



WINTER 2025
**NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**
An Environmental Publication

Niagara County Soil & Water
Conservation District
4487 Lake Avenue
Lockport, New York 14094
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www.niagaraswcd.com

*****TREE SEEDLING ORDER FORM ENCLOSED*****

QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED, ORDER EARLY SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT!

NCSWCD COMPLETES 2024 AG PROJECTS AND CONTINUES INTO 2025 WITH MORE

The Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District worked on and completed numerous agricultural grant projects in 2024. Projects for 2025 are already moving forward and it is looking to be another busy year. NCSWCD agricultural projects are funded through a variety of grants. Grants include AEM (Agricultural Environmental Management), CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System program, CRF (Climate Resistant Farming), FL-LOWPA (Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance), and NY G&C (New York Grown & Certified) grants. Many of which come from the NYS Department of Ag and Markets.

Projects completed in 2024 include a waste storage facility, access road and animal trails and walkways, ag-chemical handling facilities, bunk silo and vegetated treatment area, and many acres of cover crops.

Continuing projects include micro-chip irrigation monitoring, more cover crops, trickle irrigations systems, cattle exclusion for stream protection, short term waste collection and transfer system, cover crops, a composting facility, and more agri-chemical handling facilities.

Something to note is that district assistance and grant projects are available to all farms, not just large operations, hobby farms are eligible also. Projects do require an AEM Plan to be eligible. AEM plans are free to you and are put together with your goals in mind. If you're interested in grant opportunities and implementing a best management practice on your farm please contact the office and we can get a plan started. Keep an eye out for our project signs around the County!



Agri-Chemical Handling Facility



Access Road & Animal Trails & Lane Way



Micro-Irrigation Sensors in an orchard to indicate when irrigation is needed.

District Directors

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Chairman

Mary Gumaer

Vice Chairman

James Bittner

Treasurer

Louise Brachmann

Member

Scott White

Member

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NCSW Board Meetings

Board Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of every month.

Please contact the office for more information.

Have You Moved?

Please contact the office to update, add, or remove your address from our mailing list.

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
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!

**WATER QUALITY MONITORING ON COUNTY STREAMS**

NCSWCD has been monitoring seventeen County streams for nutrients and suspended solids in an effort to identify nutrient loading entering Lake Ontario from each watershed. We have done years of monitoring and testing to determine estimates of baseflow and stormflow discharges. The discharge is estimated by comparing the water level to known benchmarks, measuring stream velocities and developing flow rating curves for the stream. The discharges and nutrient concentrations are analyzed by a lab and are then used to determine nutrient loading from each watershed.

Keg Creek is an example of water quality monitoring catching a high number of nutrients moving through the stream. NCSWCD employees worked their way up the stream taking samples at numerous locations and pinpointing where the increased nutrients were coming from. NCSWCD employees will work with the landowners to come up with a plan and improve the loss of nutrients into the stream.

This project is sponsored by FL-LOWPA (Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance). The mission of FL-LOWPA is to facilitate processes that encourage watershed partnerships and implementation of action plans to protect and enhance water quality based on local needs assessment, holistic approaches, public education, and measurable goals/milestones.



NCSWCD staff measuring velocities (left), filtering water samples (middle), and surveying a cross section (right) of a stream.

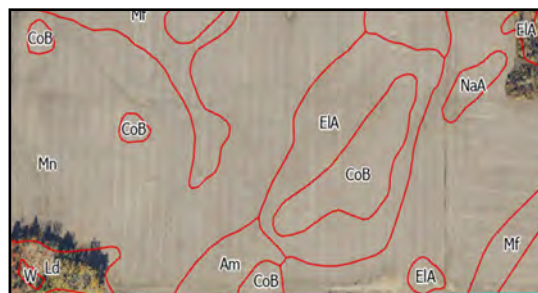
**GET YOUR SOIL WORKSHEET REQUEST IN NOW!
TOWN AG ASSESSMENTS DUE BY MARCH 1ST**

If you have received an Ag Assessment renewal, sold or split a farmed parcel, have rental changes, have farmed land and need a new soil worksheet please get your request in ASAP.

NCSWCD employees will map the soils of the property and measure the acreage of ag and non-ag land and soils. Soil worksheets cost \$25 per parcel and are required by towns along with NYS RP-305 (or RP-305r) for an agricultural assessment.

Agricultural Assessment Requirements:

- * 7+ acres, gross income of \$10,000/year
- * Less than 7 acres, gross income of \$50,000/year
- * 2-year cropping history
- * Reach out to our office, your town assessor, or the NYS Department of Taxation for more information on Agricultural Assessments and requirements



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 2025 SEEDLING ORDER FORM



EVERGREEN SEEDLINGS	APPROX. SIZE	BUNDLE of 25	BUNDLE of 50	BUNDLE of 100	QTY	TOTAL COST
Cedar, Red	10-18"	\$ 36.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 130.00		
Cedar, White - Arborvitae	9-12"	\$ 25.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Fir, Concolor	12-18"	\$ 25.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Fir, Douglas	10-18"	\$ 22.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 79.00		
Fir, Frasier	9-12"	\$ 25.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Pine, Austrian	7-12"	\$ 24.00	\$ 46.00	\$ 87.00		
Pine, Red	7-12"	\$ 27.00	\$ 52.00	\$ 97.00		
Pine, White	7-12"	\$ 25.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Spruce, Blue	9-15"	\$ 23.00	\$ 44.00	\$ 83.00		
Spruce, Norway	10-18"	\$ 24.00	\$ 46.00	\$ 87.00		
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"	\$ 33.00				
Fir, Balsam	2-1, 6-12"	\$ 24.00				
Fir, Frasier	2-2, 8-14"	\$ 33.00				
Pine, White	2-1, 10-18"	\$ 24.00				
Spruce, Blue	2-1, 10-18"	\$ 23.00				
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"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Cherry, Black	12-18"	\$ 19.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 86.00		
Hazelnut, American	12-18"	\$ 22.00	\$ 53.00	\$ 99.00		
Maple, Red	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Maple, Sugar	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Mulberry, Red	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Oak, Red	12-18"	\$ 19.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 86.00		
Oak, White	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Pecan, Northern	12-18"	\$ 21.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 95.00		
Persimmon	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Sycamore	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Tulip Tree	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Walnut, Black	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		

**** ORDERS DUE ** FEBRUARY 28, 2025**
Please call for availability after 2/14

MARK YOUR CALENDARS -TREE PICK-UP DATES

April 25th 8:00 -4:00

April 26th 9:00-12:00

**4487 Lake Avenue Lockport, NY
(Niagara County Fairgrounds)**

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



**** ORDERS DUE ** FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

Please call for availability after 2/14

SHRUB SEEDLINGS	APPROX. SIZE	BUNDLE OF 10	BUNDLE OF 25	BUNDLE OF 50	QTY	TOTAL COST
Butterfly Bush	12-18"	\$ 19.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 86.00		
Button Bush	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Dogwood, Redosier	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Dogwood, White Flowering	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Elderberry	12-18"	\$ 18.00	\$ 43.00	\$ 81.00		
Lilac	12-18"	\$ 21.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 95.00		
Ninebark	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Rose of Sharon	12-18"	\$ 21.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 95.00		
Serviceberry/Juneberry	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
Winterberry	12-18"	\$ 20.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 90.00		
SPECIAL OFFERS	APPROX. SIZE	BUNDLE OF 5	BUNDLE OF 10	BUNDLE OF 50	QTY	TOTAL COST
Apple, Starter Package	3-5'	\$ 110.00				
Apple, Wildlife Package	3-5'	\$ 69.00				
Pear, Wildlife Package	3-5'	\$ 74.00				
Chestnuts, American	8-12"	\$ 22.00				
Edible Fruit Pack			\$ 36.00			
Nut Tree Pack			\$ 35.00			
Native NY Wildlife Pack			\$ 27.00			
Perennial Flower Pack			\$ 27.00			
Wetland Habitat Pack			\$ 27.00			
Pachysandra				\$ 50.00		
SEED				COST	QTY	TOTAL COST
Conservation Grass - Large Deer Plot Mix - 25lbs (3/4 acre)				Call for Pricing		
Conservation Grass - Small Deer Plot Mix - 10lbs (1/3 acre)				Call for Pricing		
Conservation Grass -Tall Grass Mix- 25lbs - (1 acre)				Call for Pricing		
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		
Do NOT Add Sales Tax Already Included Where Due				Order Total		\$

Seedlings are for Conservation Purposes, NOT for RESALE

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: 4487 Lake Ave Lockport NY 14094 For Questions/Additional Information 716-434-4949 ext 4	MARK YOUR CALENDARS PICK-UP DATES April 25th 8:00 -4:00 April 26th 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. 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).
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****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 (*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, Red (*Pinus resinosa*)

Long, soft, dark green needles. Grows to 75'. Very tolerant of sandy, dry exposed sites. Native tree valued for lumber and windbreaks. Excellent for reforestation. Very hardy.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Mulberry, Red (*Morus rubra*)

Medium sized tree with a short trunk, with leaves up to 8" long. Easy to grow, old-fashioned favorite. Handles sun or shade and loamy, sandy, or clay soils. Attracts birds and butterflies. Red and Purple berries is used for food and beverages.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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'.

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.

Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)

A member of the mallow family, this multi-stemmed, vase-shaped shrub grows 8-12' in various soil types and full to part sun. Has small green leaves and hibiscus type, bell-shaped flowers favored by hummingbirds and butterflies.

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*)

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. 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 & Pear 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.

Apple Starter Package (5 trees)

Hardy, easy to grow varieties preferred for blight resistance and persistence.

Apple 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.

Primer Pears Package (5 trees)

Hardy, early bearing varieties suitable for beginners such as Reliance or Contenders.

****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

Female monarch butterflies only lay their eggs on native milkweed. Planting it will not only help the Monarchs but also used by many other pollinators and hummingbirds. 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. It produces pod-like fruits that split to release new seed attached to fluffy, silky hairs that aid in wind dispersal.

Wildflower Seed

A 100% pure seed mix of balanced blends of beautiful & colorful annual and perennial native wildflowers. Good for renovating old pastures, commercial sites and unused portions of lawn. Will grow in all soil and sun types.

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. 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.

Marking Flags

Bundle of 100 fluorescent pink flags on 30" wire stakes.

Bat, Blue Bird, and Wood Duck Houses

Locally made, wooden bat and bird houses are perfect homes for local bats, blue birds, and wood ducks.

PICKUP INFORMATION

Don't Forget, Mark Your Calendars Now!

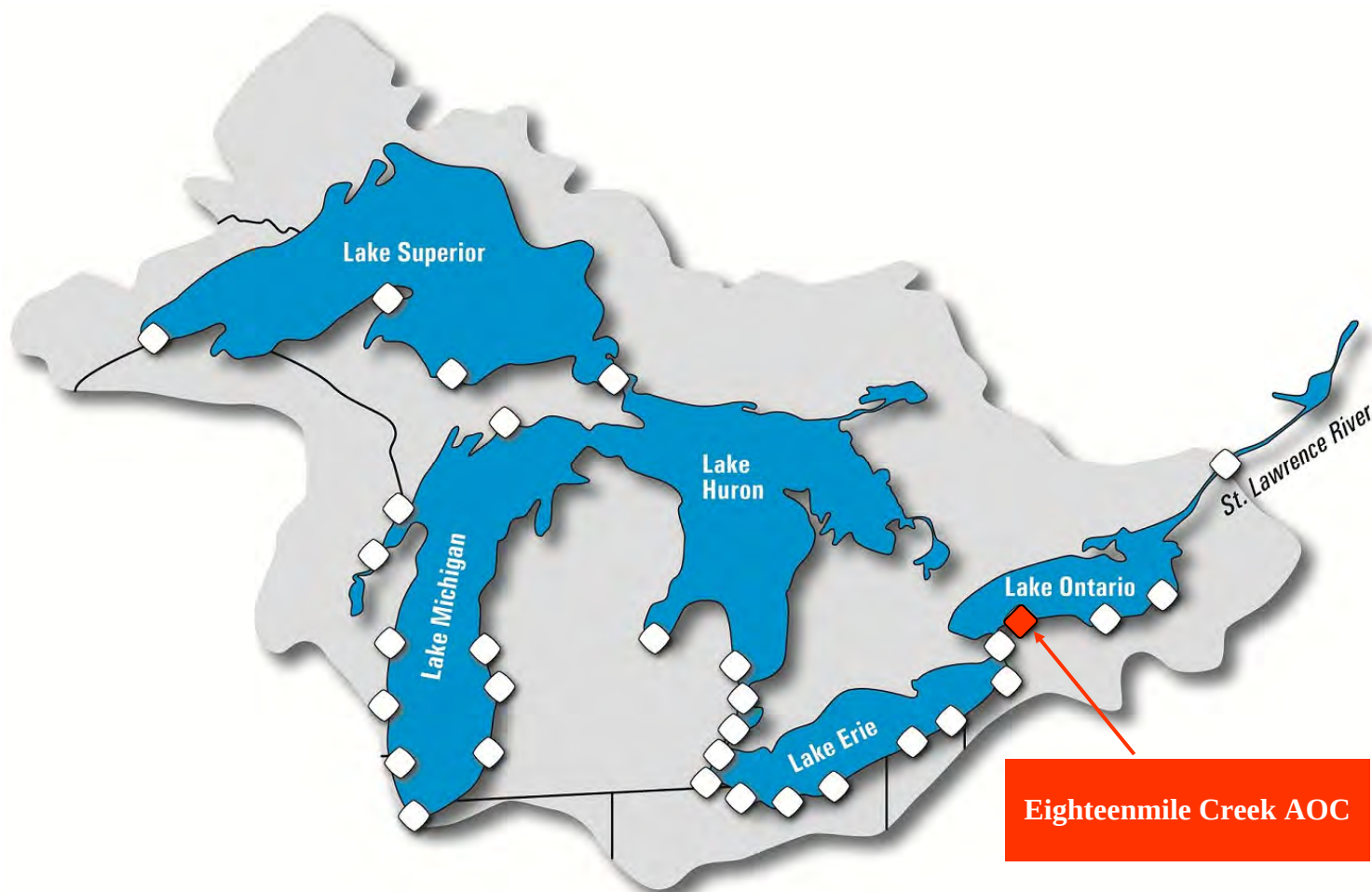
If you cannot pick up your order on the scheduled dates, please make arrangements with someone to pick it up for you.

Pickup Days: Friday, April 25, 2025 8:00am to 4:00pm
Saturday, April 26, 2025 9:00am to 12:00pm

Pick-Up: 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



2024 REPORT CARD



A COMPILATION OF SUCCESSES, IMPROVEMENTS & CURRENT CONDITIONS



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:	A few years ago migratory fish such as trout and salmon had their advisories modified 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 so 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:	Removed! No work or further assessments are needed.
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 Eighteen-mile 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 is in the process of being removed. Over the next several months a thorough data review will occur, a removal recommendation report will be written, and a public comment period will be held before the BUI can be removed.

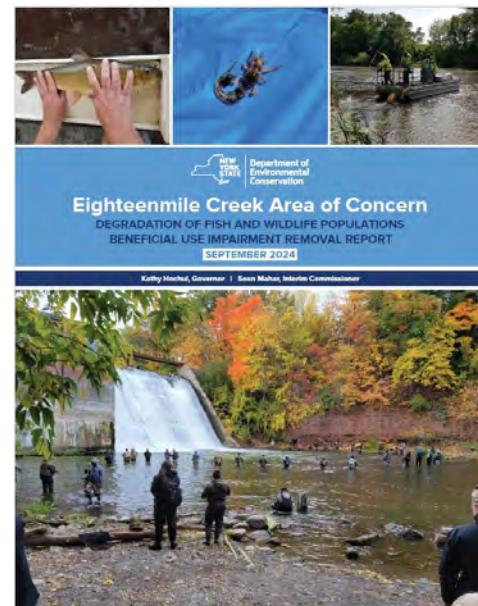
2024 AOC Newsletter Update

Progress has continued at Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern (AOC) throughout 2024. In the past few years many studies have been completed to assess the status of each Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI). All of the studies or assessments have been posted the Eighteenmile Creek AOC website at <http://eighteenmilerap.com/DATA.html>.

Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations BUI Removal!

2024 brought another milestone for the Eighteenmile Creek AOC; We had our second BUI removal! Eighteenmile Creek's first BUI removal took place in 2020 with the Restrictions on Dredging Activities. The Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations BUI was removed in September 2024. This removal takes place after years of hard work drafting new removal criteria, completing new assessments, and putting together a removal recommendation highlighting why the assessments satisfy the removal criteria.

In order to remove the BUI there were three criteria that were addressed through environmental assessments. The first criteria compared fish community metrics (diversity, abundance, and condition) to a reference site (Oak Orchard Creek). The second criteria required benthic macroinvertebrate communities be healthy and similar to a reference area. The third criteria determined fish or other prey species did not carry enough PCB or other contaminants that would cause predators, such as mink, to reach acute toxicity (death). A copy of the final report that summarizes all these findings can be accessed using the QR code.



Superfund Update

USEPA is starting cleanup of the Creek Corridor. The Creek Corridor is the furthest upstream portion of the creek and contains the highest levels of PCB contamination. This includes properties like Upson Park, the former White Transportation Company, former Flintkote Property and other properties directly adjacent to Eighteenmile Creek. The agency's cleanup plan includes removing sediment in the Creek Corridor bank-to-bank, as well as removing contaminated soil from the former Flintkote property before installing a cap over the site.

In September 2024, the EPA began clearing trees in Upson Park and installed fencing to secure the area before significant construction begins. As part of the initial construction phase, this winter contractors will also move utility poles and install a bypass pipe to divert water from the creek so contaminated sediment and soil are dry and can be removed.

In September 2024 the EPA also started the cleanup of at least 33 residential properties near the Flintkote plant. The EPA's plan to clean up these residential properties is to remove and dispose of the contaminated soil off-site. EPA is continuing to study additional properties in this area that may need to be addressed.

The next phase of cleanup (OU3) is an area referred to as the Sediment Transition Area (STA). This stretch of creek begins where work on OU2 concludes near Harwood Street in Lockport and extends north 5.3 miles just past the convergence of the Eighteenmile Creek East Branch, in the Town of Newfane. Residential floodplain soils impacted by the creek adjacent to the STA are also included within this phase. The remedy chosen for the STA includes excavating contaminated sediment from the creek channel in addition to removing contaminated floodplain soil from the site. A Record of Decision for this phase was complete in 2024, and is expected to be in a remedial design phase for the next two years.



Degradation of Benthos 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 NYSDEC are drafting a removal report that will be ready for public view in 2025. 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 2025. Follow the Eighteenmile Creek AOC Facebook page for updates.

Benthic macroinvertebrates are small aquatic animals and larval stages of insects that are found near stream bottoms attached to sticks, stones or sediment. Common benthic macroinvertebrates are stonefly and dragonfly larvae, snails, worms, scuds, or beetles.

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) ?

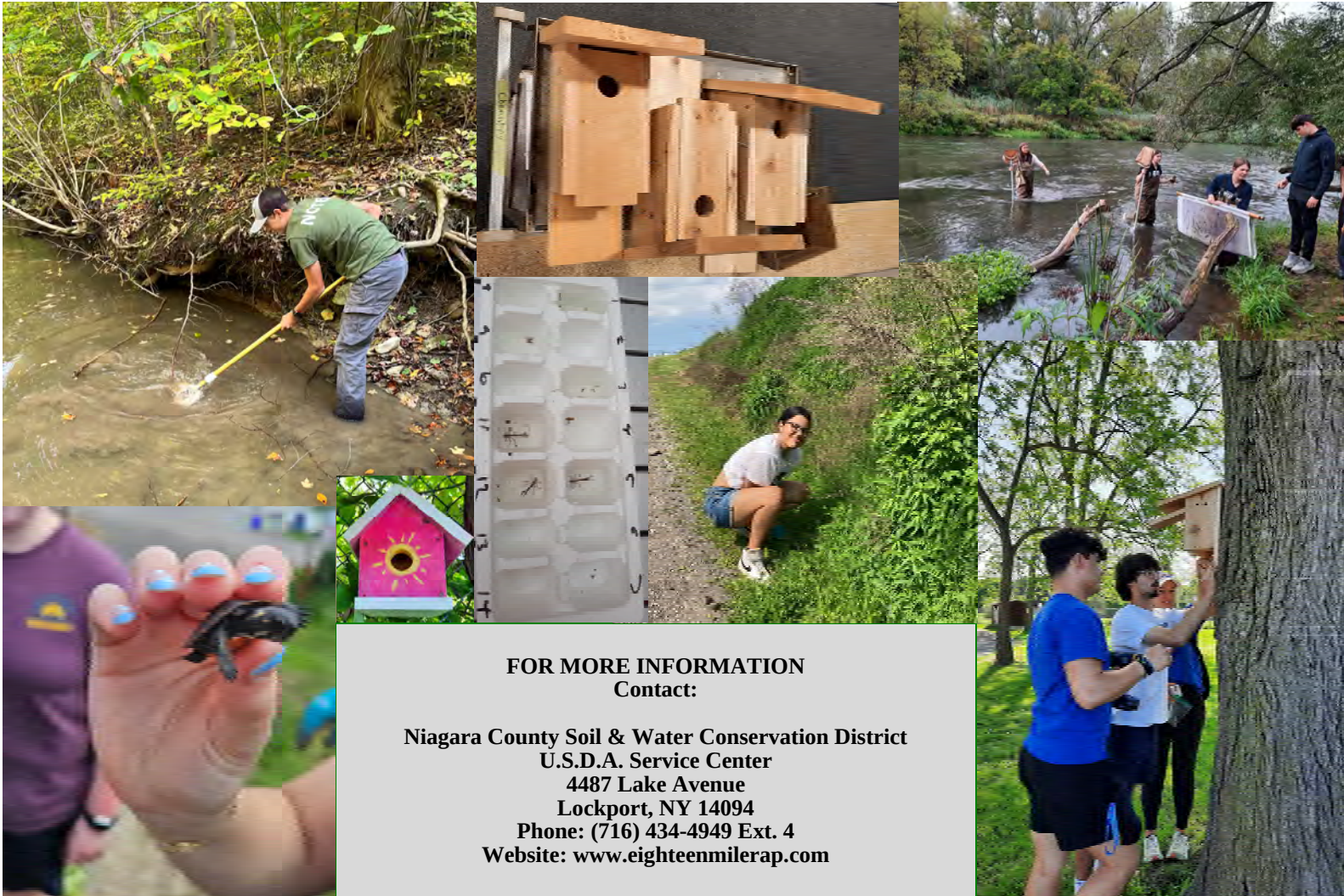
The Eighteenmile Creek RAC is comprised of a group of local, state and federal stakeholders, representing industries, organizations and local communities with a vested interest in the health of Eighteenmile Creek. The RAC is responsible for implementing the RAP, monitoring restoration efforts, and assessing 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 implemented watershed improvement projects in spring 2024. Projects completed this year include expanding a pollinator habitat and building and installing bluebird boxes at Fisherman’s Park. Be sure to look at these projects when visiting the area.

Our 2024 Clean Sweep event was successful thanks to Cub Scout Pack 4 among other volunteers. The team of 25 volunteers collected over 355 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 30, 2025

TENTATIVE Pickup Date: third/fourth week of May - Fish Pick-Up will be in the morning one week 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.**

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located on the Niagara County Fairgrounds, 4487 Lake Ave in Lockport. You will need to bring a container to support the bagged fish. **Fish will be in oxygenated bags.** These fish are highly perishable and must be transported quickly.

2025 Fish Stocking & Grass Carp Sale

Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount
Bass 2-4"	25/\$112		
Catfish 3-5"	12/\$55		
Sunfish/Blue Gill 2-3"	1lb./\$98 Approx 25		
Golden Shiners 2-3"	1lb/\$40 Approx 100		
Golden Shiners 2-3"	5lb/\$160 Approx 500		
Fathead Minnows 1"+	1lb/\$37 Approx 200		
Fathead Minnows 1"+	5lb/\$148 Approx 1000		
Grass Carp 12-14"	1/\$28		

(*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**

We do not accept credit cards. For additional information call (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4

TYPES OF FISH AVAILABLE

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 (*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. **Must have a NYS DEC Permit to purchase.**

NCSWCD CREWS CLEAN-UP LAKE ONTARIO COAST & CREEKS



NCSWCD crews cleaned up over 10,000 feet of Lake Ontario's shoreline and creeks that run into the lake. Over 500 pounds of garbage was picked up, including 30+ tires, a floating dock, and household items.

Crew members consisted of NCSWCD employees, BO-CES students, and a UB intern. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with one of our clean-ups.

Photos: Broken dock piece (left), Tires from Fourmile Creek (right)



BATTLE WITH JAPANESE KNOTWEED & INVASIVE SPECIES CONTINUES ON

NCSWCD crews inspected and treated knotweed sites this past summer and will continue to do so in 2025. Many sites have been cleared of the invasive plant making room for native plants. Several new sites were still found and treated. We started treating Japanese knotweed in 2015 with 20 patches covering approximately 4.5 acres. Those numbers have grown over the years to over 460 patches covering 77 acres. Japanese knotweed is treated by stem injections or foliar spray depending on the size of the plant.

Japanese knotweed is invasive and overtakes an area. It makes it near impossible for native plants to grow and prosper. This leads to native plants dying out, soil erosion, and an overall annoyance to land owners. By treating the Japanese knotweed, we are able to help landowners plant what they want on their property. Removing Japanese knotweed allows the re-establishment of native plants that are more beneficial to the local ecosystem. If you think you have Japanese Knotweed or have seen it and would like it treated please call the office and we will get you added to the list.

The invasive species crew has also started treating multiflora rose and tree of heaven when found and treatment is discussed with the land owner. These are two additional plants that can out compete and take over our native landscapes.

USFS GRANT WRAPS UP THIRD YEAR OF TREE PLANTINGS

2024 was the third year in our USFS tree planting grant replacing many of the lost ash trees around the County. We will continue to work with Niagara County Parks and the Cities of Lockport and Niagara Falls to replace any of the trees that haven't survived in the past three years of plantings.

Not including the future replacements we have planted 400 new trees with the help of Park and City employees.

Photo: District Technician educates elementary students on the importance of planting trees.



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Interseeder rental (Left) 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 (Right) rental is available for your next conservation seeding project. We provide the drill, delivery and cleaning, customer provides the seed. Cost is \$15/acre plus \$50 delivery in the County.

Contact the office if you are interested.

DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
#FUNFACTFRIDAY, EVENTS, PROJECT UPDATES & MUCH MORE



Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District
 &
 Eighteenmile Creek Great Lakes Area of Concern

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS & TRAININGS

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

January 8, 2025
 February 27, 2025

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- 4th Graders
Environmental Field Days
 Tentatively June 4, 2025

High School Students
Envirothon
 May 1, 2025

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

If your students are in another grade please reach out we can help with clubs and classes also!

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NR-2131 March 2015

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