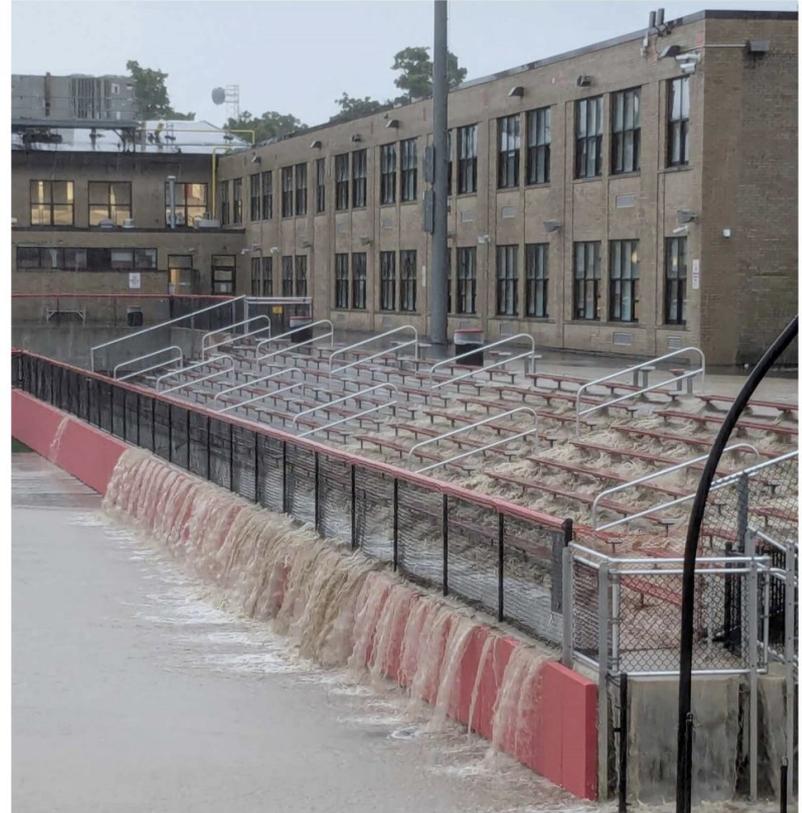


Lowville Academy flooded both inside and outside the school for the second time this summer. Photo provided by Shannon McDonald Williams
Source: "Lowville flooded again. Here's what we know (and don't know)" by Emily Russell, NCP, Aug 20, 2024



Regional Themes

- Flooding and Culverts



Lowville Academy flooded both inside and outside the school for the second time this summer. Photo provided by Shannon McDonald Williams
Source: “Lowville flooded again. Here's what we know (and don't know)” by Emily Russell, NCP, Aug 20, 2024



Donate



COMMUNITIES

100-year storms through the eye of a culvert

By Zachary Matson

November 10, 2024

Explore More:

CLIMATE CHANGE, INFRASTRUCTURE, STORMS

Region's drainage losing the battle against climate change

By Zachary Matson



Regional Themes

- Flooding and Culverts
- Lack of Seasonal Predictability



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Adirondack EXPLORER

Vital news and information for the Adirondacks

“When a snowmobile goes through the ice, these are the guys who find it”

By James Odatto, March 20, 2022

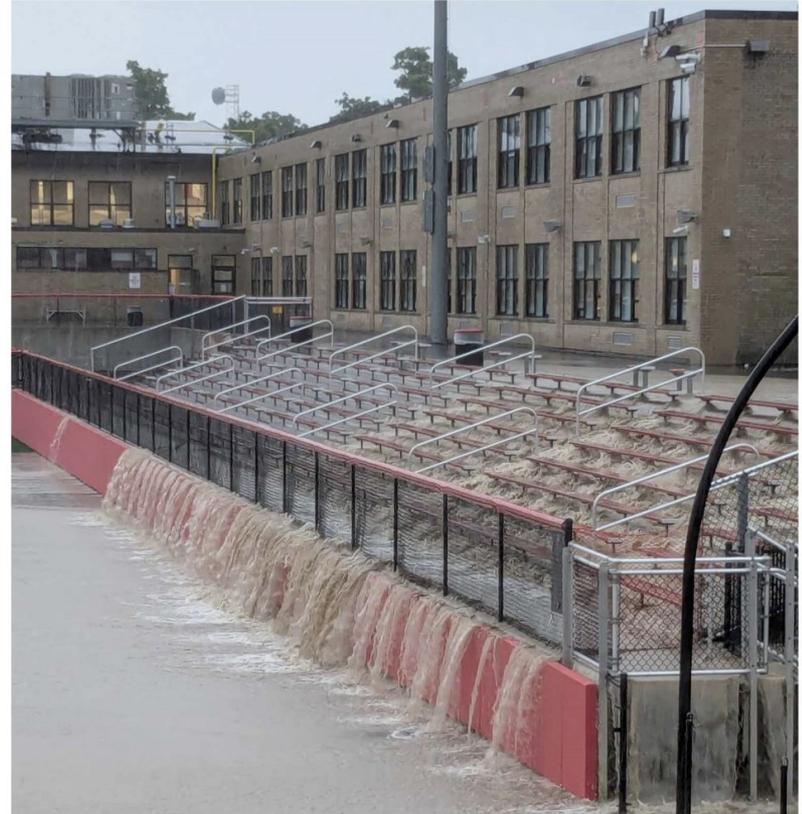


A quad was pulled out of Saratoga Lake on Feb. 26. Taking part in the retrieval, from left is John Heard, holding the ramp, John Sullivan, and Timothy Van Dusen Sr. Photo taken and provided by *Timothy Van Dusen Jr.*



Regional Themes

- Flooding and Culverts
- Lack of Seasonal Predictability
- Lack of Affordable, Climate-Resilient Housing



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HOUSING

Adirondack homeowners face triple threat: high cost of repairs, contractor shortage, risk of flood damage

By Tim Rowland

February 27, 2025

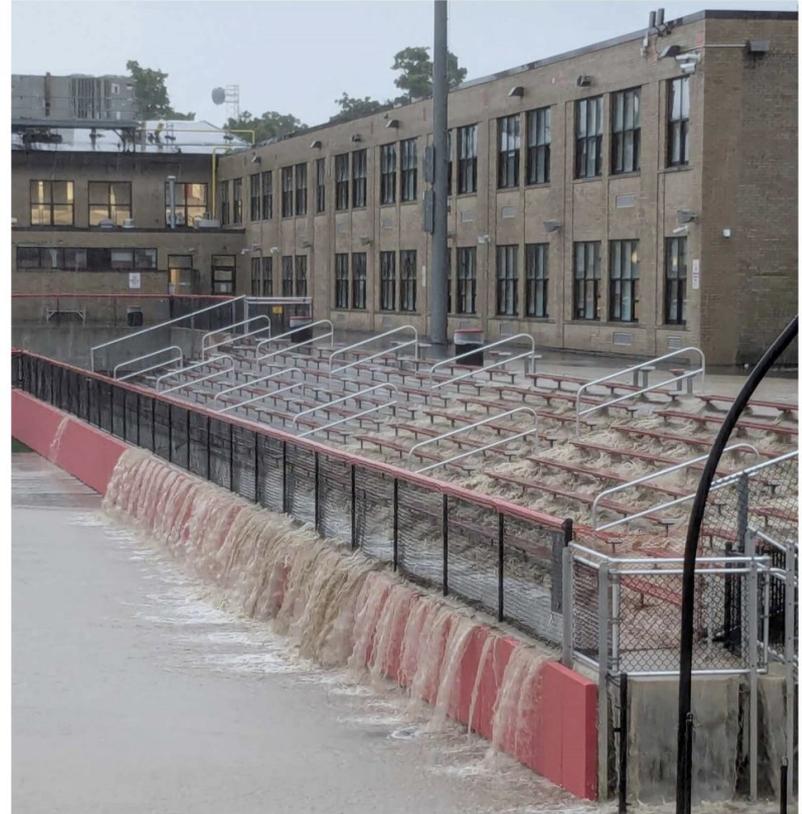
Explore More:
ECONOMY

Advocates look for ways to help low-income residents with needed home improvements, especially after extreme storms



Regional Themes

- Flooding and Culverts
- Lack of Seasonal Predictability
- Lack of Affordable, Climate-Resilient Housing
- Lack of Emergency Responders



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Source: “Lowville flooded again. Here's what we know (and don't know)” by Emily Russell, NCP, Aug 20, 2024



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COMMUNITIES

Well-stocked fire trucks and ambulances, small ranks of volunteers

By Arietta Hallock

July 24, 2024

Explore More:

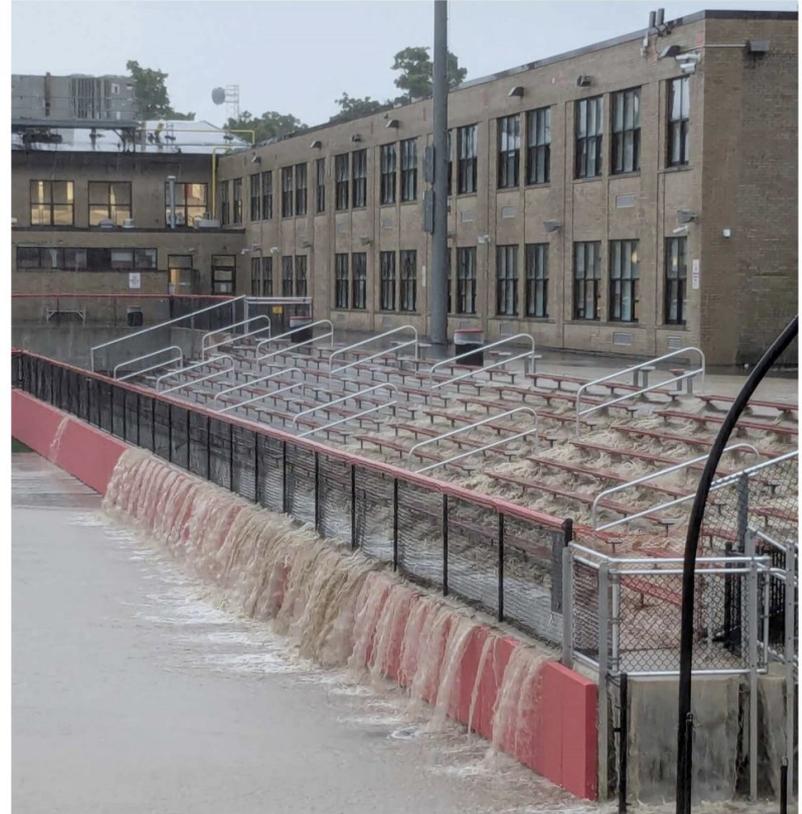
FIRST RESPONDERS, HAMILTON COUNTY

Amid a park-wide shortage of volunteer EMTs and firefighters, rural first response teams share resources and seek solutions



Regional Themes

- Flooding and Culverts
- Lack of Seasonal Predictability
- Lack of Affordable, Climate-Resilient Housing
- Lack of Emergency Responders
- Need for Rural Voices in Decision-Making



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Source: “Lowville flooded again. Here's what we know (and don't know)” by Emily Russell, NCPR, Aug 20, 2024



Locally Specific Themes





Locally Specific Themes

- Invasive Species



ENVIRONMENT

Warren County survey shows emerald ash borer infestation has likely spread

By Gwendolyn Craig

August 28, 2020

ENVIRONMENT

Beech leaf disease found in **Warren County**

By Mike Lynch

July 27, 2023

ENVIRONMENT

State to treat hemlocks for invasive pest in **Saratoga, Warren counties**

By Gwendolyn Craig

October 11, 2023





Locally Specific Themes

- Invasive Species
- Wetlands and flood mitigation



State will protect 1 million additional acres of wetlands by 2028

New regulations embraced by environmental groups but worry residential developers

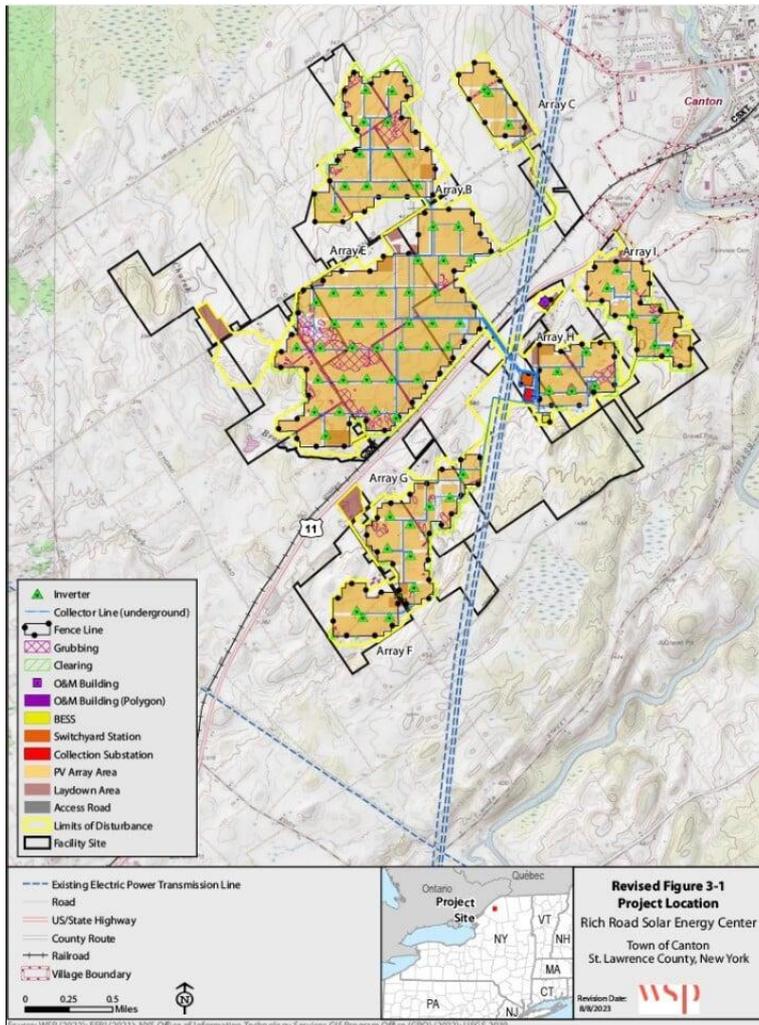
By [Roger Hannigan Gilson](#), *Staff Writer*
Jan 13, 2025



Locally Specific Themes

- Invasive Species
- Wetlands and flood mitigation
- Renewables siting





"Solar is important. We absolutely have to. It's a climate crisis. We have to move that way..."

It still can be done in a way that doesn't bulldoze over a community and potentially negatively affect a community."

-Cathy Shrady, NCPR

May 6, 2024

Locally Specific Themes

- Invasive Species
- Wetlands and flood mitigation
- Renewables siting
- Human Services



HamilSun Solar, Peru, NY



Town of Indian Lake Emergency Hub



Village of Saranac Lake

Climate Smart Communities - Volunteer Task Force



Climate Resilience Workforce Opportunities



Forestry,
High- &
Low-Grade
Wood
Products

Clean Energy
-
Installation,
Codes, Design,
Engineering,
Manufacturing

Rural
Healthcare -
Primary Care,
Hospital
Specialists,
Paramedics

Stormwater
Management
&
Nature-Based
Solutions

Tourism &
Recreation

Wastewater +
Drinking
Water
Infrastructure

Public
Health

Ag & Food
Systems

BUILDINGS -
CODES, DESIGN,
MANUFACTURE,
UPGRADES,
CONTRACTING



Upcoming Events

<https://www.adkwatershed.org/acorn>

May 15-16

ARC Conference “Resilience in Action: Addressing Climate Challenges in the North Country,” Lake Placid

June 11

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Water Quality Coordinating Committee Annual Meeting, Lake Pleasant

July 23-25

International Assoc. of Emergency Managers @ Paul Smith’s College

sunitahalasz@gmail.com



Building Resilience in Adirondack Communities

AUSABLE
Freshwater Center



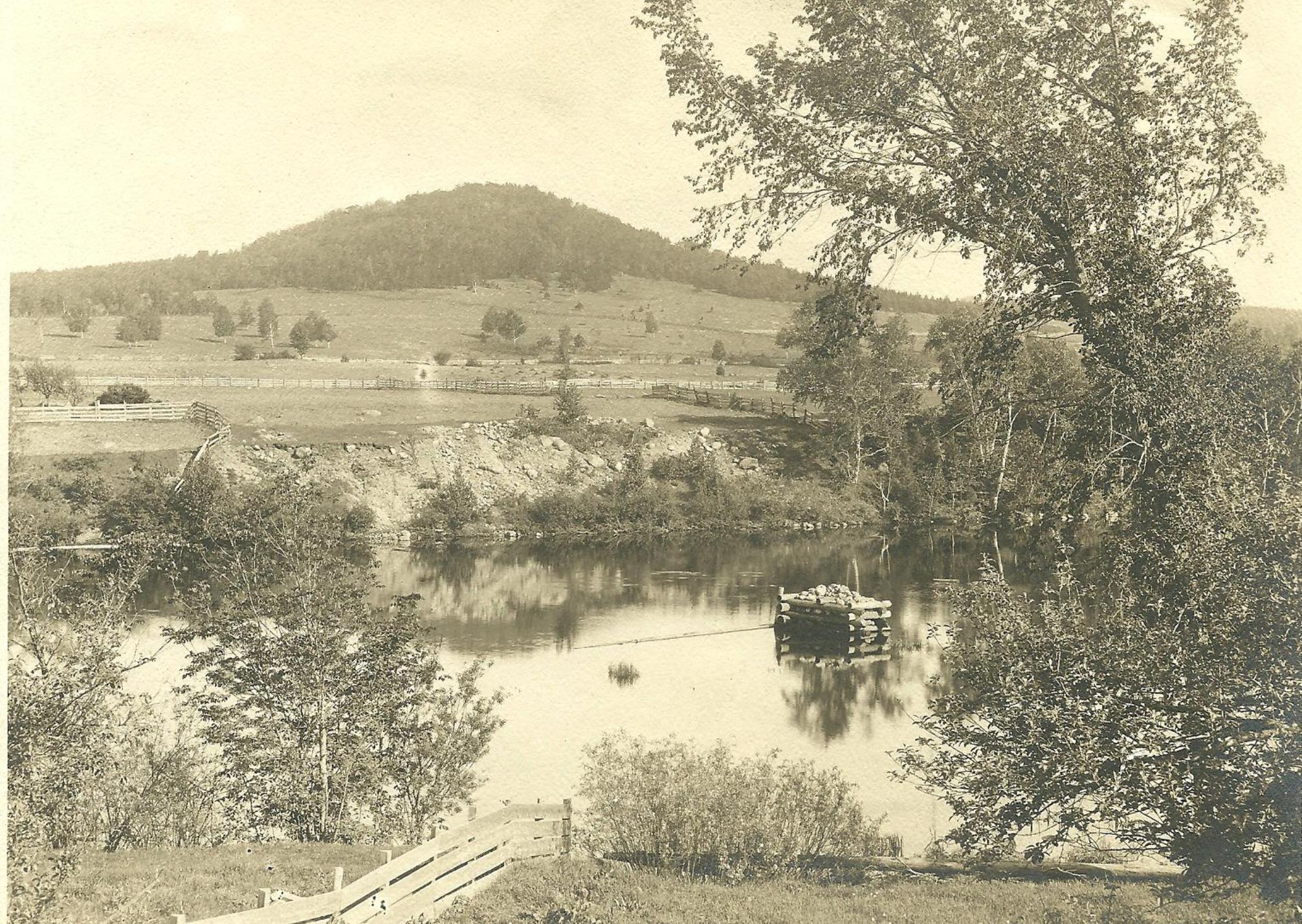
*Restoring nature's infrastructure is fundamental
to protecting human infrastructure.*

AUSABLE
Freshwater Center





















Stream Restoration

Stream Crossings & Barriers

Riparian Ecosystem Recovery

AUSABLE
Freshwater Center





**Project Area 2 East Branch Ausable River
East Branch Restoration Plan**

After - November 2023

Before





0026



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



























Building a better future for the Adirondacks through effective
science-based stewardship of freshwater systems.

AUSABLE
Freshwater Center