

The Silver Creek Tributary to the Lake Erie/St. Lawrence River System

- 1. Provide the name of all non-Federal interests planning to act as the sponsor, including and non-Federal interest that has included or is expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.** – *Chautauqua County is the sole non-Federal interest that is anticipated to act as a sponsor or contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study.*
- 2. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project or feasibility study and, if a modification, specify the authorized project or study.** – *This proposal is for a feasibility study.*
- 3. State the purpose of the proposed study or modification.** – *As shown in Figure 3, the Village of Silver Creek is located at the confluence of Silver Creek, Walnut Creek and Lake Erie. The Village has experienced significant flooding events that are attributable to ice jams and significant precipitation events. As a result of erosion from the upland areas of the Silver and Walnut Creek watersheds, large amounts of sediment and debris have been deposited at the mouth of Silver Creek, which contributes to the formation of ice jams, reduces the hydraulic capacity of the main channel of the stream and creates challenges for migratory steelhead and salmon. The ice jams and flooding result in property loss and potential health and safety issues for Village residents and negative economic impacts locally and regionally. It is anticipated that a study to assess the feasibility of dredging the mouth of Silver Creek where it enters Lake Erie would recommend a strategy to minimize flooding as a result of ice and debris jams and to improve hydraulic capacity, fish passage and habitat. The scope of the feasibility study should also include the analysis permit requirements, dredging techniques and identify alternatives for disposal or beneficial use of the dredged sediments and the estimated cost to implement a dredging project of this magnitude. Furthermore, it is anticipated that a study to evaluate the feasibility of improving the riparian function and the retention of stormwaters and meltwaters in the upland watershed areas in the Silver and Walnut Creek watersheds would result in a strategy to reduce impacts resulting from significant precipitation events.*
- 4. Provide an estimate, to the extent practicable, of the total cost of the proposed study or modification.** - *The study of the Silver Creek and Walnut Creek watersheds is estimated at approximately \$80,000, while the dredging feasibility study is estimated to be \$40,000.*
- 5. Describe, to the extent practicable, the anticipated monetary and non-monetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.** – *This proposal, if funded, will increase the probability that additional meaningful and effective environmental restoration projects will be funded and constructed on the Silver and Walnut Creek watersheds. The two streambank stabilizations projects that have been undertaken and/or funded in these watersheds thus far have leveraged approximately*

\$80,000 in funding from Chautauqua County. There are a number of anticipated benefits to the protection of human life and property through improved water quality, fish habitat and the reduced risk of flooding and hazards to recreational boaters.

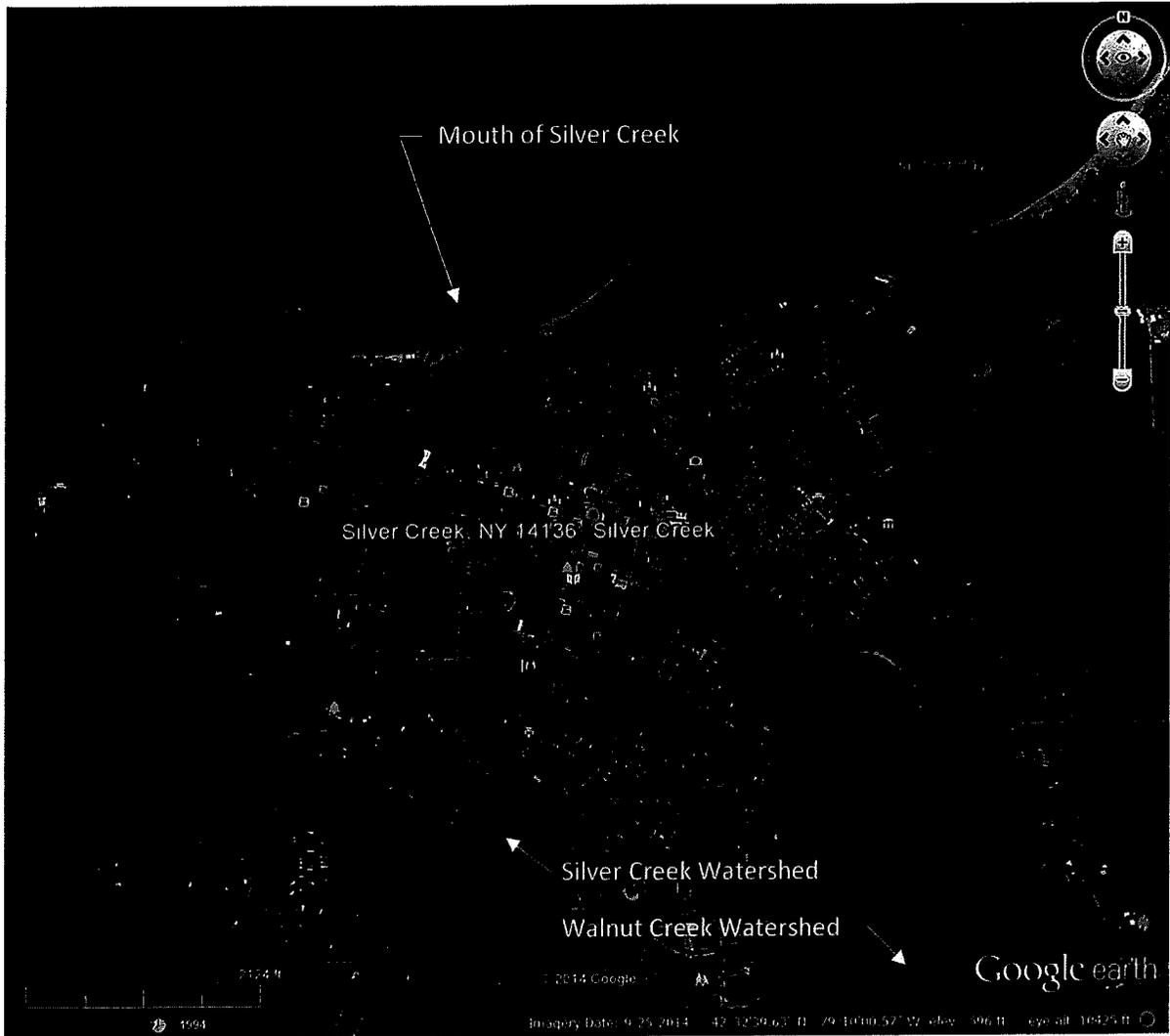
- 6. Describe if local support exists for the proposal.** – *Chautauqua County government and Chautauqua County Association of Mayors and Town Supervisors support this proposal. In addition the proposal is closely aligned with the mission of several non-governmental organizations.*

- 7. State if the non-Federal interest has the financial ability to provide for the required cost share.** – *ER 1105-2-100, Appendix F, Amendment #1, 31 January 2006 provides a formula for program cost sharing for the feasibility phase of Continuing Authorities Program, where initially up to \$100,000 is provided by Federal funds with the remaining costs being shared equally (50/50) with the non-Federal sponsor. Since the proposed feasibility study of the remaining Chautauqua Lake sub-watersheds is estimated at approximately \$120,000, the non-Federal sponsor (Chautauqua County) would be required to invest \$10,000. The County's history of delivering successful environmental restoration projects throughout Chautauqua County demonstrates its capacity to provide the required cost share.*

- 8. Submit a letter or statement of support from each associated non-Federal interest.** – *Letters of support are attached.*



A heavy equipment operator at risk while working to alleviate ice jam on Silver Creek.



Silver and Walnut Creeks – Silver Creek, NY

Figure 3 – Project Location Map