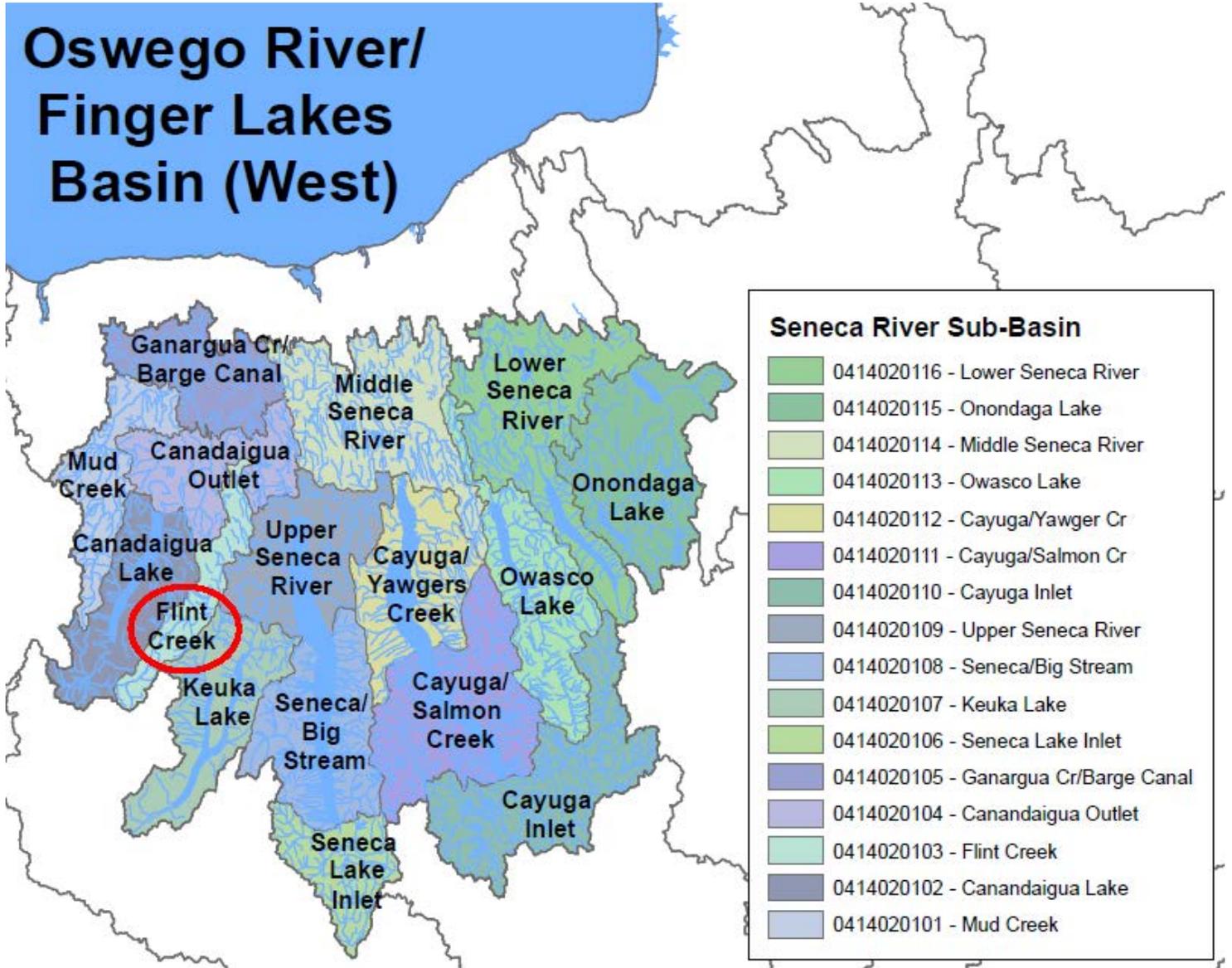


# Oswego River/ Finger Lakes Basin (West)



## Flint Creek Watershed (0414020103)

### Water Index Number

Ont 66-12-52..40  
 Ont 66-12-52..40  
 Ont 66-12-52..40-P273

### Waterbody Segment

Flint Creek, Lower, and tribs(0704-0044)  
 Flint Creek, Upper, and tribs (0704-0006)  
 Newark Reservoir (0704-0045)

### Category

MinorImpacts  
 MinorImpacts  
 UnAssessed

# Flint Creek, Lower, and tribs (0704-0044)

# MinorImpacts

## Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 08/09/2007

**Water Index No:** Ont 66-12-52..40  
**Hydro Unit Code:** 04140201/210      **Str Class:** C  
**Waterbody Type:** River  
**Waterbody Size:** 51.9 Miles  
**Seg Description:** stream and tribs, from mouth to Gorham

**Drain Basin:** Oswego-Seneca-Oneida  
Seneca/Clyde Rivers  
**Reg/County:** 8/Ontario Co. (35)  
**Quad Map:** PHELPS (J-12-2)

## Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
Aquatic Life	Stressed	Known

### Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: NUTRIENTS (phosphorus), SILT/SEDIMENT  
Suspected: UNKNOWN TOXICITY, D.O./Oxygen Demand, Pesticides  
Possible: - - -

### Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: AGRICULTURE, HABITAT MODIFICATION  
Suspected: INDUSTRIAL, MUNICIPAL  
Possible: - - -

## Resolution/Management Information

**Issue Resolvability:** 1 (Needs Verification/Study (see STATUS))  
**Verification Status:** 4 (Source Identified, Strategy Needed)  
**Lead Agency/Office:** DOW/Reg8  
**TMDL/303d Status:** n/a

**Resolution Potential:** Medium

## Further Details

Aquatic life support in this portion of Flint Creek are known to experience impacts due to nutrient enrichment and other pollutants from agricultural nonpoint sources. Municipal and industrial discharges are also thought to be contributing to impacts.

A biological (macroinvertebrate) survey of Flint Creek at multiple sites between Phelps and Italy was conducted in 2002. Sampling results revealed water quality conditions that ranged from non-impacted to moderately impacted. Overall, aquatic life support in this reach is considered stressed. Above this segment in the upper reaches, non-impacted waters support wild populations of brown and rainbow trout. But as agricultural activity increases downstream, water quality declines to slightly impacted. At the upstream end of this reach, toxicity from complex municipal/industrial discharges appear to be a more prominent source. A municipal facility serving the Town of Gorham and a food processing facility both discharge to the stream in this area. Extensive muckland drainage also likely contributes to the impacts on the biota. Water quality conditions improve steadily downstream, returning to

slightly impacted conditions. Silt and sedimentation becomes a more prevalent influence on water quality near the mouth. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, June 2005)

Previously, there have been concerns regarding the impact of pesticide use in this watershed on water quality and aquatic life support. A 1997 study by USGS found various pesticides in water samples. (USGS, 1998)  
This segment includes the portion of the stream and all tribs from the mouth to the old dam in Gorham. The waters of this portion of the stream are Class C. Tribs to this reach/segment are also Class C. Upper Flint Creek is listed separately.

# Flint Creek, Upper, and tribs (0704-0006)

# Minor Impacts

## Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 09/19/2016

**Water Index No:** Ont 66-12-52..40  
**Hydro Unit Code:** Flint Creek (0414020103)  
**Water Type/Size:** River/Stream 137.2 Miles  
**Description:** stream and tribs, above Gorham

**Water Class:** A  
**Drainage Basin:** Oswego-Seneca-Oneida  
**Reg/County:** 8/Yates (62)

## Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

Uses Evaluated	Severity	Confidence
Water Supply	Threatened	Unconfirmed
Public Bathing	Unassessed	-
Recreation	Stressed	Suspected
Aquatic Life	Stressed	Known
Fish Consumption	Fully Supported	Unconfirmed
Conditions Evaluated		
Habitat/Hydrology	Unassessed	
Aesthetics	Unassessed	

**Type of Pollutant(s)** (CAPS indicate Major Pollutants/Sources that contribute to an Impaired/Precluded Uses)  
 Known: Nutrients (phosphorus)  
 Suspected: Unknown Toxicity, Low D.O./Oxygen Demand, Pesticides, Silt/Sediment, Chloride/Salts  
 Unconfirmed:

**Source(s) of Pollutant(s)**  
 Known: Agriculture, Habitat Alteration  
 Suspected: Industrial Discharges, Municipal Discharges  
 Unconfirmed:

## Management Information

**Management Status:** Verification of Sources Needed  
**Lead Agency/Office:** DOW/Reg8  
**IR/305(b) Code:** Water Attaining Some Standards (IR Category 2)

## Further Details

### Overview

Flint Creek is assessed as having minor impacts due to aquatic life that is known to be stressed due to nutrient enrichment and other pollutants from agricultural nonpoint sources. Municipal and industrial discharges are also thought to be contributing to impacts. Concerns regarding impacts from a road salt storage facility have also been raised.

### Use Assessment

This portion of Flint Creek is a Class A waterbody, suitable for a water supply, public bathing, general recreation use and support of aquatic life, but not as a water supply.

Water supply use of Flint Creek is considered to be fully supported, but threatened due to elevated levels of potential pollutant sources in the watershed.

Aquatic life is evaluated as supported but stressed based on biological sampling that shows slight impacts. This sampling can also be used to infer that there may be minor impacts to recreational (fishing) uses, although more specific sampling is necessary to confirm this is the case. Additional (bacteriological) sampling is needed to more fully

evaluate public bathing and other recreational uses. (DEC, DOW, BWAM, July 2016)

There are no health advisories in place limiting the consumption of fish from this waterbody (beyond the general advice for all waters). Fish consumption is considered to be fully supported based on the absence of any waterbody-specific advisory, but is noted as unconfirmed since routine monitoring of contaminants in fish is limited. (NYS DOH Health Advisories and DEC/DOW, BWAM, January 2014)

#### Water Quality Information

A biological (macroinvertebrate) survey of Flint Creek at multiple sites between Phelps and Italy was conducted in 2002. Sampling results revealed water quality conditions that ranged from non-impacted to moderately impacted. Overall, aquatic life support in this reach is considered stressed. In the upper reaches, non-impacted waters support wild populations of brown and rainbow trout. But as agricultural activity increases downstream, water quality declines to slightly impacted. Previously, there have been concerns regarding the impact of pesticide use in this watershed on water quality and aquatic life support. A 1997 study by USGS found various pesticides in water samples. (USGS, 1998)

#### Source Assessment

Based on the biologic community composition, surrounding land use and other knowledge of the waterbody, the most likely sources of impacts are agricultural and other nonpoint sources. At the downstream end of this reach, toxicity from complex municipal/industrial discharges appear to be a more prominent source. A municipal facility serving the Town of Gorham and a food processing facility both discharge to the stream in this area. Habitat effects from swampy areas likely influence the biological community. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, June 2005)

The Town of Italy also stores a large amount of road salt/sand in close proximity to the stream and high levels of sodium chloride in Flint Creek indicate that salt runoff may be occurring. (DEC/DOW, Region 8, September 2016)

#### Management Actions

No specific management actions have been identified for the waterbody. The Town of Italy is pursuing funding for a covered salt storage facility to address runoff to the stream. (DEC/DOW, Region 8, September 2016)

#### Section 303(d) Listing

Upper Flint Creek is not included on the current (2016) NYS Section 303(d) List of Impaired/TMDL Waters. There appear to be no impairments that would justify the listing of this waterbody. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/WQAS, January 2016)

#### Segment Description

This segment includes the portion of the stream and all tribs above the old dam in Gorham. The waters of this portion of the stream are Class A. Tribs to this reach/segment, including Nettle Valley Creek (-26) and Segar Gully (-39) are Class C,C(T),C(TS). Lower Flint Creek is listed separately.