WINTER 2024
NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
An Environmental Publication

Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District
4487 Lake Avenue
Lockport, New York 14094
Phone: (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4
www.niagaraswcd.com

Tree Seedling Order Form Enclosed

Quantities are Limited, Order Early So You Don't Miss Out!

NCSWCD Presents AEM Awards to Two County Farms

The Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District named Chaffee Farms and Goodman Farms the Niagara County AEM Farms for 2023! We presented these farms with an AEM sign to recognize their participation in the AEM program and their efforts to protect and conserve the natural resources in our County. On behalf of our staff and board of directors, we would like to congratulate and thank these farms for their hard work in protecting our environment and making Niagara County a great place to live.

AEM is a program for advancing voluntary agricultural conservation. Our office provides on-farm assessments, conservation planning and technical services to farms to assist them with efforts to protect the environment. A conservation plan is developed and best management practices are implemented by the farm.

We all know that our farms are the backbone of our local economy. Investing in our farms through the AEM program helps our farms continue to support our economy, protect our natural resources, provide open space and wildlife habitat and a quality of life we all can enjoy.

These two farms have completed the installation of multiple best management practices over the past several years. Some of these best management practices were cost shared with state and federal resources, but there is a substantial commitment –both financially and with their time and effort, do the plantings, plan the construction and perform the maintenance of the best management practices.

Goodman Farms has installed an agri-chemical handling facility to limit the potential of soil and water contamination while filling sprayers, upgraded their petroleum storage facility to provide secondary containment on their storage tanks, installed a roof water management system to convey clean roof water clean to a drainage channel without picking up sediments from driveways and storage areas, installed three high tunnels, planted field borders and have planted cover crops to improve soil health for several years.

Chaffee Farms installed silage leachate collection systems and vegetated treatment areas to treat the runoff from their bunk silos, installed concrete walls along animal walkways to prevent manure laden runoff from the heavy use areas, increased their waste storage capacity to allow the farm to apply the nutrients from the liquid manure at the most opportune times for uptake by the field crops and have planted cover crops on the farm each year to improve soil health.

These are only a couple of the farms that have participated in the AEM program and there are many more that have completed similar type projects over the last few years. We know the good work that our farms are doing and we want to acknowledge some of their efforts and make sure the message gets out to everyone else. If you are interested in becoming an AEM farm or if you are already an AEM farm and have a project in mind please contact the office and we will schedule a farm visit.

Over 1200 lbs. of Litter Picked-Up

NCSWCD began scheduled litter pick-ups in 2023 and in just a short time collected over 1,200 pounds of litter across Niagara County. We were able to team up with an organization in Niagara County to help on a couple of the pick-ups. Some notable items found were a couch, sign posts, a printer, industrial wires, car parts, tires, and tons of drink containers. If you are interested in joining a litter pick-up or have noticed an area that needs to be cleaned up please contact the office. Don't forget it is not only gross to litter, it is also illegal, so find a garbage can.

District Directors

Gerald Farnham
Chairman
Mary Gumaer
Vice Chairman
James Bittner
Treasurer
Louise Brachmann
Member
Scott White
Member
Shawn Foti
Legislator

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Inside This Issue

NCSW Board Meetings

Board Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of every month. Please contact the office for more information.

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Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District

Eighteenmile Creek Great Lakes Area of Concern

How Can We Help You?

Seedling/Tree Sale
Pond Stocking/ Carp Sale
Bird/Bat/Duck Houses
Eighteenmile Creek RAP
Invasive Species Control & Eradication
Pond Site Evaluations
Pond Maintenance
Agriculture Value Assessments
Inter Seeder Rental
No-Till Drill Rental
Educational Programs
Drainage /Tiling Assistance
Bird/Bat/Duck Houses
Permit Application Assistance
Mining Assistance
Erosion Control
Flood Prevention
Water Conservation & Use
Wetlands
Ground Water, Water Quality & Quantity
Nonpoint Source Pollution
Forestland Protection
Wildlife
Recreation
Manure Management
Waste Water Management

And so much more!

Ag Assessments, Soil Group Worksheets, & Ag Districts

In 1971 New York State created a law to protect and promote the availability of land for farming purposes. The law allows for reduced property taxes for land in ag production. Town assessors determine whether or not the land qualifies for the exemption, this is partially determined by a soil group worksheet.

Two factors are taken into consideration to qualify for an ag assessment. First does the landowner own seven or more acres of land that was used in the preceding two years for the production for the sale of crops, livestock, or livestock products? Second did the producer's annual gross sales of ag products average $10,000 or more for the preceding two years? There are exceptions and provisions for less than seven acres, start-up operations, and commercial horse boarding.

You do not have to farm the land yourself, rented land also qualifies as long as the ag producer meets the criteria.

The first step is to talk to your town's assessor. They will have some questions for you to determine if the land qualifies, have an Agriculture Assessment Application (RP-305) for you to fill out and send you in our direction for a soil group worksheet. Soil group worksheets can take up to two weeks to put together depending on the demand when requested. Once your soil group worksheet is done we will have you come to the office to pick up the paperwork and pay a $25 fee. You will then take the soil worksheet and your RP-305 to the assessor for review. Most are due March 1st!

Ag assessments do "expire" and do need to be re-done, your town assessor will contact you when needed. They also need to done when the parcel is split or the property ownership changes.

So what is a soil group worksheet? A soil group worksheet looks at an aerial view of your property to determine areas of land that are actively farmed, wood lot, or residential/non-ag. A soil group worksheet lists the property information and breaks down the types of soil on a property. We use your information, tax maps, and soil maps to create soil group worksheets. Soil maps are used to determine the soil types and categorize them into ag, non-ag, and woodlands. Lines are drawn to separate how the land is used into each category. Soils are then measured, in acres, and put in their respective category. Totals are calculated on the soil worksheet for you to take to the assessor.

Something else you may notice on your soil group worksheet is whether the parcel is an ag district or not. Ag District Law is in place to 'reflect the cornerstone of State and county level efforts to preserve, protect, and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food, fiber, and agricultural products.' Being part of an ag district does not come with tax breaks, like an ag assessment but it does provide some protections. Having parcels in the ag districts protects the farmer/owner from unreasonable restrictions in the regulation of farm activities and protects farming operations. Limitations of eminent domain and public acquisitions are also a benefit. Requests for adding the distinction are due between June 1-30 to Amanda Henning of CCE Niagara. If you have any questions on ag districts please contact her at app27@cornell.edu.

To recap call your assessor if you think your land qualifies for an ag assessment exemption and then head over to our office.

How We Help Your Property & Ag Practices

There are several ways we can assist you with your farming and conservation practices. We have equipment available for rent, programs for farm plans, tiling/ ditching assistance, and several grant programs that can help you with best management practices (BMP).

Some of the grants we work on are Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) grants, Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) BMP grants, FL-LOWPA grant projects, NY Grown & Certified grants, and US Forest Service Tree grants. If you are interested in one of these grants or BMP's please contact the office and we can schedule a time to discuss your project.

Tiling, ditching, conservation plantings are not just for farmers. We help many non-ag residents with their flooding problems and grass planting needs. Give us a call if we can help!

The Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District is a local government subdivision under New York State law. The District was established as a public benefit by the County of Niagara in 1954. Your support of our programs aid in the District's conservation efforts to protect natural resources and water quality for our residents. In these wavering economic times, we thank you for your continued assistance in fulfilling our goals.

NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024 SEEDLING ORDER FORM

EVERGREEN SEEDLINGS	APPROX. SIZE	BUNDLE of 25	BUNDLE of 50	BUNDLE of 100	QTY	TOTAL COST
Cedar, Red	10-18"	$ 35.00	$ 68.00	$ 126.00		
Cedar, White - Arborvitae	9-12"	$ 24.00	$ 46.00	$ 87.00		
Fir, Concolor	12-18"	$ 25.00	$ 48.00	$ 90.00		
Fir, Douglas	10-18"	$ 24.00	$ 46.00	$ 87.00		
Fir, Frasier	9-12"	$ 24.00	$ 46.00	$ 87.00		
Pine, Austrian	7-12"	$ 22.00	$ 42.00	$ 79.00		
Pine, White	7-12"	$ 23.00	$ 44.00	$ 83.00		
Spruce, Blue	9-15"	$ 22.00	$ 42.00	$ 79.00		
Spruce, Norway	10-18"	$ 25.00	$ 48.00	$ 90.00		
Spruce, White	10-18"	$ 23.00	$ 44.00	$ 83.00		
EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS	APPROX. SIZE	BUNDLE OF 10			QTY	TOTAL COST
Cedar, White	2-1, 12-18"	$ 27.00				
Fir, Balsam	2-1, 6-12"	$ 25.00				
Fir, Frasier	2-2, 8-14"	$ 26.00				
Pine, White	2-1, 10-18"	$ 25.00				
Spruce, Blue	2-1, 10-18"	$ 26.00				
Spruce, Norway	2-1, 12-18"	$ 24.00				
HARDWOOD SEEDLINGS	APPROX. SIZE	BUNDLE OF 10	BUNDLE OF 25	BUNDLE OF 50	QTY	TOTAL COST
Birch, Canoe	12-18"	$ 19.00	$ 45.00	$ 86.00		
Cherry, Black	12-18"	$ 18.00	$ 43.00	$ 81.00		
Hickory, Shagbark	12-18"	$ 25.00	$ 60.00	$ 112.00		
Maple, Red	12-18"	$ 19.00	$ 45.00	$ 86.00		
Maple, Sugar	12-18"	$ 21.00	$ 50.00	$ 95.00		
Oak, Red	12-18"	$ 18.00	$ 43.00	$ 81.00		
Oak, White	12-18"	$ 20.00	$ 48.00	$ 90.00		
Paw Paw	12-18"	$ 24.00	$ 57.00	$ 108.00		
Pecan, Northern	12-18"	$ 19.00	$ 45.00	$ 86.00		
Persimmon	12-18"	$ 19.00	$ 45.00	$ 86.00		
Redbud, Eastern	12-18"	$ 19.00	$ 45.00	$ 86.00		
Sycamore	12-18"	$ 19.00	$ 45.00	$ 86.00		
Tuliptree	12-18"	$ 18.00	$ 43.00	$ 81.00		
Walnut, Black	12-18"	$ 19.00	$ 45.00	$ 86.00		

**** ORDERS DUE** FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

Please call for availability after 2/16

MARK YOUR CALENDARS -TREE PICK-UP DATES

April 19th 8:00 -4:00

April 20th 9:00-12:00

4487 Lake Avenue Lockport, NY

(Niagara County Fairgrounds)

An Email Reminder will be sent the week of Pick-Up

SHRUB SEEDLINGS	APPROX. SIZE	BUNDLE OF 10	BUNDLE OF 25	BUNDLE OF 50	QTY	TOTAL COST
Butterfly Bush	12-18"	$ 18.00	$ 43.00	$ 81.00		
Dogwood, Redosier	12-18"	$ 18.00	$ 43.00	$ 81.00		
Dogwood, White Flowering	12-18"	$ 19.00	$ 45.00	$ 86.00		
Eastern Sweetshrub	6-12"	$ 17.00	$ 40.00	$ 77.00		
Elderberry	12-18"	$ 18.00	$ 43.00	$ 81.00		
Lilac	12-18"	$ 18.00	$ 43.00	$ 81.00		
Nannyberry	12-18"	$ 20.00	$ 48.00	$ 90.00		
Ninebark	12-18"	$ 18.00	$ 43.00	$ 81.00		
Serviceberry/Juneberry	12-18"	$ 19.00	$ 45.00	$ 86.00		
Winterberry	12-18"	$ 19.00	$ 45.00	$ 86.00		
SPECIAL OFFERS	APPROX. SIZE	BUNDLE OF 5	BUNDLE OF 10	BUNDLE OF 50	QTY	TOTAL COST
Apple, Starter Package	3-5'	$ 121.00				
Apple, Wildlife Package	3-5'	$ 73.00				
Chestnuts, American	8-12"	$ 22.00				
Edible Fruit Pack			$ 36.00			
Nut Tree Pack			$ 25.00			
NY Wildlife Pack			$ 29.00			
Perennial Flower Pack			$ 26.00			
Wetland Habitat Pack			$ 26.00			
Pachysandra				$ 45.00		
SEED				COST	QTY	TOTAL COST
Conservation Grass - Large Deer Plot Mix - 25lbs (3/4 acre)				$ 106.00		
Conservation Grass - Small Deer Plot Mix - 10lbs (1/3 acre)				$ 92.00		
Conservation Grass -Tall Grass Mix- 25lbs - (1 acre)				$ 60.00		
Milkweed Seed - 150mg Packet				$ 5.00		
Wildflower Seed - 4oz bag (2500 sq.ft)				$ 16.00		
OTHER ITEMS				COST	QTY	TOTAL COST
Fertilizer Tablets - 25 Count (20-10-5)				$ 5.00		
100 Marking Flags - 30" wire				$ 15.00		
Bat Roost - Bachelor				$ 17.00		
Bat Roost - Maternity				$ 28.00		
Blue Bird House				$ 18.00		
Wood Duck House				$ 48.00		

**** ORDERS DUE** FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

Please call for availability after 2/16

NYS Sales Tax of 8% included where due

Name:_____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #.: _____

Office Use Only

Order #

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE ADDED TO OUR NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST: _____ Mail _____ Email

All orders must be prepaid by cash or check payable to **Niagara County SWCD**

Drop off/ Mail to: Niagara County SWCD
4487 Lake Ave, Lockport NY 14094
For Questions/Additional Information 716-434-4949 ext 4

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
PICK-UP DATES
April 19th 8:00 -4:00
April 20th 9:00-12:00
An Email Reminder will be sent the week of Pick-Up

Seedling orders are filled on a first come, first served basis. As we have no control over the weather or your choice of planting sites, times or techniques, the SWCD WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE for your trees and shrubs after they leave our distribution center. We cannot offer refunds or replacements. All trees and shrubs sold are to be used for effective conservation practices and will not be planted for ornamental purposes. Trees and shrubs sold will not be removed with roots attached for resale. This is in compliance with NYS Sale and Use Tax Regulations, 20 NYCRR, Section 529.2(c).

****EVERGREENS****

Cedar, Red (*Juniperus virginiana*)
This medium, slow growing native can reach 50' under adverse conditions in any soil type. Green needles turn rusty brown in winter. Its blue, waxy seed cones are beneficial food for birds, small mammals, and deer. Wood used for posts and archery bows. Aromatic heartwood used for closets and chests.

Cedar, White (*Thuja occidentalis*)
Pyramidal shape. Lacy, feathery, light green needles on flat branches. Grows to 60' in loamy, moist soils. Slow grower used for windbreaks, hedges, and wildlife food and cover. This native is also known as American Arborvitae.

Fir, Balsam (Abies balsamea)
A favored Christmas tree due to its aromatic fragrance. Has soft, 1" flat, deep green needles. Native tree with medium growth rate to 75' in cool, moist locations. Also excellent for wildlife food and shelter.

Fir, Concolor (*Abies concolor*)
Also known as "White Fir". Has silver trunk and dense, silver-blue needles with bluish band. Likes rich, loamy soils. Grows to 100'. Easy-to-care for native that makes a great ornamental specimen.

Fir, Douglas (*Psudotsuga menziesii*)
Very popular native fir used as Christmas trees, lumber, windbreaks and ornamentals. Grows to 100' in well-drained soils. Holds small, soft, green needles for a long time and shears well. Good resistance to disease.

Fir, Fraser (*Abies fraseri*)
Premier Christmas tree. Grows to 40'. Needs well-drained soils. Intolerant of hot, dry places. Horizontal branches of shiny 1" green needles and gray bark. Slow growing native with a wonderful fragrance.

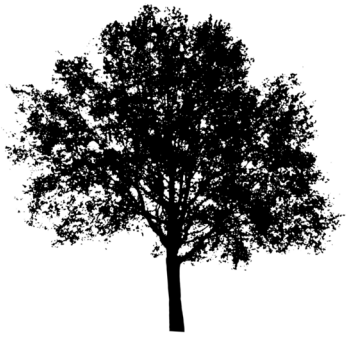
Pine, Austrian (*Pinus nigra*)
Fastest growing pine. Grows to 60' in heavy clay to light sand soils. Has long, dark green 5" needles in bundles of two. Pollution and salt tolerant. Makes a good Christmas tree and a hardy windbreak.

Pine, White (*Pinus strobus*)
Shade tolerant native, grows well in variety of soils, except wet, clay. Fast growth to 100'. Long, soft, green needles in bundles of five. Graceful, plume-like crown. Good for timber and x-mas trees. Sensitive to salt and windburn.

Spruce, Colorado Blue (*Picea pungens*)
Most popular of all spruces. Stiff, 1" needles range from dark green to silver-blue, depending on soil conditions and age. Grows best on moist, rich soils and will not tolerate drier conditions. Prefers full sun. Slow starting native, reaching 100' at maturity.

Spruce, Norway (*Picea abies*)
Fastest growing spruce. Has extremely attractive, strong, sweeping branches. Shiny 1" flat needles. Prefers well-drained, moist soils. Grows to 100'. Recommended for windbreaks and screens.

Spruce, White (*Picea glauca*)
Very hardy native, does well on variety of soils. Endures heat, drought, and crowding conditions. Grows to 60'. Dense, stiff, light green 1" needles**.** Good for windbreaks, pulpwood, and Christmas trees.



****DECIDUOUS TREES****

Birch, Canoe(Betula papyrifera)
Does well in cool, moist locations and can reach 80'. Oval green leaves turn bright yellow in fall and are a food source for butterflies. This native tree is also known as *Paper Birch* because its stunning snow-white bark peels off in paper-thin layers and *Canoe Birch* since it was used by Native Americans to make canoes.

Hazelnut, American (*Corylus americana*)
Also known as *Filbert* this large, multi-stemmed native prefers rich, well-drained soil and is pH adaptable. Growing to 8-15' tall, it is shade tolerant. Its long slender 8" catkins produce an acorn-like nut in late September that is enjoyed by humans, small mammals, deer, ruffed grouse and other large birds. Will create thickets from root sprouts.

Hickory, Shagbark (*Carya ovata)*
Plant a shagbark hickory in a large landscape for excellent shade. This Midwest native is named for its bark, which peels away in large, flat, curving plates, giving the tree a shaggy appearance. As a member of the walnut family, the hickory produces edible nuts. Enjoys moist, well drained soil. Matures to 60-80' tall.

Maple, Red (*Acer rubrum*)
Known for its bright red flowers in early spring. Green foliage turns a brilliant red-orange in fall. Grows fast to 100'. Tolerates wet and swampy to rocky soils. Native widely used for wetland plantings. Great for wildlife habitat.

Maple, Sugar (*Acer saccharum*)
Most known as the source of maple syrup. Green foliage turns a brilliant red-orange in fall. Grows to 65-75' at a rate of 2-3' a year. Prefers a deep, well-drained to rocky soils. Great for wildlife habitat.

Oak, Red (*Quercus rubra*) Native that does well on sandy to rich, loamy soils. Grows fast to 90'. Lustrous canopy of green leaves turn reddish-brown in fall. And "ski track" appearance on mature bark. Has small red flowers in Spring. Produces 1" acorns. Tolerates city conditions. Excellent for lumber and wildlife.

Oak, White (*Quercus alba*)
A popular native shade tree that grows to 60-80' tall and is about the same in width as it is tall. It has irregular branching and attractive flaky, light gray bark. Rounded, grayish-green 4-8" long leaves become purple-red in the fall, dull leaf tips. Prefers full sun and acidic soil. Its small 1" acorns are popular with wildlife.

Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*)
A popular native fruit tree that grows to approximately 30' tall, at a rate of 1-2' a year. Prefers full sun and moist, well-drained soil. Needs to be protected from wind. Grows a large, yellowish-green to brown fruit that tastes like a mix of mango, banana, and citrus.

Pecan, Northern *(Carya illinoensis)*
Also known as Hardy Pecan, this native starts bearing nuts in 8-10 years. Best in rich, moist, well-drained soils in full sun, it typically grows 75-100'. Medium green leaves turn yellow in summer and brown in fall. Non-showy, greenish-yellow flowers in May give way to edible nuts in the fall. A great urban shade tree. Acorns attract wildlife.

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
An Eastern US native that grows 30-60' tall and 35' wide, in moist, sandy soils and full sun to partial shade. Distinctive dark gray bark and rounded oval crown. White to greenish-yellow flowers in late spring. Ripe, soft orange fruits in fall, so sweet you can eat them straight off the tree, are used for syrups, jellies and pies. Leaves can be used for teas. Great for rain gardens. Tolerant of drought, clay soil and air pollution.

Redbud, Eastern (*Cercis canadensis*)
Rosy pink flowers appear in April. Reddish-purple leaves change to dark green, then to yellow. Forms a spreading, graceful crown. Full sun or light shade. Partial shade, performs best in soils with consistent moisture. Grows to 20' to 30', 30' spread.

Sycamore (*Plantanus occidentalis*)
This native tree is fast growing to 75' with a massive trunk of coarse mottled bark. It prefers moist soil and full sun. Deep red flowers in late March, followed by fuzzy-looking rounded fruit and yellow-brown Autumn foliage. Good urban tree. Can be used on difficult sites.

Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
This native likes full sun, moist slightly acidic soil and grows to over 70' tall. Its massive trunk boasts attractive gray bark and unique tulip-shaped leaves that turn golden in autumn. Beautiful flowers that bloom May to June resemble yellow - green tulips with reddish - orange centers.

Walnut, Black (*Juglans nigra*)
Grows well in deep, moist soils to 100'. Has a broad oval crown and compound leaves of 15-25 dark green leaflets. At 4 to 6 years old, it will produce flavorful, oil-rich sweet nuts in September to October. A native whose lumber is valued for furniture, cabinets, flooring and gun stocks.

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)
Multi-stemmed, with fragrant 4-10" flowers summer thru fall. Grows very quickly in all types of soil to 8'. A little heavy pruning each spring will keep it under control. Plant near a garden to attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

Dogwood, Red Osier (*Cornus sericea, syn. C stolonifera*)
Dense, fast growing 7-9' native also known as *red twig* for its dark red bark. Does well in damp soil conditions and is frequently used for bank erosion control. Hardy and attractive, it produces white flowers and berries, and boasts a purplish red fall color. Brilliant red stems are very showy in winter .

Dogwood, White Flowering (*Cornus florida*)
Steady growing 15-30'. Does well in moist and well drained soil, full sun or partial shade. Hardy and attractive, it produces white flowers in the spring and red berries in the fall. Loved by birds.

Eastern Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*)
Deciduous shrub with glossy, aromatic, leathery, dark green leaves with deep red flowers. Will grow 6-9' high and wide. Prefers a sunny area with partial shade and a moist, well drained soil. Great for a butterfly garden.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
Vigorous grower to 12' in any type soil. Multi-stemmed, with clusters of purple-black fruits in late summer, used for jams and wine. A great native wetland plant. Good food source for wildlife.

Lilac, Common (*Syringa vulgaris*)
Easy to grow, old-fashioned favorite. Masses of fragrant white to lavender flowers and bright green leaves in Spring. Will grow in well-drained soils to 15'. Makes beautiful natural screen spreading 6-10'.

Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
A large full shrub with white flowers in the springs and blue berries in the fall. Berries are edible and known for a prune/banana like flavor. Grows in moist to well-drained soils and up to 20' tall.

Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
Easily grown deciduous native shrub, in full sun to part shade, and in a wide range of soil types. Noted for its reddish exfoliating bark and showy pinkish-white five petal flower clusters May-June. Grows upright to 10'. Used for hedges and erosion control on streams and rocky banks. Great for borders and winter wildlife habitat. Able to withstand harsh conditions.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
A native to North America, this 6-20' suckering multi-stemmed shrub thrives on moist, well-drained acidic soil and tolerates a wide pH range. White flowers in April produce dark purplish fruits in June. That is how it got its other recognized name of "Juneberry". This shrub is enjoyed by many types of birds. Prune regularly for best fruit production.

Winterberry *(Ilex verticillata)*
Slow growing deciduous holly, easily grown in average or acidic, medium to wet soils, in full sun to part shade. Native upright, rounded shrub that typically grows 3-12' tall. Greenish–white flowers in spring give way to showy, bright red berries in late summer to fall, which persist thru winter on bare branches. Has elliptic, toothed, dark green 2-3" leaves that turn shades of maroon in autumn.

SPECIAL OFFERS

American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*)
The American Chestnuts were once one of the most plentiful, versatile and valuable forest trees in the eastern United States, until a blight in the early 1900s virtually eliminated most natural stands. This 100' tall hardwood was an important component of forestland that covered millions of acres. Very important for wildlife, providing a prolific amount of nuts for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bears, and others. American Chestnuts do best in full sun on porous soils of moderate depth and fertility, such as rocky hillsides and gravelly or sandy soils. For pollination, plant all seedlings less than 100 yards from each other where their roots will not be disturbed. Rapid growers, they will produce nuts within 7-10 years.

Apple Trees:
All trees are 3-5' tall, 1/2"to 5/8" caliper, bare-root. The Nursery supplier will select and pack an assortment of various types for quality pollination.

Starter Package (5 trees)
Hardy, easy to grow varieties preferred for blight resistance and persistence.

Wildlife Package (5 trees)
Excess or misshapen trees not adequate for orchards, these are still suitable to enhance a backyard wildlife area and provide food for people, birds, deer, and other wildlife.

**CONSERVATION PACS **
Each pac contains 10 seedlings total - 2 of each variety

Edible Pac: Blackberry, Raspberry, Strawberry,
Blueberry- Blue Ray & Jersey
Plant in sandy, well drained soil. Full sun. Use trellises for blackberry and raspberry. Water strawberry more frequently while fruit is forming. Space blueberry 4-6' apart with both types in close proximity for pollination.

Nut Tree Pac: Five Oaks– White, Swamp White, Red, Pin, Sawtooth
All selections grow 50-80' and require at least 6 hours of sun daily. Acorns provide food for not only humans, but a variety of birds and other wildlife.

Native New York Wildlife Pac: White Pine, Red Osier Dogwood, Black Cherry, Hazelnut, Serviceberry
Great for attracting wildlife.

Perennial Pac: Daylily- Dream Baby, Frances Fay, Stella De Oro
Iris- Blue King, Snow Queen
Plant in full sun to partial shade. Will flower year after year.

Wetland Habitat Pac: River Birch, Willow, Sycamore,
Buttonbush, Red Osier Dogwood
These attractive trees and shrubs like the moisture and will provide habitat for birds and other wildlife in the wetter areas.

OTHER ITEMS

Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)
A carpeting plant with an interesting leaf pattern and inconspicuous white spike flowers. Grows 6-12" high in well-drained soil. Excellent for heavy shade.

Milkweed Seed
Monarch butterflies cannot survive without this host plant. Females only lay their eggs on native milkweed because their young caterpillars need it to grow and develop. Milkweed is disappearing from our landscapes. Planting it will not only help the Monarch, but the nectar is enjoyed by many other pollinators and hummingbirds as well. Plant in full sun to part shade, 1/2" deep in well-drained soils. Blooms sweet-scented light purplish 2-6' tall flowers in summer. Named for its milky white sap, it produces pod-like fruits that split to release new seed attached to fluffy, silky hairs that aid in wind dispersal.
NOTE: Seeds need cold stratification. Place them in refrigeration for 30 days prior to planting. ALSO: DO NOT SPRAY THIS PLANT! Pesticide use is toxic to monarchs and their offspring.

Wildflower Seed
A **100% pure seed** mix of balanced blends of annual and perennial native wildflowers. Good for renovating old pastures, commercial sites and unused portions of lawn. Can be planted on moderate slopes to stabilize soil. Will grow in all soil types, even poor. The better the site, the better the outcome.

Deer Plot Mix
Mix of annuals and perennials that will attract and maintain deer. Includes several ryes, clovers, wheat, alfalfa, timothy, proso millet, birdsfoot trefoil, sainfoin, lathco flatpea, cicer milkvetch, and much more. Also good for birds and rabbits. Annuals provide growth the first year and act as nurse crop for perennials. Plant generously in open fields, along trails, or the edge of woods.

Tall Mix
Contains 20 short and tall varieties of annuals, including sorghums, millets, beans, and sunflowers. Grows 4 to 8 feet tall. Excellent for planting along fence lines, edges of woods, and strips in fields. Attracts pheasant, dove, quail, and turkey.

Fertilizer Tablets
A slow-release pellet 20-10-5 (nitrogen-phosphorous-potash) made specifically for 1-2 year old seedlings. Safe, easy, convenient. Planting instructions included.

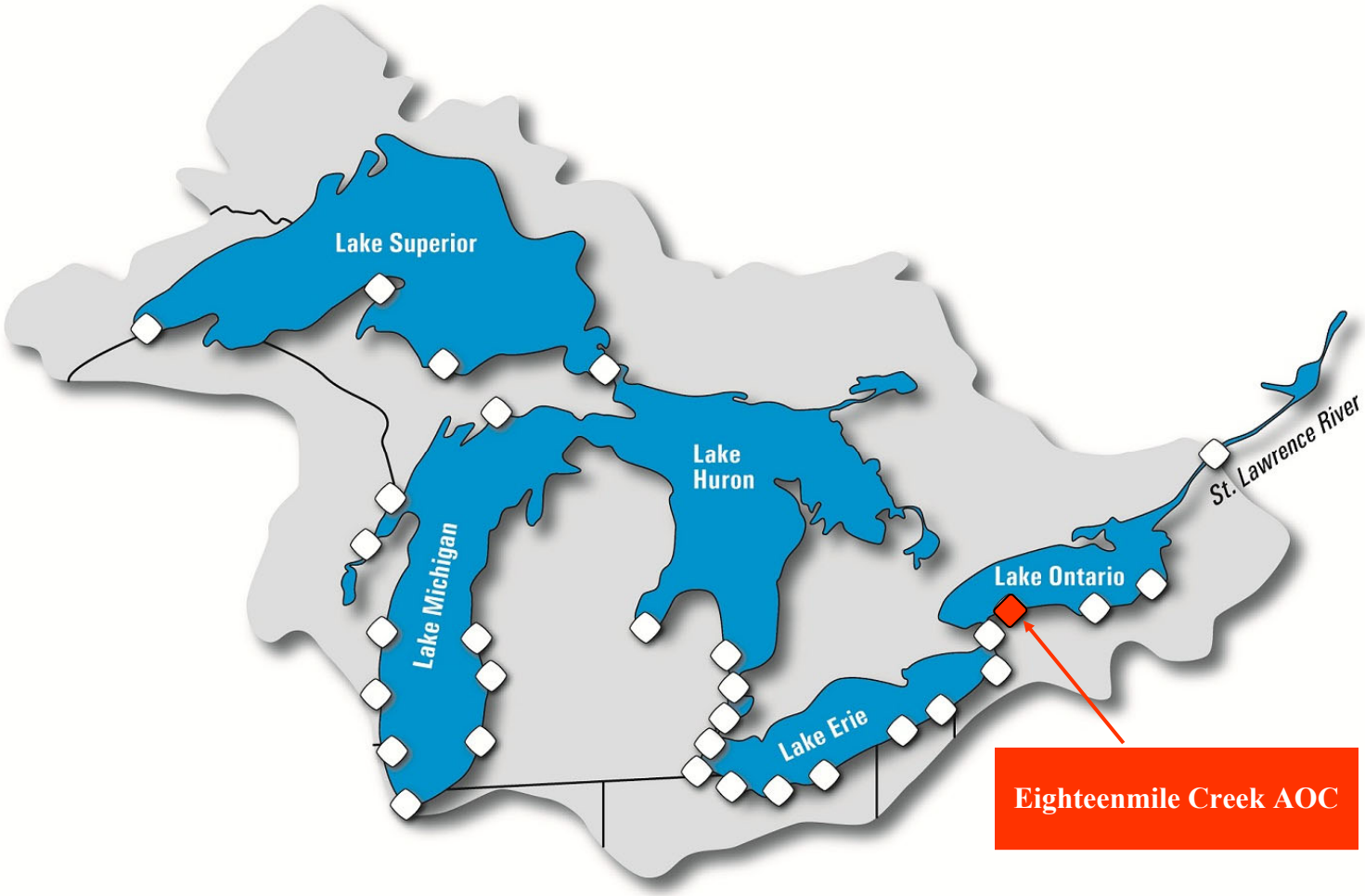
PICKUP INFORMATION
Don't Forget, Mark Your Calendars Now!
If you cannot pick up your order on the scheduled dates, please make arrangements with someone to pick it up for you.

Pickup Days: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:00am to 4:00pm
Saturday, April 20, 2024 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Niagara County Fairgrounds - Merchant Building
4487 Lake Ave (RT 78), Lockport

Extra, Unsold Trees/Seedlings will be available for sale on a cash and carry basis on the above pickup dates. Follow us on Facebook to for a list of what we will have available!

EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN



2023 REPORT CARD




A COMPILATION OF SUCCESSES, IMPROVEMENTS & CURRENT CONDITIONS

Great Lakes RESTORATION

EIGHTEENMILE CREEK

Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District®

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

2023 AOC Newsletter Update

Progress has continued at Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern (AOC) throughout 2023. In the past few years many studies have been completed to assess the status of each Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI). Last year we completed our final assessment for our BUIs that investigated the benthic macroinvertebrate community and sediment toxicity. All of the studies or assessments have been posted the Eighteenmile Creek AOC website at http://eighteenmilerap.com/DATA.html.

Benthos Final Report Summary

Last years report card reviewed the benthic macroinvertebrate criteria and why we needed assessments. This years report card is dedicated to reporting the results of our most recent benthic macroinvertebrate study led by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) (sampling occurred in 2019 and a final report was released in 2023). One of the goals of this project was to collect enough samples within the AOC to completely characterize the macroinvertebrate community and also have a reference site. Our most recent study had eight sites spread throughout the AOC (from Lake Ontario to Burt Dam). Oak Orchard Creek had six sites to use as a reference where no known legacy contaminants have been found (free of PCBs and heavy metals as an example). To fully assess the benthic macroinvertebrate removal criteria there were two parts of this study– community condition and sediment toxicity.

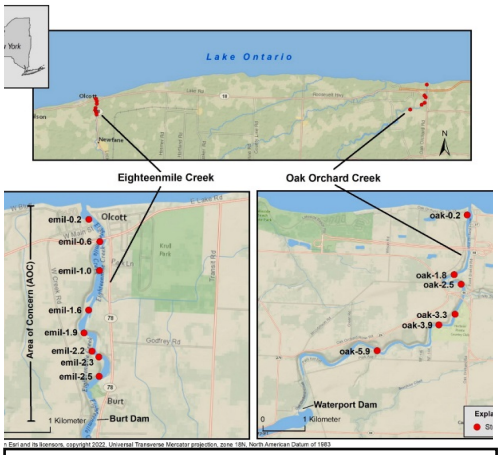


Figure 1. Map of sample locations

Community Condition:

Macroinvertebrate community condition is an important metric in determining stream health. One of the main ways NYS DEC and other organizations determine community health is through a Biological Assessment Profile (BAP) score. The BAP score takes ten different metrics and averages them into a health score. In general, a higher score is caused by a diverse macroinvertebrate community which is an indicator of good water and sediment quality. Eighteenmile Creek macroinvertebrate communities ranked in the middle tiers of slightly to moderately impacted. It's important to also notice the reference sites sampled at the same time that had similar community rankings. Sometimes BAP scores aren't just an indicator of pollution, but also may be impacted by other stressors such as poor habitat or seasonal eutrophication of the watershed. Even though these scores don't satisfy the AOCs first benthos BUI removal criteria mentioned later in this report card, it does satisfy our second criteria showing it's similar to a reference site.

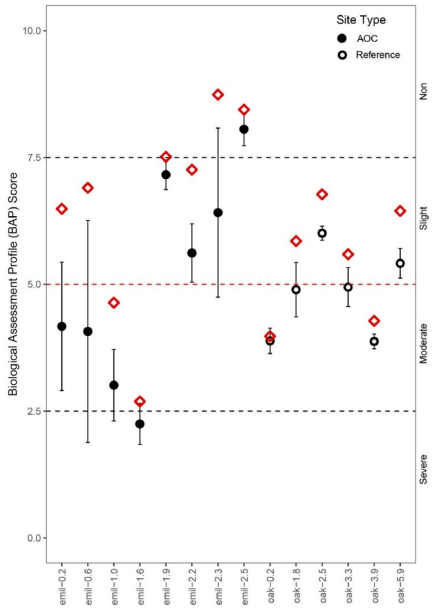


Figure 2. BAP scores for each site

Sediment Toxicity:

Toxicity testing in a nut shell is taking sediment from a stream and introducing known organisms (*Chironomus dilutus* and *Hyalella azteca*) to the sediments in a controlled environment to determine survivability and growth of the organisms while being exposed to the sediment. Survivability and growth of each organism showed Eighteenmile Creek sediments are similar or superior when compared to the reference sites at Oak Orchard Creek. Surprisingly, a few sites at Oak Orchard Creek saw no survival and limited growth of a test organism. While three sites ranked poorly, other reference sites had relatively normal results compared to historical samples from similar areas in the creek.

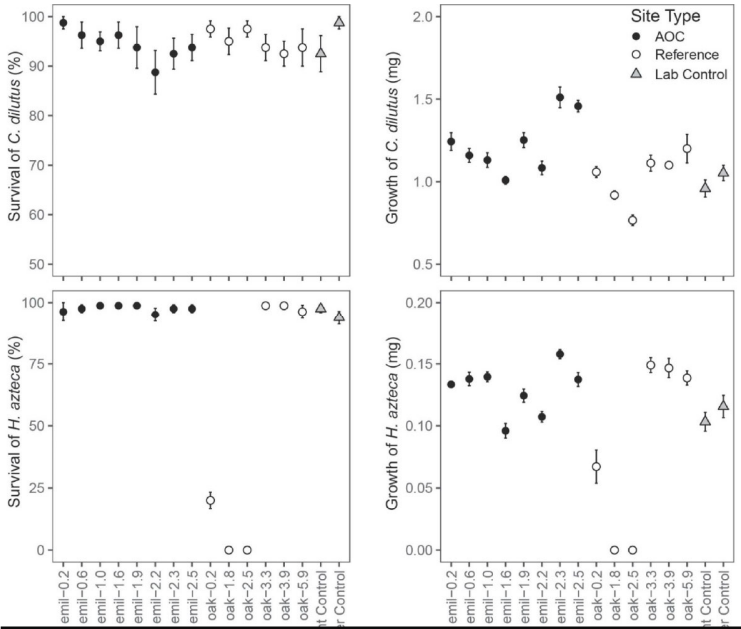


Figure 3. Toxicity test results for each site showing growth and survivability

What's next?:

Comparing these results to the current BUI removal criteria shows while we don't meet the first criteria (BAP scores ranking only in Nonimpacted or Slightly impacted), this study does support removal of the second and third criteria. The results of this study will be presented to the Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC) for the AOC to determine if removal of the Degradation of Benthos BUI is appropriate. If the RAC agrees, a BUI removal report will be created highlighting all relevant studies of the benthic macroinvertebrate community. A public outreach event will be held to receive any additional feedback from the local community prior to removal which may occur in 2025.

Study Reference below and can be accessed using the URL or QR code:
S.D. George, B.P. Baldigo, S.M. Collins, D.B. Clarke B.T. Duffy. 2023. Comprehensive assessment of macroinvertebrate community condition and sediment toxicity in the Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern, New York, 2021. J. Great Lakes Research. In press.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2023.08.004

Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations BUI Removal Update

Removal of this BUI was partially delayed until a final report was complete for the benthic macroinvertebrate study. Niagara County SWCD and NYS DEC are drafting a removal report that will be ready for public view in 2024. In general, the final report highlights recent studies performed on Eighteenmile Creek that prove removal criteria are met. A public outreach event highlighting supporting studies can be expected in summer or fall 2024. Follow the Eighteenmile Creek AOC Facebook page for updates.

Below: Bowfin caught during a 2019 fish community assessment.

Where are we at with the BUIs?

It's easiest to discuss these as their own separate topics.

BUI 1.	Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption
Removal Criteria:	**There are no AOC-specific fish and wildlife consumption advisories issued by New York State**
Discussion:	**In recent years migratory fish such as trout and salmon had their advisories to allow one meal per month. This is an improvement, but resident fish above and below Burt Dam continue to have elevated levels of PCBs. An AOC consumption advisory is expected to remain in place until remedial work is complete and there has been a declining trend of contaminant levels in fish. Knowing Superfund remedial work will take years to complete, this BUI is unlikely to be removed in the near future.**

BUI 3.	Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations
Removal Criteria:	**Fish community metrics (e.g., diversity, abundance, biomass, and condition) are similar to reference site(s); AND** **Benthic macroinvertebrate community composition is within the range expected and similar to reference site condition; AND** **PCB concentrations in fish tissue and other prey are below thresholds likely to result in acute toxicity to fish or piscivorous wildlife (birds and mammals).**
Discussion:	**The first part of this removal criteria was addressed in the fish community study by USGS in 2019. In general, there are no major differences in fish communities between Eighteenmile Creek and Oak Orchard Creek. Since the communities are similar, this part of the criteria is considered to be met.** **Benthic macroinvertebrate communities were addressed in reports from 2013, 2017 and 2023. Minor differences in macroinvertebrate communities were found between Eighteenmile Creek and Oak Orchard Creek. Results of recent studies have found benthic communities are at a minimum similar to reference site, supporting BUI removal.** **The third part of this criteria was addressed with the mink study from SUNY Brockport. SUNY Brockport modeled acute (lethal) toxicity to mink and determined no impairment.** **The RAC approved removal of this BUI, pending results of the USGS study that were released this year. With no impairment being found, a BUI removal report will be released in 2024. In addition, a public outreach event will also occur in 2024 to receive any public comments.**

BUI 5.	Bird or Animal Deformities/Reproductive Problems
Removal Criteria:	**PCB concentrations in fish tissue from comparable functional feeding groups are similar to reference site(s); OR** **PCB concentrations in fish and other prey are below tissue concentrations known to cause deformities or reproductive impairment in piscivorous wildlife.**
Discussion:	**It's well known that fish in the AOC have elevated levels of PCBs. Therefore, the first part of the BUI will not likely be met until after remediation is complete (see BUI 1 Discussion). The second criteria for deformities or reproductive impairment is also impaired based on the SUNY Brockport mink study.**

BUI 6.	Degradation of Benthos
Removal Criteria:	**Benthic macroinvertebrate communities are "non-impacted" or "slightly impacted" according to NYSDEC indices; OR** **Benthic macroinvertebrate community condition is similar to unimpacted control sites of comparable physical and chemical characteristics; AND** **Toxicity of sediment-associated contaminants is similar to unimpacted control sites of comparable physical and chemical characteristics.**
Discussion:	**The first criteria uses DEC guidelines as a measuring stick, which is a good starting point for assessment. Previous studies have shown that benthic macroinvertebrate at both Eighteenmile Creek and a suitable reference site are slightly to moderately impacted using DEC indices, requiring use of the second and third criteria for a chance at removal.** **Analysis of benthic macroinvertebrate community structure and sediment toxicity are generally similar between Eighteenmile and Oak Orchard Creek. As discussed earlier in this report card, this BUI will undergo review from the Remedial Advisory Committee and other technical experts to determine if BUI removal is appropriate. If removal is appropriate, a removal report will be written and presented at public outreach event.**

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN (AOC) ?

Local, state and federal officials identified a section of Eighteenmile Creek as one of 42 "Areas of Concern" (AOC) in the Great Lakes Basin. Eighteenmile Creek received this designation because of poor water quality and contaminated sediments present throughout the watershed. Eighteenmile Creek's long history of use by major industries in the area, especially near the City of Lockport and Town of Newfane, has played a large role in the present condition of the creek.

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) ?

A RAP is an integrated, whole ecosystem approach to remediating impaired water bodies. The RAP first identifies use impairments, their causes, and contaminant sources, using existing studies and data. Next, existing cleanup and regulatory programs which apply to the water body are identified. A coordinated cleanup strategy is then developed to eliminate the use impairments. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation produced the Stage 1/2 RAP in 1997 in an effort to restore the integrity of the creek's ecosystem. An update to the RAP was written in 2011 by Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District.

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) ?

The Eighteenmile Creek RAC is comprised of a group of local, state and federal stakeholders, representing industries, organizations and local communities with a vested interest in the health of Eighteenmile Creek. The RAC is responsible for implementing the RAP, monitoring restoration efforts, and assessing ongoing needs and conditions. After a brief hiatus, the RAC reconvened in 2005 and is currently making progress in moving the RAP forward.

If you have a vested interest in Eighteenmile Creek and want to help advance the RAP, contact our office and we would be happy to speak with you!

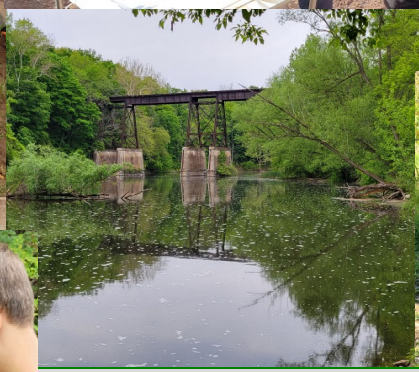
GREEN Outreach and Clean Sweep

Through the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) we've teamed up with our local General Motors plant in Lockport to explore the Eighteenmile Creek watershed. The program allows students from Lockport, Newfane, and Niagara BOCES to visit streams within the Eighteenmile Creek watershed and county to investigate water quality issues. Throughout the school year classes discuss solutions to the issues found on their fall field trips. The classes will implement a watershed improvement project in spring 2024. Recent projects completed this year include expanding a pollinator habitat and installing an invasive/nuisance species disposal bin in the Olcott Harbor. Be sure to look at these projects when visiting the area.

Our 2023 Clean Sweep event was successful thanks to Cub Scout and Boy Scout Pack #4. The team of 9 volunteers collected over 150 pounds of garbage at Fisherman's Park!








FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact:

Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District
U.S.D.A. Service Center
4487 Lake Avenue
Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4
Website: www.eighteenmilerap.com

Annual Fish Stocking & Grass Carp Sale

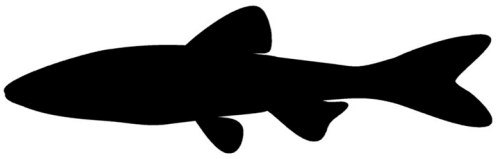
Order Deadline: April 29, 2024

TENTATIVE Pickup Date: third/fourth week of May - Fish Pick-Up will be in the morning hours a day in May, once pick-up dates are set, we will email/call

General Information: Stocking rates usually are 50-100 bass and a minimum of 1000 minnows/shiners per acre. Do not skimp on stocking minnows, as game fish cannot grow without an adequate supply of natural food. If your pond is relatively new, be sure there is vegetation for reproductive habitat and aquatic life for a food chain. Recommended time to establish a pond with minnows before stocking other game fish is one year.

You must obtain a stocking permit from the DEC prior to pickup for fish other than carp. For **Carp you **MUST** obtain a Triploid Grass Carp permit from the NYS DEC before submitting your order because the issued permit tells you how many carp you are allowed. Stock TG Carp in ponds which have been properly protected so they are unable to escape through inlets and outlets into other NYS waters. Applications are available in our office or on our website, www.niagaraswcd.com.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the the Niagara County Fairgrounds, 4487 Lake Ave in Lockport. You will need to bring a container **with a lid 1/2 filled with pond water.** These fish are highly perishable and must be transported as quickly as possible.



2024 Fish Stocking & Grass Carp Sale

Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	$ Amount
Perch 3-4”	20/$70		
Bass 4-5"	20/$86		
Catfish 4-5"	15/$35		
Sunfish 2-4”	25/$77		
Golden Shiners 2-3”	50/$31		
Fathead Minnows 1”+	100/$22		
Fathead Minnows 1”+	1000/$171		
*Grass Carp 12-14”	1/$25*		
*(*NYS sales tax included as required)*		**Total Due**	

Name: _____

Address: _____

City:_____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

All orders must be prepaid by cash or check payable to Niagara County SWCD .

Drop off /Mail to: Niagara County SWCD

4487 Lake Ave, Lockport NY 14094

***ALL 3 Original DEC Grass Carp Permits must accompany order**

Types of Fish Available

Perch - The true perch of New York State include some of the best tasting and most popular freshwater fishes. As a family, they are widely distributed, adaptable to a wide range of habitats, and fun to catch on rod and reel. In addition, the less known members of the perch family, the darters, are probably the most colorful freshwater fish in North America. True perch are spiny-rayed fish which have one or more sharp spines on their fins. While they are quite variable in appearance, they all are slender in body shape, have two dorsal (back) fins, and one anal fin. True perch can be separated into two groups: larger perches and smaller perches.

Largemouth Bass - Found throughout NYS, they are considered one of the state’s most important sport fish. These members of the Sunfish Family (Centrarchidae) prefer weedy, rocky areas to provide both protection and food supply. Usually weighing 3-5 lbs, they can get over 10 lbs and 2 feet in length. They are carnivorous; which means they’ll eat small fish, crayfish, frogs, snakes, and some small mammals and birds if given the opportunity.

Channel Catfish - Catfish are characterized by scaleless skin and barbels, better known as whiskers, about their mouth. Channel catfish have a deeply forked tail and dark spots. The spotting, however, diminishes with age. Consequently, older channel cats are frequently mistaken as blue catfish. But the anal fin on blue cats has a flat outer edge and channels have a rounded edge. They can grow to be 4ft long and weigh up to 58lbs.

Sunfish - Sunfish include pumpkinseed and bluegill. They are small to medium-sized fish with a single anal fin (bottom rear) and a two-part dorsal fin (back). They are spiny-rayed, with one or more sharp spines found on their dorsal, pelvic (bottom front) and anal fins. These spines help protect them from being eaten by large fish and can prick the fingers of any angler who is not careful when removing the hook. Sunfish are green to brown on their backs and upper sides shading into brown, orange, or pink with traces of vertical bars along their bottom sides. The breast is yellow to copper-orange, and the sides of their heads have metallic blue and green overtones. The large, square-shaped, blue-black gill flap and conspicuous dark blotch on the back of the soft-rayed portion of their dorsal fins distinguishes bluegills from their close relatives, the pumpkinseed. Both fish average four to ten inches in length.

Golden Shiners - The golden shiner can be found throughout most of the US. These fish can be found in large schools around submerged structures where they primarily feed on zooplankton. The golden shiner spawns several times throughout summer while the water temps are 68-81 degrees. Spawning can be aided with the use of structures such as sunken evergreens or stacked pallets. The abundant reproduction of this fish makes it an excellent choice for stocking where predatory species are present. These fish are larger than fathead minnows (up to 6 inches in length) and are preferred by large predators.

Fathead Minnows - Fathead minnows are small and seldom exceed 3 inches in length. They are sturdy, heavy-bodied fish with small mouths and a lateral line that stops under the dorsal fin. They are generally dull in color, with dark bodies and a slight brass tint on the sides. They prefer ponds and slow moving water in streams. Fatheads spawn every 21 days, attaching their eggs to the under-side of hard surfaces in the water, such as rocks, boards and PVC pipe, in warm waters of 65-85 degrees from April to September.

Triploid Grass Carp -The grass carp (Ctenopharyngodin idella) is one of the largest members of the minnow family, commonly reaching weights in excess of 25 lbs. They can live up to 10 years. Native to Asia, this carp lacks the barbells and spiny dorsal and anal fin rays characteristic of its North American relatives, bearing a closer resemblance to a large creek chub. It is called “triploid” since it has been bred to retain an extra chromosome, rendering it sterile. Grass carp feed strictly by grazing on aquatic vegetation and are effectively used as aquatic plant control agents in over 50 countries. **Must have a NYS DEC Permit to purchase.**

Wetlands, Highly Erodible Land, & Conservation

Wetlands and Highly Erodible Land (HEL) may be terms you come across if you are building, clearing, or farming on a piece of land. Wetlands are determined by both the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and US Army Corps of Engineers. Wetlands are areas saturated by surface or ground water sufficient to support distinctive vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands serve as natural habitat for many species of plants and animals and absorb the forces of flood erosion to prevent the loss of soil. Examples are swamps and marshes.

HEL is determined by USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). HEL is agricultural land highly susceptible to loss by wind and water erosion. HEL is a factor in conservation plans and farming. If you are looking to farm a piece of land and be part of USDA programs, it is a good idea to check to see if the land has an AD-1026. There are proven conservation practices available to reduce the rate of erosion.

Hearing both wetland and HEL tends to lead to a lot of questions. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming trainings or call our office or the NRCS office with any questions. NCSWCD does NOT determine wetlands but we do have property maps of state and federal wetlands.

USFS Grant Helps to Replace Trees in Niagara County

2023 was the second year in our tree planting grant. We continued to work with the Cities of Lockport and Niagara Falls as well as Niagara County Parks to plant an additional 135 trees. Many of these trees can be found in parks, near city streets and easily identified with stakes for support or a watering bag when there isn't a lot of rain. These trees are planted in an effort to increase diversity across the county after seen devastating effects caused by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Next year we'll look to plant an additional 90 trees that include species like Honey Locust, Cockspur Hawthorne and Serviceberry. There will be additional plantings at each site to replace trees that might not have survived being transplanted in previous years. Funds for this project are provided by a grant from the United States Forest Service through the Great Lake Restoration Initiative.

2023 Tree Planting Summary	
Species Planted	**Location**
American Hornbeam	Lockport, Niagara Falls, Krull Park
Eastern Redbud	
Hackberry	
Black Tupelo	Krull Park
Red Maple	Oppenheim Park
Swamp White Oak	
Tulip Tree	
London Plane Tree	

Japanese Knotweed Treatment In 2023

Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District has continued to work on eradicating Japanese Knotweed for the last several years. The District has utilized our summer treatment and the WNY PRISM Assistance Program crews (pictures left) to locate new and existing patches, educate property owners about Japanese knotweed and to treat knotweed throughout the county. The Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species management have assisted with the Japanese knotweed eradication for several years. Visit their website at www.wnyprism.org for more information on their organization. Treatment at various locations consists of cuttings, stem injection of herbicide, foliar spray of herbicide or a combination of treatment methods. The District's Japanese knotweed crew was able to conduct treatments on over 450 sites across Niagara County, treated well over 69 acres of knotweed patches on public and private land, 30 sites eradicated completely, 77 sites with less than 25 plants left, and 19 new sites treated.

Japanese knotweed is an invasive perennial plant that is a member of the buckwheat family, and is believed to have been first introduced to the United States in the late 1800's. Since its introduction, knotweed has become a very resilient invader of backyards, streambanks, forests, drainage ditches and roadways across the country. Knotweed can grow to over 10 feet tall and has reddish-brown stalks that are hollow, similar to bamboo. The leaves of the knotweed plant are green, and heart shaped with a triangular tip. In late summer the plant produces cascading white clusters of flowers. Knotweed is easily transferred from location to location through its vast underground root system, seed dispersal, or through small pieces of root or stems that are transported with dirt/brush piles from property to property or small fragments of knotweed can wash down stream creating new patches along waterways. Once knotweed establishes in an area, it grows extremely aggressively outcompeting and eliminating native vegetation and creating damaged ecosystems. The loss of native trees and shrubs causes negative impacts for insects, birds, and mammal populations, all of whom depend on native plants for food, shelter, and safe travel corridors. Knotweed affects our local environment in several other ways including, reducing the amount of plant and animal diversity, destabilizing stream banks and shorelines, decreasing overall water quality and lowering the levels of soil nutrients found in local soils.

If you believe you may have Japanese knotweed on your property and you would like us to come out and take a look or discuss possible treatment options, contact our office at 716-434-4949.

Planting Equipment Available for Rental

Interseeder rental is available for farmers to plant cover crops between corn rows. Planting can occur between v3 and v7 stage, and won't impact the corn being grown. First use of the interseeder is free, subsequent uses will cost $5/acre.

No-Till Drill rental is available for your next conservation seeding project. We provide the drill, delivery and cleaning, customer proves the seed. Cost is $15/acre plus $50 delivery in the County.

Contact the office if you are interested.

"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased; and not impaired in value."

Theodore Roosevelt

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS & TRAININGS

NYS Erosion, Sediment Control & Stormwater Training
4-Hour Course

January 23, 2024
February 27, 2024
June 7, 2024

Trainings start at 9:00am
4487 Lake Avenue
Lockport, NY 14094

For More Information & Registration Forms
www.niagaraswcd.com
716-434-4949 ext 4

*****TEACHERS*****
&
*****STUDENTS*****

Are you interested in the environment? Then you may be interested in these programs!

3rd– 5th Graders
Environmental Field Days

High School Students
Envirothon

If your grade is not above please reach out if you have an event you think we could help you with!

If you have any questions or are interested in these events please call the office or contact Katie at
katherine.pfeifer@ny.nacdnet.net

Niagara County Soil & Water
Conservation District
4487 Lake Avenue
Lockport, New York 14094
Phone: (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4
www.niagaraswcd.com

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