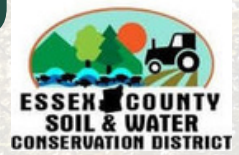


ESSEX COUNTY SWCD

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2022



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

- Welcomed Three New Staff Members
- Established Riparian Buffers
- Hosted Game of Logging
- Delivered Municipal Assistance
- Coordinated Tire Drives
- Surveyed Tributaries of Lake Champlain
- Initiated Lake Education and Action Program
- Continued Active Forest Management
- Recruited Farmers for Cover Crop Program

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

- Youth Education Events
- Hydroseeding
- 4-Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Courses
- Erosion Control
- Conservation Tree and Shrub Program

OUR STAFF



ALICE HALLORAN
DISTRICT MANAGER



DANIEL BERGEIDE
CONSERVATION TECH



PAIGE LAMB
CONSERVATION TECH



THOMAS FIRKINS
CONSERVATION TECH



RENEE CLARK
CLERK



LOIS SAYWARD
CLERK

The District would like to extend a sincere thank you to Lois Sayward for more than 11 years of clerical service with the District. Lois has effectively assisted in managing the District's grants, books, and records. First to answer the phone and greet people at our events, she has been the voice and face of the District. When asked what her favorite part of this job was, she answered definitively, "The people." Her professionalism, bright attitude, and positive approach will be missed.

ESSEX COUNTY SWCD

LOGGER TRAINING



An instructor teaches a trainee to saw a limb lock.

Game of Logging levels I through IV were hosted in Essex County. These events serve as an opportunity for landowners and professionals of all experience levels to practice and improve chainsaw safety and logging skills.

With the support of a grant from the Workforce Development Institute, the District organized six workshops using the professional training services of the North York Loggers' Association, Bill Lindloff's ProCuts, and the Northeast Woodland Training Inc. Local farms including Mace Chasm Farm, North Country Creamery, and Ben Wever Farm as well as our own Essex County Fairgrounds provided host sites for these trainings.



Instructor David Birdsall leads a tailgate chainsaw safety session before heading into the woods to practice key concepts.

ESSEX COUNTY SWCD

RIPARIAN BUFFER PROGRAM

Trees planted along streams help hold soil in place, reduce flooding, create shelter for wildlife, and make rivers healthier.



A riparian buffer of native trees installed by ECSWCD and Champlain Area Trails volunteers beside a headwater stream in Westport, New York.

The District, with funding from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, established 1,670 linear feet of buffer on the Boquet, Ausable, and headwater streams.



A heavily managed area in Lewis, NY received a buffer to limit future bank erosion into the North Branch of the Boquet River.



Technicians Paige and Thomas prepare to create a buffer for a trout stream in Lewis, NY.



A birch tree being planted in Essex County.

ESSEX COUNTY SWCD

AEM Program

10 new agricultural operations



Syrup made by an Essex County maple producer.

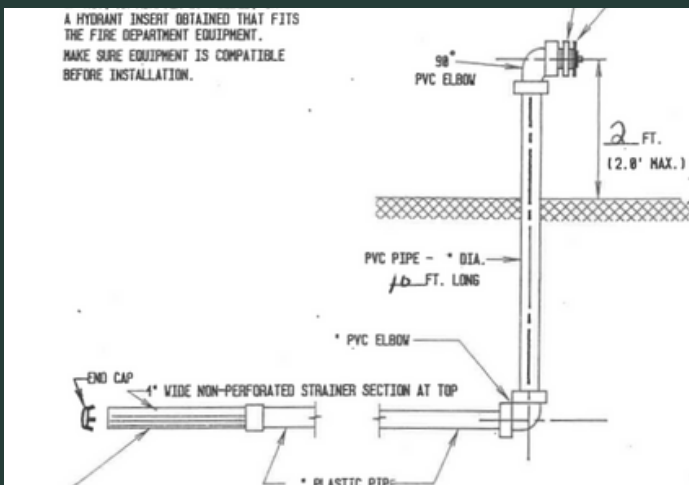
LANDOWNER AND MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE, AEM PROGRAM

We assist municipalities and landowners with permitting and project oversight, especially with in-stream activities. This year, we assisted the Town of Elizabethtown with permitting when they were seeking to restore habitat and hydrologic function of Roaring Brook damaged during a major storm and flooding event.



Phelps Brook, Keene, NY.

We assisted a landowner in Keene who was addressing undercutting of a bank on Phelps Brook.



Schematic of a dry hydrant installed in Lewis, NY.

Additionally, we helped provide technical assistance and materials to support the installation of dry hydrants in Lewis, Reber, and Essex. These projects were done in partnership with the Lewis Fire Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Nature Conservancy.

ESSEX COUNTY SWCD

PORT HENRY STREAM STUDY

The Districts' technicians measured, surveyed, and sampled miles of streams that serve as major tributaries to Lake Champlain.



Technician Paige Lamb conducts an assessment of McKenzie Brook.

The results of this study will provide insight into how the streams have changed over time, how development has impacted these streams, and will assist in determining the causes of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the Port Henry area.



Technician Joe Braun collects data from Stony Brook.



Technician Thomas Firkins walks McKenzie Brook.



McKenzie Brook, Moriah, New York.

ESSEX COUNTY SWCD

TIRE DRIVES, ESC COURSES

Tire drives were held in the town of Essex and more than two truckloads of tires were collected and properly recycled. Thank you Tigger, Ken, and Kenny for volunteering and all others who helped to make it a successful event.



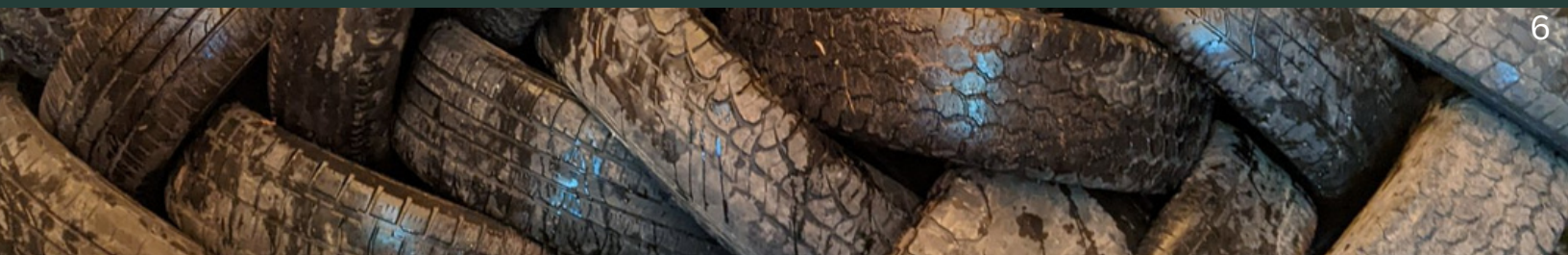
Kade Gilbo, Jacob Smith, Kenny Wisley, and Paige Lamb on collection day in Essex, New York.



Jacob Smith and Technician Daniel Berheide unload tires delivered by residents of Essex County.

4-Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Courses held in Essex County

This training covers both technical and regulatory aspects of stormwater management and erosion control, and is open to anyone including municipal officials, developers, contractors, non-profit organizations, and others. Certified trainers, Alice and Daniel, were able to complete several courses and train well over 100 people in 2022.



ESSEX COUNTY SWCD

EDUCATION, LEAP PROGRAM

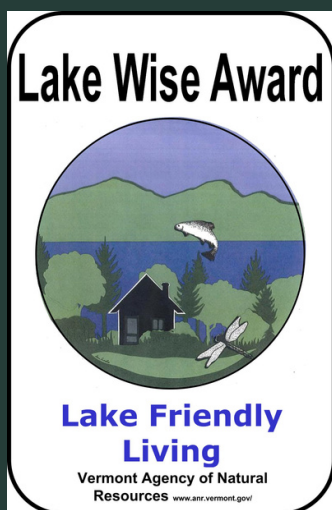
Educational events were held with Boquet Valley, Moriah, Willsboro, and Minerva Youth Programs. Participants identified trees on guided nature walks, played conservation games, and surveyed streams for macroinvertebrates. A stream sampling demonstration was conducted at Adirondack Waterfest. Additionally, educational mini grants were distributed for conservation-based projects in our local schools.



District Manager Alice Halloran identifies macroinvertebrates collected in the Boquet River.

Lake Education and Action Program (LEAP)

LEAP interns conducted assessments of shoreline properties on Moody Pond and Buena Vista to highlight stewardship practices. Features such as recreation areas with minimal management, native gardens, infiltration steps, and effective buffer zones earned landowners high scores in these communities. This program is supported by the Lake Champlain Sea Grant.



Keene Valley Central School
"Beaver Bombs" team receives awards.

Congratulations to Keene Central School for placing first at the Northern Adirondack Regional Envirothon and for representing Essex County at the New York State Envirothon.

ESSEX COUNTY SWCD



Thank you for supporting our
2022 Tree and Shrub Sale

CONSERVATION TREE AND SHRUB PROGRAM, FOREST MANAGEMENT

Find our 2023 Tree and Shrub Sale Order
Form here:

<http://www.essexcountyswcd.org/tree-and-shrub-sale.html>

Forest Management

Essex County SWCD works with landowners, municipalities, and the county to review forest management goals and operations. In collaboration with stakeholders and partners we have developed plans for landowners, evaluated opportunities for recreation on county parcels, and marked stands for timber sales and salvage operations following a major storm event and micro-burst in the Fall.



Technician Daniel Berheide measures the Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of a red pine tree.



Drone Imagery captured by pilot Daniel Berheide while surveying blowdown that resulted from a micro-burst.

Our licensed drone pilots are able to collect aerial imagery to detect potential outbreaks, identify environmental conditions on challenging operational terrain, document remote wetlands and vernal pools, and assess general forest health conditions at the landscape and stand scale.

ESSEX COUNTY SWCD



Conservation seed mix is applied to exposed ditches using a hydroseeder.

HYDROSEEDING, EROSION CONTROL

Thanks to the increase in our ranks with three seasonal interns, the District was able to stretch out hydroseeding operations from the start of June through September. This growth was essential to our success because Essex is the second largest county in the state, with over 1,000 miles of local roadways. Ample road work produced miles of ground to seed with new grass to better stabilize drainages.

Over 100 linear feet of vulnerable shoreline is now being protected by a Rolled Erosion Control Product (RECP). This recreational area of Schroon Lake Town Beach was seeded and covered by a biodegradable mat in order to prevent erosion.



Kade Gilbo and Paige Lamb install an RECP.



Olivia Sayre and Daniel Berheide create anchoring ditches.



Daniel Berheide, Alice Halloran, Kade Gilbo, Olivia Sayre, and Paige Lamb in Schroon, New York.

ESSEX COUNTY SWCD



A farmer's hand covered in clover seed that was broadcasted as a cover crop.

AWARDED GRANTS, COMPLETED GRANTS, ONGOING PROGRAMS



Active Grants across Essex County.

COMPLETED GRANTS

- WDI - Chainsaw safety and logging skill development
- AgNPS 24 - Covered Barnyard to Reduce Nutrient Loading into the Boquet River
- CRF 4 Lake Champlain Soil Conservation System
- AEM Round 16

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2022

- AgNPS 28 - Essex Runoff Reduction Project (2 farms)
- AgNPS 28 - Champlain Basin Nutrient Runoff Project (5 farms)
- CRF 6 - Essex County Water Resiliency Project (4 farms)
- CRF 6 - Adirondack Soil Health Project (1 farm)
- CRF 6 - Drinkwine Soil Health Project (1 farm)
- SWBP - Cold Brook Buffer Project (1 farm)

ESSEX COUNTY SWCD

STAFF

Board of Directors

Michael Tyler – Chair

James Monty – Vice-Chair

Michael Davis

Anna Reynolds

Bernard Leerkes

District Staff

Alice Halloran

Daniel Berheide

Paige Lamb

Thomas Firkins

Lois Sayward

Renee Clark

Seasonal Interns

Jacob Smith

Kade Gilbo

Olivia Sayre