



Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District Fall 2017

Waste No More



Leaving uncovered compost near a waterbody can create excess nutrient loading. A local farm approached us for a solution to their issue. After visiting the site, we teamed up with NRCS to come up with some ideas. We were also able to come up with funds to implement, through the State's Ag-Non Point Source program and NRCS, a covered compost facility with proper access roads and other associated practices. The total project cost, once completed, will come to about \$500,000. This isn't your average, backyard compost bin. This thing is huge and beautiful! Coming in at 70 feet wide by 300 feet long, this covered compost area will keep excess nutrients from leaching into the soil and contaminating water sources. If all goes well, this building will be completed this winter and can start its long life in protecting water!

Board Meetings

Monthly meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 am.

Website

Visit us on our website at:
www.essexcountyswcd.org
Also look for us on Facebook as Essex Swcd!

Phone

(518) 962-8225

Fax

(518) 962-4002

E-mail

essexswcd@westelcom.com

District Directors

Gerald Morrow
Board of Supervisors rep; Chairman
David Holland
Member- at Large; Vice- chairman
Karl teRiele
Farm Bureau rep
Edward Gardner
Board of Supervisors
David Blades
Grange rep

District Staff

David Reckahn
Manager
Lois Sayward
Secretary
Laura Benedict
Technician
Alice Halloran
Technician
Amy Calkins
Technician

USDA NRCS Staff

Sarah Trumbull
District Conservationist
Josef Wetzstein
Soil Conservationist
Anne Marie Ziros
Soil Conservationist
Ethan Bentley
Civil Engineer
Josie Tripp
Secretary

Stream Crossing Inventory Complete

Over two summers, we have successfully inventoried 200 culverts in the Upper Hudson Watershed! The inventory focused primarily on fish and aquatic organism passage, as well as structure condition. This information can be used by highway crews to potentially find funding that coincides with their priority projects. From tiny babbling brooks to full size rivers and rapids, we saw a lot of promise in our Upper Hudson crossings!



Stormwater Rehab

In 2015, the Town of Jay Fire Department approached us looking for stormwater solutions. A retention pond was prescribed but due to sandy soils, grass was unable to thrive, and heavy erosion occurred. With assistance from a Water Quality Improvement Project grant, we were able to add a deep layer of topsoil, more seed, and erosion control blankets to help protect the site.



Intern Amy (left) assisting in laying out erosion control blankets. Above, slopes are well protected until grass seed can become established.

Fun in the Sun!

Let's face it; we LOVE to educate! Especially when it comes to youth. They are our future, and it always delights us to see them enjoying and being enthusiastic about learning all things conservation. Over the summer, we visited four summer youth programs, and had a very attentive audience. From tree and wildlife track identification to finding aquatic invertebrates and playing a water game, these youth were ready and willing to learn! Each time we visited, we taught something different. All the youth programs got to play one of our favorite games: The Long Haul! Before we play though, we talk about where water comes from, how we retrieve it, and ways to conserve water. Then comes the fun part, moving water from one bucket to another, as quickly as possible, as a relay race. Teams have to figure out if it's better to go slow and steady, or fast and sloppy. Generally, this took around 40 to 50 trips, depending on the team. We then tried a fireman's chain, where the bucket gets passed down a line. This method helped to conserve water, and only took 25 to 35 buckets to fill. All around, exercise, water, and knowledge were gained!



Left and right: The Long Haul.

Middle: Tree identification on a rainy day.

Fair Time

We just love attending the Essex County Fair, and this year was no exception! People, food, animals, games, rides, really what isn't to love? We have so many people of all ages that come to visit us at our booth, and we have a little something for everyone! This year, our Animal Track Jeopardy was a huge hit! While it was designed for youth, we are pretty sure that the adults enjoyed it more!



Tire Collection

Tires pose an issue when it comes to disposing them. They are big, bulky, and have a lot of empty space. They don't take well to being in landfills, as they can float and bubble up to the surface. Those empty spaces collect rain water which is the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes and can form nice little habitats for pesky vermin. So, what does one do with a bunch of tires lying around the yard? Driving around the county, one solution is to throw them over the bank, into a stream or river. Not something we like to see for clean water. We don't like seeing that, so we offered a tire collection this fall that was a HUGE success! We were able to collect over 1,300 used tires that are going to a recycling facility for proper disposal. With this many tires, we will "sing it again, Sam"! We will be hosting another tire collection day on December 2! Keep an eye out for posters with more information.



Welcome Amy!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Amy to our team of dedicated and hard working Technicians! Her extensive knowledge of aquatic invasive species will help on our projects that create better fish habitat and encourage stream stabilization.



Trees For Tribs

Do you have an eroding streambank? Want to improve fish habitat? How about reducing nutrients that enter our streams? Contact us by December 14 to be placed on our Trees for Tribs planting list for the spring! This free program is offered through the NYSDEC, which provides native riparian species to streams. Check out past projects on our website!

Essex County Soil & Water
Conservation District
P.O. Box 407
Westport, NY 12993

Non- profit organization
U.S. postage paid
Permit number 1
Westport, NY 12993

If you would like to receive a copy of our newsletter by e-mail, please contact us by calling (518)962-8225 or e-mailing us at essexswcd@westelcom.com. Please let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list.

Equipment Available

We have a wide variety of equipment available to farmers to help assist in conservation efforts.

Contact us for more information!

- 10' No- till drill (Great Plains)
 - Broadcast seeder
 - Post hole pounder
(tractor and trailer mounted)
 - Straw bale mulcher
 - 5' Dew drop drill

Check Us Out Online!



Tired of waiting for our newsletters to come in the spring and fall? Or see a story in our newsletter and interested in more about it? Check out our website for more! More detailed articles, **COLOR** newsletters, lots of pictures and more! Want to take a quick peek at what we are up to? Check out our Facebook page! Look for us as Essex SWCD. Our website is www.essexswcd.org.

Upcoming Events

- November 10** · Office closed
- November 16** · Board meeting · 7:30 am · CCE Building, Westport
- November 23** · Office closed
- December 2** · Tire Collection · Essex County Fairgrounds, Westport
- December 4** · DEC 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training · CCE Building, Westport
- December 21** · Board meeting · 7:30 am · CCE Building, Westport