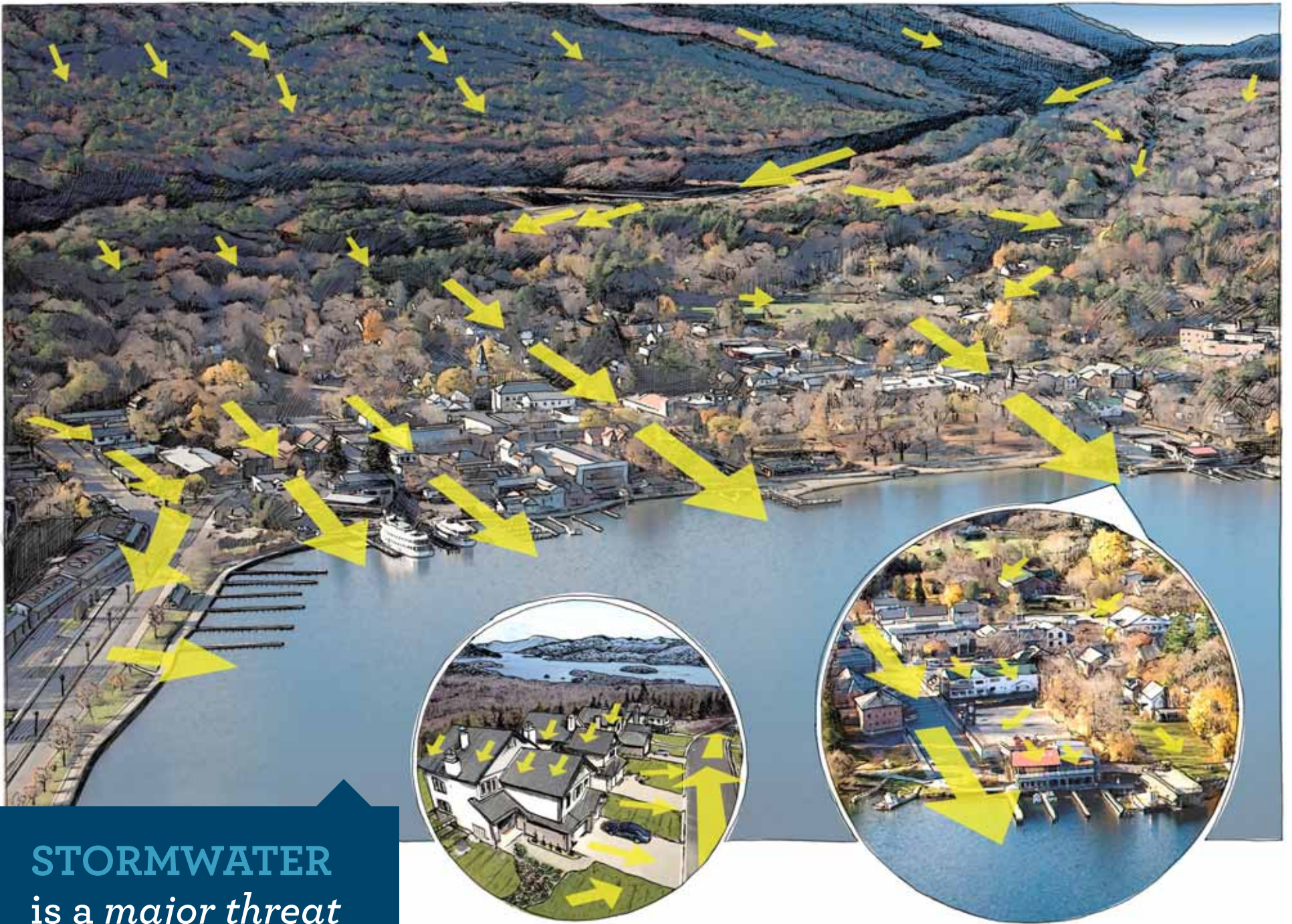


# Do-It-Yourself WATER QUALITY



## STORMWATER is a major threat to Lake George.

**STORMWATER** is the single largest threat to the water quality of Lake George. Stormwater runoff occurs during and after a rainstorm as water flows across lawns, driveways, parking lots, roads, from building roofs, and more.

Changes in land use from natural forest to residential or commercial development creates stormwater. In an undisturbed natural forest, it is estimated that approximately 40-60% of the rainfall will infiltrate into the ground, 40-50% will be lost through evapotranspiration into the air, and 1% will result in surface runoff. When a site is cleared and graded, this balance changes to 20-30% infiltration, 20-30% evapotranspiration with 40-50% resulting in surface runoff.

Stormwater runoff has a negative impact on the water quality of Lake George because as stormwater travels across the landscape it picks up pollutants, nutrients, contaminants, and sediment before dumping into the lake or a stream. Oil and gas from parking lots, lawn care fertilizers and pesticides, top soil, among many other materials, are swept up in stormwater runoff and carried to Lake George. Stormwater has created huge deltas and has contributed to the lake's declining water quality.

## STORMWATER RUNOFF – THE MAJOR CAUSE OF THE LAKE'S DECLINING WATER QUALITY

*As stormwater runoff flows across the land, it picks up sediment, nutrients, pollutants and other contaminants before it empties into Lake George.*

## You CAN make a difference.

There are many ways to *effectively* control stormwater. The goal for good property stewardship is to treat stormwater on-site, close to its source, so it does not leave a property and carry pollution to the lake. There are many effective designs and technologies to control stormwater, such as rain gardens, dry wells, infiltration trenches, bioretention basins, among many others.

The future health of Lake George hinges on our ability to vastly improve stormwater control and management. For more information on stormwater management as part of the *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality* campaign go to the websites listed below or call our office for a site consultation. Join us in a new commitment to great property stewardship!

THE FUND *for* LAKE GEORGE



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