



Niagara Nature News
 An Environmental Publication by Niagara County Soil
 & Water Conservation District
WINTER 2015 - ENEWS

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PROGRESS WITH EIGHTEENMILE CREEK

Since being listed under the National Priorities List (NPL) in March of 2012 progress has been slowly picking up speed, and 2014 has been a year of advancement towards the cleanup of Eighteenmile Creek. This past summer, EPA contractors completed the demolition of the old Liberty Building on 89 Mill Street. With the equipment and contractors already in place, EPA began the demolition of the former Flintkote building. The Flintkote building and its surrounding property are likely the source of the major contamination to Eighteenmile Creek. Demolition will continue and be finished in the spring, where the next steps will be to sample the soil beneath the basement of the once inaccessible building. Actual cleanup and remediation of the contaminated soils on the site will follow when all different options are thoroughly investigated.



The changing of the seasons has also brought progress to another part of Eighteenmile Creek, Olcott Harbor in the Town of Newfane. The town has embarked on a harbor dredging project to increase the navigability of the western part of the harbor, near West Main Street. The town



was hoping to “piggyback” on to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredging project between the navigational channels, but this scope of work was too small for the contractor selected. Without using the USACE contractor, the Town of Newfane has hired Wendel Companies to assist them with their project. In preparation for the dredging, the town has dug a large pit near East Lake Road and West Washington Street. The dredged soil will be placed in this pit, allowing the water to slowly drain over winter before being covered back up with clean fill from the site.

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Niagara County Soil & Water
 Conservation District & Eighteenmile
 Creek, Great Lakes Area of Concern
 are now on Facebook!

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Check out our new Spring fish program on page 7! We are offering larger fish & grass carp to help ensure their survival in your pond! We also added three new species of fish to our program, Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout and Bluegills.



FYI...

The District has a **No-Till drill** available for your next conservation seeding project.

\$50 delivery charge and \$15/acre rental fee

We provide drill delivery and cleaning. Customer provides own seed.



(716) 434-4949

Don't forget to pre-order your trees and shrubs early before they sell out! Our order form is located on pages 3 and 4, with the tree and shrub descriptions on page 11 and 12. Extra order forms are available in our office or on our website.



LETS CELEBRATE CONSERVATION!

**Earth Day April 22 ** Arbor Day April 24
Stewardship Week April 26 - May 3 ** Pollinator Week June 15-21**
November 3, 1954 was a big day...

That was the day your county legislature voted to establish the Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District! We have been proudly serving for 60 years, ever-evolving in our mission to promote conservation and wise use of our natural resources. But we are not alone in our efforts. Many other interconnected groups are also out there doing their part to assist the world in which we live! The National Association of Conservation Districts began a week-long program in 1955 to encourage citizens to focus on stewardship, defined by E. William Anderson as "the individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with regard to the rights of others ...essentially a synonym for conservation." Stewardship Week's concept involves personal and social responsibility, with a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them, leaving a rich legacy for future generations.

The idea for Arbor Day started way back in April of 1872 when J. Sterling Morton convinced his fellow Nebraskans to plant nearly one million trees to aid in soil erosion and air quality. And one hundred years later, being disgusted with the growing amount of land, air and water pollution, Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin, along with activist friend Denis Hayes, started the "teach-in" rallies that led to our first Earth Day on April 22, 1970; and the birth of the slogan "Every Day is Earth Day", a catchy reminder that taking care of the environment should be a daily event. So in anticipation of Spring, think about how you can celebrate conservation. Plant some seedlings, clean up the banks of a stream, recycle your cans and bottles, remove trash from the roadside ditches, and check out the pollinator website for suggestions of pollinator friendly plants to add to your garden. Remember, all of nature is connected!

For more information on Earth Day, Arbor Day, Stewardship Week, and Pollinator Week visit our website, www.niagaraswcd.com or call our office at 716-434-4949 Ext. 4.

NIAGARA COUNTY RECEIVES \$25,000 FOR SOIL HEALTH

Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District received \$25,000 of funding through the NYS Ecosystem-Based management Soil Health Mini-Grants for the Great Lakes and Mohawk River Watersheds. Niagara County was one of thirteen Soil and Water Conservations Districts to receive funding as part of this \$295,000 project.

This funding will be used to help improve organic matter and overall soil health on 90 acres of crop land within the Eighteenmile Creek Watershed. Fields will be no-till planted to winter wheat, then no-till planted to a cover crop during the winter months. The cover crops will be killed in the spring and the field will then be no-till planted to corn silage and short duration soybeans. After the crop is harvested the field will again

be no-till planted to a cover crop. Cornell Soil Health Package testing will be done before the planting begins (January 2015) and after the planting (Winter 2016) to compare increases in organic matter and overall soil health. The results from these tests will be used to encourage other farmers to adopt Soil Health practices.

If you have any questions on Soil Health or the Districts Agriculture Environmental Management (AEM) Program contact Mike Clifford at our office, 716-434-4949 Ext. 4.



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 AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2015 SEEDLING ORDER FORM

EVERGREENS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	25 For	50 For	100 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cedar, White (2)	8-14"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$55.00		
Fir, Concolor (2)	12-18"	\$19.00	\$36.00	\$61.00		
Fir, Douglas(2)	10-18"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Fir, Frasier (3)	—	\$18.00	\$34.00	\$58.00		
Pine, Austrian (2)	7-10"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Pine, Scotch (2)	10-18"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Pine, White (3)	10-14"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$55.00		
Spruce, Blue (2)	9-15"	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$48.00		
Spruce, Norway (2)	10-18"	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$48.00		
Spruce, White (2)	10-18"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Fir, Balsam (3+2=5 yrs)	7-10"	\$19.00	These five items are transplants- order in tens only	
Fir, Fraser (3+2=5yrs)	—	\$19.00		
Pine, White (2+2=4 yrs)	12-18"	\$17.00		
Spruce, Blue (2+2=4 yrs)	14-20"	\$18.00		
Spruce, Norway (2+1=3 yrs)	14-18"	\$16.00		

DECIDUOUS TREES Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Birch, Native (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Cherry, Black (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Filbert, American (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Honeylocust, Thornless (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Maple, Red (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Maple, Sugar (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Oak, Red (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Oak, White (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Redbud, Eastern (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Sycamore (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Walnut, Black (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		

Chestnut, American (1)	10"	5 seedlings for \$14.00			
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THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY REMINDER UNLESS AN EMAIL IS PROVIDED W/ YOUR ORDER!!

PICK-UP INFORMATION

Tree Seedling Distribution : Friday, April 24, 2015 9:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday, April 25, 2015 9:00am to 12:00pm

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

For Information Call #434-4949 Ext. 4

Extra Trees: Unsold seedlings will be available on a cash basis on the above pickup dates.

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Buttonbush (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Butterfly Bush (1)	12-18" RC	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Chokeberry, Black (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Cranberry, American (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Dogwood, Redosier (1)	14-20"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Elderberry (1)	12-18"RC	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Lilac (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Rose of Sharon (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Serviceberry (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Witchhazel (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		

GROUNDCOVERS		**Price**	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Myrtle	50 Rooted Cuttings	\$24.00		
Pachysandra	50 Rooted Cuttings	\$24.00		

OTHER ITEMS		**Price**	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Countryside Wildflower Seed - Large 4oz bag (covers 2500 sq ft)		\$14.00		
- Small 3/4oz bag (covers 450 sq ft)		\$8.00		
Conservation Grasses - Deer Plot Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 3/4 ac)		\$88.00		
- Deer Plot Mix Small 10lbs bag (covers 1/3 ac)		\$55.00		
- Tall Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 1 ac)		\$51.00		
Fertilizer Tablets - 25 Count (20-10-5 pellets)		\$3.50		
Marking Flags - 100 Count (30" wire staff)		\$11.00		
Bat Roost - Bachelor		\$15.50		
Bat Roost - Maternity		\$27.00		
Bluebird House		\$15.50		
Wood Duck Box		\$35.00		

****NYS Sales Tax of 8% already included****

Total Order \$

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ (to receive electronic newsletter)

Full payment must accompany your order - Payable to:
Niagara County SWCD, 4487 Lake Ave, Lockport NY 14094
For additional information call#434-4949 Ext. 4

Order# (Office Use Only)

*****LAST DAY TO ORDER IS FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015*****

If ordering after March 1, please call for availability first as stock may be sold out.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

NO OTHER NOTICE WILL BE SENT, UNLESS AN EMAIL IS PROVIDED W/ YOUR ORDER.

AN EMAIL REMINDER WILL BE SENT ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE PICK UP DATES.

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, White (*Thuja occidentalis*)

Pyramidal. 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 (*Pseudotsuga 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, Scotch (*Pinus sylvestris*)

Grows to 60' in wide range of soils, except poorly drained. Short blue-green needles grow in pairs. Bark becomes orange-brown with age. Well shaped, hardy pine with good needle retention. Great Christmas tree.

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 starter, 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 gleuca*)

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, Native (*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.

Cherry, Black (*Prunus serotina*)

Fast growth to 60' in various soil types. White flower clusters in May produce edible black fruits. Native tree used for furniture, firewood, jam, wine, wildlife food source. Easily identified by its thick burnt "cornflake" bark and when a young twig is scratched it has an almond-like scent.

Filbert, American (*Corylus americana*)

Also known as *Hazelnut* this large, multi-stemmed native prefers rich, well-drained soils 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.

Honeylocust, Thornless (*Gleditsia triacanthos v.inermis*)

This native to eastern N.Am. has fast growth rate to 60-100'. Adaptable to any soils but does best in moist, neutral pH. Its bright green leaves in late spring turn yellow in fall. Scented cream-colored flowers in clusters also appear late spring, with 7" flat legume pods maturing in autumn. Tolerates urban pollution, road salt, heat, drought, poor site conditions and is resistant to gypsy moth. It produces high quality wood used for posts and rails. Used in parks for its light shade quality.

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*)

The State Tree of New York, this outstanding native grows to heights of 100'. Does best on well-drained soils. Dark green leaves turn brilliant yellow to fiery orange-red in fall. Used for maple syrup, lumber, firewood, wildlife habitat, or as an ornamental.

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. 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. Prefers full sun and acidic soil. Its small 1" acorns are popular with wildlife.

Redbud, Eastern (*Cercis Canadensis*)

Upright, deciduous native with a short main trunk. Purplish pink pea-like flowers bloom in spring, appearing on the branches before wide, green, heart-shaped leaves. Growth to 30' in full sun to light shade. Adaptable to various soils except extremely wet. Flowers and seeds are favorite of honey bees, cardinals, bobwhites, rose-breasted grosbeaks, pheasants, deer, and squirrels.

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

This native tree is fast growing to 75'+ and has a massive trunk with coarse, mottled bark. It prefers moist soils and full sun. Deep red flowers in late March are followed by tan fuzzy-looking rounded fruit and yellow-brown autumn foliage. Good urban tree. Can be used on difficult sites.

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.

American Chestnut

The American Chestnuts were one of the most plentiful, versatile and valuable forest trees in the eastern United States. A rapidly growing hardwood, it was an important component of forestland that covered millions of acres. The American Chestnut was a tall, straight tree growing to 100'. Its beautiful wood was widely used for railroad ties, fence posts, construction lumber and furniture. It was also very important for wildlife, providing a prolific amount of nuts for white-tailed deer, wild turkey and black bears.

In 1904, an Asian bark fungus was noticed on Chestnut trees in the Bronx Zoo, and by 1950 it is estimated that over 3.5 billion trees were killed, virtually eliminating most natural stands. Virgin stands can still be found in Oregon, Michigan, Tennessee, and Georgia. There is something about these areas that has allowed the American Chestnut to endure the blight, possibly due to dry conditions along the rocky ridges. The fungus that causes the blight thrives in a moist environment. Several organizations are attempting to re-establish American Chestnuts in different parts of the eastern U.S. They are developing disease-resistant trees using seeds from the few groves still in existence.

American Chestnuts do best on porous soils of moderate depth and fertility, such as rocky hillsides and gravelly or sandy soils. Plant all seedlings less than 100 yards from each other where their roots will not be disturbed. Rapid growers, they produce nuts within 7-10 years.

****DECIDUOUS SHRUBS****

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

Small 6-12' low maintenance native bush that bears attractive summer foliage. Creamy white, fragrant, pincushion-like flowers appearing in late summer attracts bees and butterflies. Showy spherical fruits last throughout winter. Plant in full sun to part shade. Tolerates moist, wet, humus soils. Great for erosion control locations and rain gardens.

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)

Multistemmed with fragrant 4-10" flowers summer thru fall. Grows very quickly in all types of soil to 8'. Needs heavy pruning each spring to keep under control. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Chokeberry, Black (*Aronia melanocarpa*)

A 3-5' shrub, very adaptable to many conditions and wide range of dry to wet soils. It has a high tolerance to drought, salt, pollution and insects. Shiny dark green leaves turn orange to burgundy color in Autumn. Clusters of pinkish-white flowers in May and pendulous black pome fruits from September to December. Easily established in full sun for the best flowering and fall color. Fruits eaten by birds throughout the winter.

Cranberry, American (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Fast growing to 8-12' this native prefers well-drained to moist soils. White flower clusters in May. Yellow to red fall color. Edible red fruits that resemble cranberries, present summer thru winter, are sour, rich in vitamin C and can be enjoyed by both humans and wildlife.

Dogwood, Red Osier (*Cornus sericea*, syn. *C stolonifera*)

Dense, fast growing 7-9ft native also known as "red twig" for its dark red bark. This native does well in damp soil conditions and is frequently used for bank erosion control as its root system provides excellent soil retention. Hardy and attractive, it produces white flowers and white berries, with purplish red fall color. Very showy in winter boasting brilliant red stems.

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 good native wetland plant. Great food source for wildlife.

Lilac (*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'.

Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)

Also known as Althea. Grows in various soils to 12'. Small green leaves with rose-type flowers July to September. pH adaptable. Upright growth allows for hedging along buildings or as stand-alone ornamental.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

This native 6-20' suckering, multi-stemmed shrub thrives on moist, well-drained, acidic soils and tolerates a wide pH range. White flowers in spring produce dark purplish fruits in June, giving it the nickname "Juneberry". This shrub is enjoyed by many types of birds. Prune regularly for best fruit production.

Witchhazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*)

Medium-sized, 6-10' multi-stemmed native that can adapt to various sites, but prefers moist, rich soils in full sun. Very fragrant, unique yellow and red thin ribbon-like petals bloom in bunches from late winter to early spring. Golden yellow foliage in fall. Fruit is a non-showy woody capsule which splits open in fall to release its seeds, which many birds will flock to feast on, including ruffed grouse and turkey. Twigs historically used as "divining rods" to locate groundwater. Also used for medicinal purposes.

****GROUNDCOVERS****

Myrtle (*Vinca minor*)

Also known as Periwinkle. Has shiny green leaves and lilac-blue flowers in spring. This 3-6" high, ground hugging plant grows well in areas where grass won't. Likes well-drained soil. Does best in full to partial shade.

Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)

A carpeting plant that has an interesting leaf pattern and inconspicuous white spike flowers. Grows 6-12" high in well-drained soil. Excellent for heavy shade.

****OTHER ITEMS****

Countryside Wildflowers

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 to handle, convenient. Planting instructions included.

PICKUP INFORMATION

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. We do not have the space to keep the order past the pickup dates.

Pickup Days: Friday, April 24, 2015 9:00am to 4:00pm
Saturday, April 25, 2015 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Merchant Building – Niagara County Fairgrounds
4487 Lake Ave (RT 31), Lockport

Extra Trees:

Unsold seedlings will be available on a cash and carry basis on the above pickup dates. We will not know until our prepaid orders are packed what the selection will be, so please come and browse!

Be advised:

Prepaid orders get a discounted price than those sold during pickup days.
Don't pay more for it later...order now!

For information: Call us Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm at #434-4949 Ext. 4

**Happy
Holidays!**

**The USDA Service Center would like to wish all
of our customers a very Merry
Christmas and Happy Holidays!!!**

Spring 2015 Pond Stocking

Order Deadline: May 8, 2015

Pickup Date: May 15, 2015 10:00am SHARP

General Information: Stocking rates usually are 50-100 bass and 500-600 minnows per surface acre. 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 before stocking is one year. You **MUST** obtain a stocking permit from the DEC prior to pickup. 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 northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. At the time of pickup, you will need to bring a container **WITH A LID** (an 18-gal plastic tote holds 25 fish) filled 1/2 full with pond water. Transferring the fish to your pond immediately is of utmost importance due to oxygen needs. The hatchery personnel will be available for only 1/2 hour for delivery so **PLEASE BE PROMPT!**

Spring 2015 Grass Carp Stocking

Order Deadline: May, 8 2015

Pickup Date: May 15, 2015 10:00am SHARP

General Information: The average size of the carp will be between 10-12". Stock grass carps in ponds which have been properly protected so they are unable to escape through inlets and outlets into other NYS waters. You **MUST** obtain a stocking permit from the NYS DEC before submitting your order. If you require a permit application, our office retains a supply of them or you can print a copy on our website, www.niagaraswcd.com.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. At the time of pickup, you will need to bring a container **WITH A LID** (an 18-gal plastic tote holds 4 carp) filled 1/2 full with pond water. These fish are highly perishable and must be transported as quickly as possible. For more information on Triploid Grass Carp and how they can benefit pond weed control, call (716) 434-4949 ext. 114

Payment Information: Submit payment by check or money order with the bottom portions of these forms, payable to Niagara County SWCD. Keep the top portions as your delivery reminders

Spring 2015 Pond Stocking				Spring 2015 Grass Carp Stocking	
Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount		
Perch 3" - 5"	10/\$35			Name: _____	
Bass 4" - 6"	10/\$50			Address: _____	
Catfish 4" - 6"	10/\$30			Daytime Phone: _____	
Rainbow Trout 3" - 5"	10/\$25			Number of Carp: _____	
Brook Trout 4" - 6"	10/\$30			X \$21/fish	
Bluegill 3" - 5"	10/\$30			+ Delivery \$4.00	
Fathead Minnows 1"	100/\$20			Total Due _____	
Golden Shiners 2" - 3"	50/\$26			(NYS sales tax included as required)	
Subtotal				Mail payment WITH ALL 3 ORIGINAL	
+ Delivery			\$4.00	COPIES of your DEC Permit to:	
Total Due				Niagara County SWCD	
<i>(NYS sales tax included as required)</i>				4487 Lake Avenue	
Name: _____				Lockport, NY 14094	
Address: _____					
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____					
Daytime Phone: _____					
Mail to Niagara County SWCD					
4487 Lake Ave.					
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FISH FACTS

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 - Catfishes 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 4 ft long and weigh up to 58lbs.

Rainbow Trout - Rainbow trout are often very colorful fish. They have gray-blue to greenish backs and light colored sides with dark spots. Rainbows get their name from the pink or red band often present on their sides. During spawning, this band turns a deep red. Like other trout, adult rainbows tend to be more silvery when living in large lakes like the Great Lakes. Quite variable in size, mature rainbow trout may weigh one or two pounds in streams and more than 15 pounds in the Great Lakes

Brook Trout - The brook or speckled trout is New York's official State fish. A native of the State, it is the smallest, and to many people, the most attractive trout occurring in the State. It has a dark olive green background with light wavy markings on the back, and tan or red spots on the sides. Its lower fins are striking, with bright white edging separated from the mostly red fin by a black line. Brook trout generally live in small- to moderate-sized streams, lakes, and ponds, wherever cool clean water is available. Some brook trout typically weigh one to two pounds.

Bluegill—Bluegills 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. Bluegills average four to ten inches in length.

Fathead Minnows - Fathead minnows are small in size, averaging 2 to 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. They can tolerate muddy water, and are occasionally found in roadside ditches. In addition, fathead minnows can tolerate water with salt in it.

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 spring and summer. 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 slightly larger than fathead minnows and are preferred by large predators.

Triploid Grass Carp - The grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon 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.

Agricultural Assessment Reminder

Are you a farmer, or a rural resident that rents to a farmer? Did you know that if you fit the criteria, it's possible to reduce your property taxes?

FIRST, speak with your Town Assessor about applying for an Agricultural Value Assessment. The Assessor can let you know if you are eligible and give you the necessary paperwork. Part of the required paperwork asks for a Soil Group Worksheet Form RA-100 for each parcel. Our office assists in the completion of this form. We charge \$25 per parcel.

For the District to complete this, please bring the following information from your Assessor: Copy of your most current tax map showing your property boundaries and total acreage; Your SBL/Tax ID # AND; Know if your parcel is already in an agricultural district or if you'll be listed as "individual commitment"

Remember that your Assessor needs this completed by March 1st, so please get your request to us at least one week in advance to be sure it is completed in time. Thank you for your help in making this process easier for all.

Board of Directors Changing in 2015

Sadly, two longstanding Directors will be saying farewell in January:

Barry Butski started with the District in 1989 as the Technician, left in 1994 as the Manager, and while working in the private sector took a position on the Board as a Director in 2002. **Dick Lang** is well-known to the area as a retired DEC officer, wrestling coach and town supervisor - just to name a few of his many careers. In 2008 we asked him to add Director to his list of accomplishments. Both of these men have spent countless hours promoting agriculture, conservation and District programs. Their dedication is much appreciated by the Board, Staff and county residents. They will be missed!

Two qualified individuals have been respectfully nominated to the County Legislature for appointment:

Gerald Farnham has previously served on the Board as the Legislative Representative from 1998 to 2011. He will bring to the Board his knowledge of farming, understanding of Soil and Water functions, and experience in town, county and state government.

Scott White of Gasport View Dairy has experience managing a family farm operation. As a member of the younger farming community, we look forward to his outlook and enthusiasm for our various projects.

We look forward to their approval and welcoming them to our Board in January!



BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District is looking to apply for funding to control and eradicate a highly invasive plant within the Eighteenmile Creek Watershed. Japanese knotweed resembles bamboo, and can reach 10-15 feet tall. It is adapted to a wide variety of soil types and pH levels, and can be found growing along riverbanks, wetlands, disturbed areas, roadsides, woodlands and grasslands. If you suspect you have Japanese knotweed on your property, please call our office at 716-434-4949 Ext. 4.

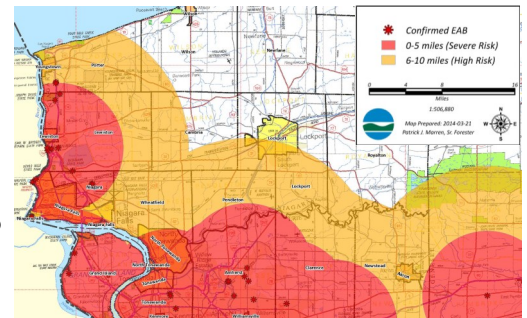


INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

What is it? - Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

What do emerald ash borers look like? - The adult beetle is dark metallic green in color, 1/2 inch-long and 1/8 inch wide.

Where is it? - EAB is currently in some parts of Niagara County and it's only a matter of time before the infestation spreads to interior sections of the county.



How do I know if my trees are susceptible to EAB? - EAB is only known to infest and kill all North American ash. Ash trees in woodlots as well as landscaped areas are being affected and trees as small as 1" in diameter have been found to be infested with EAB.

I have a woodlot that is mainly ash, what can I do? - So far there is not much that can be done on a woodlot basis. Landowners can work with professional foresters to determine ways to salvage trees for firewood or timber.

What do I do if I think my tree(s) are infested with EAB? - If you would like to preserve and protect your tree(s) you can choose to have it injected. Be sure to contact the EAB Reporting hotline 1-866-322-4512 or Niagara County Cornell Cooperative Extension 716-433-8839 Ext. 221.



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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.

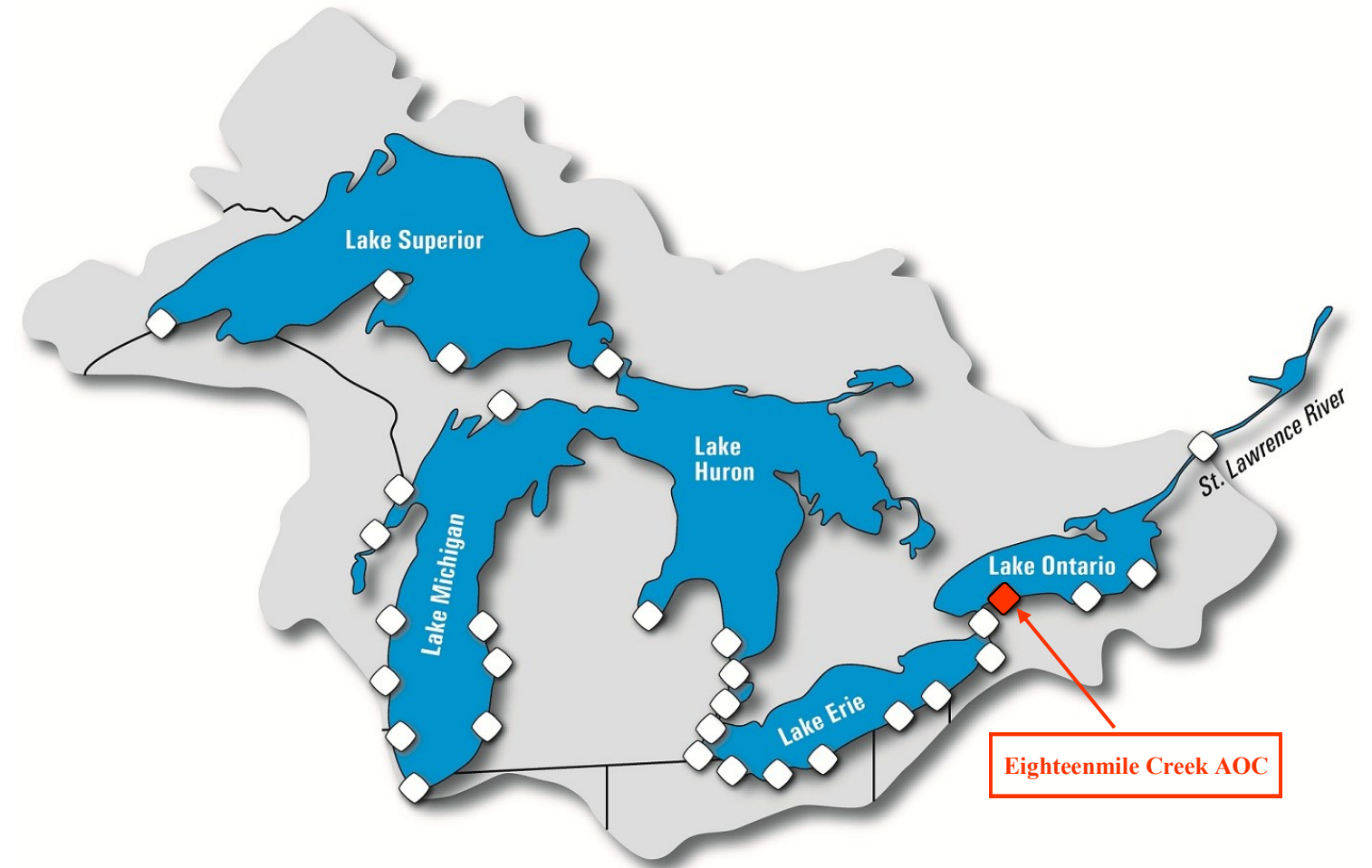
WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) ?

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.

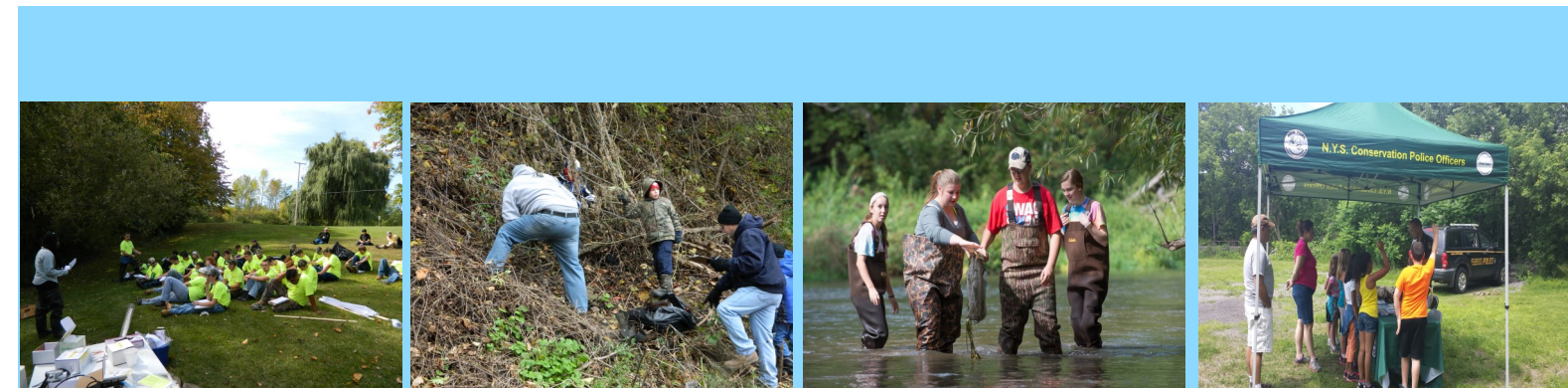
	<p>FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact: Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District U.S.D.A. Service Center 4487 Lake Avenue Lockport, NY 14094 Phone: (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4 Fax: (855) 347-7122 Website: www.eighteenmilerap.com</p>	
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EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN



2014 REPORT CARD



A COMPILATION OF SUCCESSES, IMPROVEMENTS & CURRENT CONDITIONS



REPORT CARD

The Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern (AOC) Report Card was created by the Eighteenmile Creek Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC). **The purpose of this Report Card is to give a brief overview of the health, improvements and current conditions of Eighteenmile Creek during 2014.** The Eighteenmile Creek Watershed includes – the main branch of Eighteenmile Creek, Gulf Creek Tributary, East Branch of Eighteenmile Creek (Red Creek), and augmented flow from the NYS Erie Barge Canal.

Scientific data and research that was referenced during the development of this Report Card can be found at the Area of Concern website:

WWW.EIGHTEENMILERAP.COM

This Report Card offers six “indicators” related to the management of the creek’s overall health. They are: 1) Water Quality; 2) Contamination; 3) Fish & Wildlife; 4) Public Access & Recreation; 5) Remedial Action Plan; and 6) Environmental Education & Public Involvement.

Each indicator has been further divided into several “sub-categories” to assess how specific concerns are being addressed. Each sub-category has been assigned a **letter grade** based upon past successes, current health conditions, and trends over the past few years. The last column identifies action steps or immediate concerns to be addressed in order to meet restoration targets for the Area of Concern. This Report Card will be updated annually.

BENEFICIAL USE IMPAIRMENTS

- 1) Fish & Wildlife Consumption - **Impaired** Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 2) Degradation of Benthos- **Impaired** Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 3) Dredging Restrictions - **Impaired** Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 4) Animal Reproductive Issues - **Impaired** Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 5) Fish & Wildlife Populations - **Impaired** Delisting targets → **Identified**

	CATEGORIES	GRADE	SUCSESSES & IMPROVEMENTS	CURRENT CONDITIONS	TREND	STEPS NEEDED FOR PROBLEM RESOLUTION
WATER QUALITY	Overall Water Quality	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Environmental Management Program has been deployed to document and prioritize water quality impairments. The City of Lockport has repaired a failing sewage interceptor line which has been spilling sewage into Gulf Creek for an undetermined amount of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact AOC is a Class B/C stream indicating that the primary use is contact recreation and fishing. NYSDEC monitors water quality through the Rotating Intensive Basin Study (RIBS) program and State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) program. Some pollutants (PCBs, heavy metals) are suspended in the water column and exceed water quality standards. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A citizen water quality campaign should be deployed within the watershed. Contaminated sediments within the watershed must be remediated. Failures to waste water systems in Lockport and Newfane must be identified and addressed. Unknown sources of agricultural runoff must be identified.
	Quality of Storm Water	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Lockport has been doing repairs and closing up combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that have been dumping into Eighteenmile Creek and the Barge Canal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Combined Sewer Overflows still have the potential to discharge to the creek and Barge Canal. During storm events, degraded water quality negatively impacts Olcott Beach along Lake Ontario, causing beach closures. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining Combined Sewer Overflows must be eliminated. Continue to work with various partners to determine the sources which negatively impact Olcott Beach and Lake Ontario.
CONTAMINATION	Spills, Discharges & Leaching of Contaminants	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory programs and monitoring by NYSDEC help reduce inputs to the creek. 14 of 20 inactive hazardous waste sites have been sealed or remediated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites in the watershed still have the potential to negatively impact the AOC. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to assist farms in the watershed via the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. Continue to remediate Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites and other sources of contamination.
	Contaminated Sediment	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA has purchased 5 residential properties on Water Street in Lockport that are impacted by contaminated creek sediments. The demolition of the former Flintkote Factory has begun, allowing for sampling to verify the source of contamination and to come up with a remediation plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sediments in the AOC exceed NYS standards for a variety of contaminants, including PCBs, pesticides, lead, etc. Contaminated sediments within the watershed continue to influence the overall health of the AOC. A number of historic power generation structures and oxbow lakes present in the creek act as “sinks” for contaminated sediment to accumulate. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize Federal Superfund program to address the current sediment contamination source in Lockport. Remediate all upstream sources of contamination, including the Eighteenmile Creek Superfund Site and Old Upper Mountain Road Site. Continue to identify new funding sources for post remediation monitoring within the AOC.
FISH & WILDLIFE	Contaminant Levels in Fish & Wildlife	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish tissue results obtained through a study in 2012 are the first data set collected for a portion of Eighteenmile Creek upstream of Newfane Dam, the results indicate impacts to fish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish consumption advisories of “Eat no fish” exist for the entire creek, including the AOC. Beneficial uses affected by elevated levels of PCBs in fish continue to be impaired at Eighteenmile Creek. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remediate upstream sources and contaminated sediments. Continue to monitor contaminant levels in fish and wildlife in an attempt to establish trends and build upon baseline data.
	Fish & Wildlife Diversity & Populations	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of a study assessing benthic populations indicate that macroinvertebrate communities in riffle and pool habitats are either not impaired or slightly impaired according to NYSDEC indices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large concentrations of Coho and Chinook salmon and brown trout migrate from Lake Ontario each fall. The area also supports the natural reproduction of bass, northern pike and black crappie. Resident mammal populations are likely impaired due to contamination from their diet of fish. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Olcott Pen Rearing Project. NYSDEC should continue its fish stocking program. Contaminated sediments affecting fish & wildlife require special attention.
PUBLIC ACCESS & RECREATION	Public Access to the Creek & Adjacent Areas	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Eighteenmile Creek via Fisherman’s Park continues to be maintained by the Town of Newfane. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AOC is accessible for anglers and general recreation activities from Fisherman’s Park and Olcott Harbor. A majority of the creek is secluded by a steep ravine. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options for public access improvements to the creek in the City and Town of Lockport, NY.
	Aesthetics of the Creek & Adjacent Riparian Areas	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Town of Newfane Marina Director has been active in keeping the AOC clean of trash. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eighteenmile Creek AOC Corridor is pristine to the naked eye, displaying no visual Beneficial Use Impairments. Some abandoned industrial sites are adjacent to the creek area. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with annual AOC “Clean-Sweep” events. Educate recreational users and encourage them to “Pitch-In” and promote a healthy creek ecosystem.
REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN	RAP Management	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2014, NCSWCD began the 3rd year of a 5 year grant with a new RAP Coordinator. The work plan includes: continued coordination of all RAP initiatives, development of new projects, and education & outreach activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New York AOCs have begun to collaborate as a group to identify common challenges and goals to AOC recovery. Eighteenmile Creek is on a path to be delisted as an Area of Concern by 2025. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Status Reports and updates should continue to be completed. Focus on monitoring needs and protocols to effectively assess progress post remediation. Continue oversight of all AOC activities and projects.
	RAC Management	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAC continues to address various aspects of the Remedial Action Plan and has provided input on Federal and State Superfund designation for the creek. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAC is comprised of a diverse group of original members and representatives from newer interests. The RAC meets to discuss various aspects of the RAP and to explore new opportunities to de-list the AOC. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on monitoring needs and protocols to effectively assess progress post remediation. Continue to assess the status of active BUIs. Utilize the updated Stage 2 RAP as a plan for the future.
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	Public Awareness	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recent Superfund designation has brought the creek to the forefront of public media. A number of student classes visit the AOC to learn about critical AOC issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite a fish consumption advisory, the AOC is visited by 13,000+ anglers annually. Every year the AOC is utilized as an “outside classroom” for elementary, secondary and college level classes. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage the public utilizing educational tools like the annual report card, various education events, internet mapping database, AOC website, newsletters and press releases.
	Watershed Stewardship	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 106 students from Newfane High School and Niagara Orleans BOCES participated in the “GM GREEN” Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an increasing but still limited amount of participation from the public related to the AOC. Superfund activity has increased public participation/awareness. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with sportsmen to promote AOC stewardship. Continue with annual AOC “Clean-Sweep”, GM GREEN Program, and education events to keep youth active.

TRENDS

Conditions Improving ↑

Conditions Unchanged ↔

Conditions Worsening ↓

GRADING

A Excellent

B Good

C Fair

D Poor

F Failure



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