

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

WAYNE COUNTY



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Humbert - Chairman, Farm Bureau

Lynn Chatfield - Vice Chair, County
Legislator

Steve Olson - Treasurer, Member

Patricia VanLare - Grange Representative,
At Large

Richard Lasher - County Legislator



The Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Directors convenes for business on the third Wednesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at the District office unless otherwise specified. A zoom option is available for any District Meeting upon request.

2023 CONSERVATION STAFF

Lindsey Gerstenslager- MEd, District Manager

Bethany Comella- Conservation Sec./Treasurer

Ronald Thorn- CCA, Conservation Field Manager

Chris Hotto- CPESC., Senior District Technician

Scott DeRue- NYS_E&SCCP, Senior District
Technician

Ian Priestley- CCA, District Technician, AEM
Specialist

Drew Starkey- District Technician

Bob Hutteman- Professional Engineer

Maxine Appleby- Conservation Public Relations
Specialist



The mission of the Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District is to serve as a local agency prepared to manage and conserve the soil, water and natural resources of Wayne County.

BLIND SODUS BAY - WESTERN BLUFF REDI PROJECT



The Blind Sodus Bay Western Bluff REDI Project stabilized a 45' near-vertical bluff spanning 1,100 linear feet along the Lake Ontario Shoreline in the town of Wolcott, NY. As this bluff eroded, public sewer infrastructure, roads, and residences were at risk.

Blind Sodus Bay's barrier bars and adjacent bluff faces were selected for the REDI (Resilience & Economic Development Initiative) in 2019. In that same year, 260 linear feet of the bluff were stabilized with a tiered gabion wall. An engineering report prepared by the Ramboll for NYSOGS in 2020 noted that wave action was causing flanking around the newly installed gabion wall. Over the next two years, MRB Group finalized the design for the REDI Project. The design included an expanded wall that is comprised of seven tiers of gabion baskets. The lower tiers are anchored with soil nails, and the upper tiers are filled with a mix of stone and topsoil, allowing vegetation to grow there. The soil was sloped back above the gabion wall, and geogrid mats were installed to prevent the upper slope from eroding. Construction for the REDI Project began in the fall of 2022, and the project was wrapped up in October of the following year. Over 1,500 tons of stone and topsoil were used to enhance and protect 1,100 linear feet of the lakefront bluff. The construction totaled \$3.28 Million, with a total project cost of 4 million dollars.

“After so much devastation along so much of the shoreline with abnormally high water levels on Lake Ontario consistently for almost 3 years, the State of New York’s Governor Andrew Cuomo allocated funding with support of the Legislature to create a program that would work with local communities to address public and private lands impacted by infrastructure, significant land change and the ability to protect the local tax base through the Lake Ontario R.E.D.I – Regional Economic Development”



AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



Agricultural Environmental Management, or AEM, is a voluntary, incentive-based program for farmers led by their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. AEM provides farmers with technical and financial resources to pursue science-based solutions to conservation concerns. The program takes a farm-by-farm approach to solutions for conservation and protects the privacy of farms participating. AEM also allows farms to document their positive contributions to environmental sustainability, water quality, and soil health.

»»» POLLINATOR GARDENS

This year the district planted pollinator gardens on six farms in the Wayne County Area. These plots will attract pollinators like bees, butterflies, bats, moths, hummingbirds, and beetles. It will help create a healthy and resilient community of pollinators while helping fertilize fruit crops at these farms.



»»» COVER CROPS

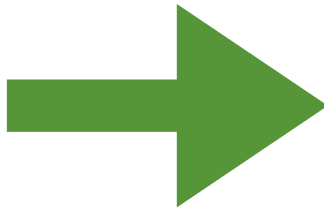
The district installed 900 acres of cover crops this year on six farms. All six farms lie along the Lower Ganargua Creek Watershed. These cover crops will protect the soil from erosion and add nutrients to the soil.



AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

➤➤➤ AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE

This year the district completed five miles of Ag Drainage projects. The work completed included mowing, dipping, blockage removal and culvert repair/replacement. The projects completed help maintain drainage to a couple thousand acres of agricultural land.



➤➤➤ HEAVY USE AREA

Through our AEM Program, the district is able to work with farmers to identify any environmental concerns. At this farm, our technicians noticed that their pasture was eroding and there was a possibility for nutrients to enter a nearby stream. This is a concern for agricultural drainage, livestock health, and overall management. To curb this issue, we installed a heavy-use area, otherwise known as a barnyard. This will keep nutrients out of the stream and protect the livestock.



NO-TILL DRILL

This year our No-Till Drill was used by six farms and covered 91 acres of land. To rent our drill contact Ian at Ian@WayneNYSWCD.org or (315) 946 7200

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

➤➤➤ AGRICHEMICAL MIXING FACILITY

Our Agrichemical Mixing Facilities allow farmers to keep chemicals for agricultural use in one place. This allows for ease of mixing and keeps these chemicals more secure. It also reduces the risk of these chemicals entering nearby watersheds. This fruit farm is located in the Salmon Creek Watershed and was previously traveling to other sites with these chemicals. This will help keep the surrounding environment more secure. The district completed another one of these facilities at a crop farm as well.



➤➤➤ COMPOSTING FACILITY

This farm is located close to Lake Ontario and the Deer Creek Watershed. With significant water resources so close, their nutrient management plan is crucial to maintain. To better manage these nutrients, the district worked with this farm to implement a composting facility. This better keeps the nutrients in one place. This composting facility will also allow the farmer to apply the nutrients to the field when the weather allows. We also included a Vegetative Treatment area to assist with runoff from the nutrients.



AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

➤➤➤ IRRIGATION RESERVOIRS



Over the past couple of years, our farmers have struggled with dry summers. These dry summers make it more difficult to give their crops the water they need to grow. To combat this issue, the district helped one of our fruit farmers build a pond to attach to their irrigation system. This allows them to store water and move it from one plot to another to irrigate their fruit and vegetables.

➤➤➤ EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

On this farm, our technicians noticed some issues with erosion in their pastures, so the district implemented another practice we can use to prevent this. We implemented two Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOB) to direct the water into the correct agricultural drainage and out of the pastures. This keeps the water cleaner and livestock healthier.





SOIL SAMPLING

This year the district completed 144 soil samples covering about 1300 acres of land. These samples help farmers make important decisions on what crops to plant and what practices to use on that soil type.



AQUATIC VEGETATION CONTROL



Through our Aquatic Vegetation Control Program, The district was able to harvest 5,244 tons of invasive and nuisance aquatic vegetation from five county embayments. These five embayments are Sodus Bay, Maxwell Bay, East Bay, Port Bay, and Blind Sodus Bay.



FISH SALE

This year the district sold 270 fish and 24 grass carp to 16 customers. These fish will be used to restore ponds and foster healthy ecosystems.



NEW ACCOUNT CLERK - KELLY REYNOLDS



Kelly Reynolds has been our Account Clerk since November 2023. Her main duties include bookkeeping and maintaining the district's financial records. Kelly has a background in banking, time spent as an administrative assistant for a small not-for-profit, and small business bookkeeping. We are so excited to have Kelly on our staff!

**CONTACT KELLY:
KELLY@WAYNENYSWCD.ORG OR
(315) 946 7200**

➤➤➤ E-WASTE EVENTS

This year at the district we held four Electronic Waste Collection and Recycling events. These events were extremely well attended and donated to.

We collected 89,600 pounds of E-Waste from 814 households. These electronics were then sent to Sunnking to be recycled into jewelry or even outdoor furniture!



➤➤➤ TREE SALE SUCCESS



This year's Tree and Shrub Sale was a success! We sold 9,740 items including conservation plantings and habitat structures. These goods were sold to 179 customers. We would just like to thank everyone who purchased for investing in your community by reviving our environment.

2023 ENVIROTHON



In 2023, the Wayne–Cayuga Envirothon took place at the Montezuma Audubon Center in Savannah, NY. We had nine teams from 5 different schools participate, including: Marion, East Palmyra Christian School, Red Creek, North Rose Wolcott, and Weedsport. The Red Creek Rams took 1st place, followed by the Weedsport Stumpies and the Weedsport Methane Busters in 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Both the Rams and the Stumpies went on to represent their counties at the NYS Envirothon, which was held at Hobart William Smith in May 2023.

