

**OSWEGO
COUNTY**



**SOIL AND WATER
Conservation District**

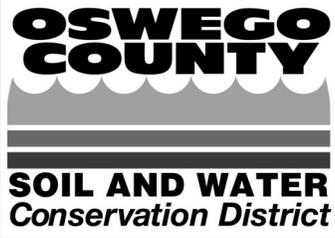
2018

Annual Report

"Promoting, Protecting and Improving Natural Resources"

District Highlights





March: annual Ag Agency Awareness Day



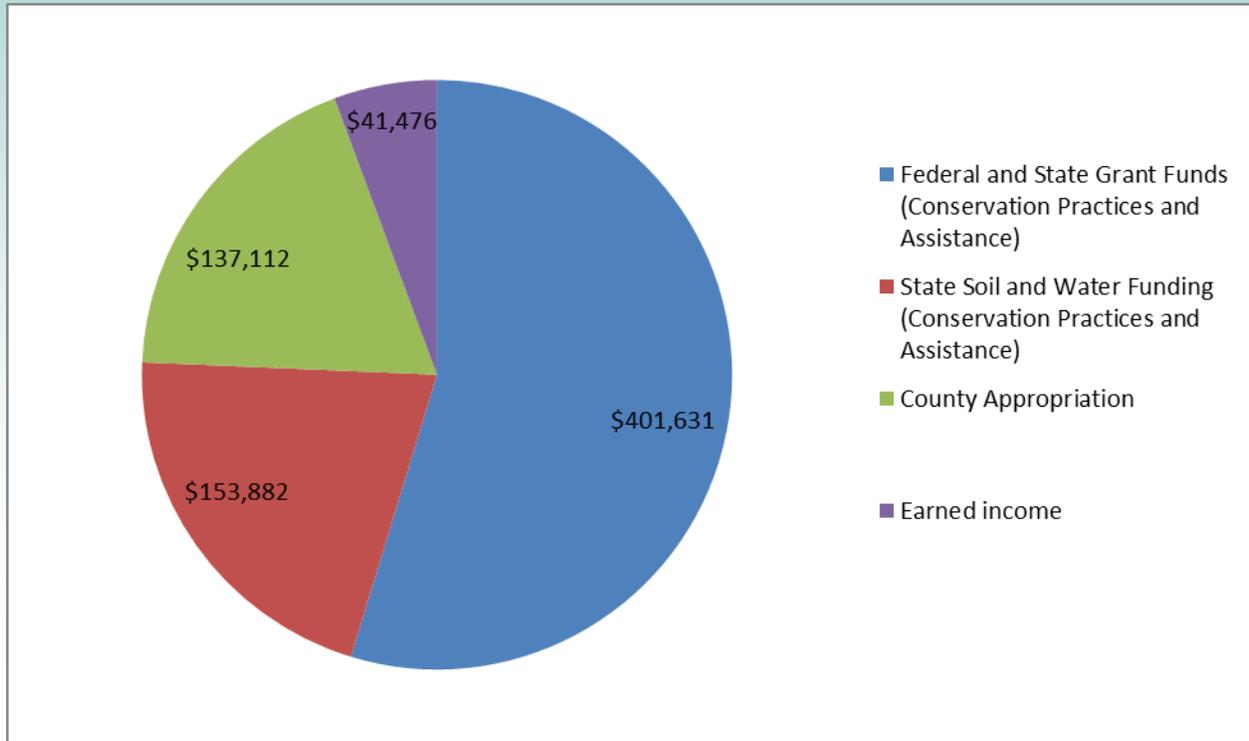
November: timber sale field work



April: tree program pick-up day

2018 Funding Allocations

During 2018 the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) leveraged **\$596,989** in funds for the **\$137,112 investment** from the County. This represents a **\$4.35 return** for each dollar in County appropriation funds to help meet the conservation needs of residents and municipalities in Oswego County.



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Linda Lockwood, *Vice-Chairperson/Legislative Member*
Barry Leemann, *Farm Bureau Representative*
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District Staff

Joe Chairvolotti, *District Manager*
Cindy Williams, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Erica Schreiner, *Sr. District Technician*

Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District
(SWCD)

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We hope that you enjoy reviewing the highlights of the District from a very productive year. If you have any questions about programs or services offered, please feel free to contact us.



Environmental Education

Plant-a-Tree

Right: Educational materials, along with Norway spruce seedlings were part of the 27th annual Plant-a-Tree program which is open to 5,000 County youth in grades kindergarten through five. The program is coordinated by the District and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County. It was funded by Entergy Nuclear Northeast and The Oswego County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.



Envirothon



Students from eight county high schools participated in the 28th annual Envirothon, a hands-on environmental competition covering aquatics, current environmental issues, forestry, wildlife, and soils. Entergy Nuclear Northeast and Indeck – Oswego Energy Center were the primary event sponsors.

Left: Students from Altmar-Parish-Williamstown High School won the Oswego County Envirothon. In June, the students and their advisor were recognized with a proclamation by members of the Oswego County Legislature.



Conservation Field Day

Right: At Oswego County's 30th annual Conservation Field Day at Selkirk Shores State Park, students at the station run by staff from the Salmon River Fish Hatchery learned about trout and salmon of the Salmon River. The event was sponsored by the Oswego County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and Selkirk Shores. Each of the twenty-one classes in attendance traveled to five different natural resource related presentations.

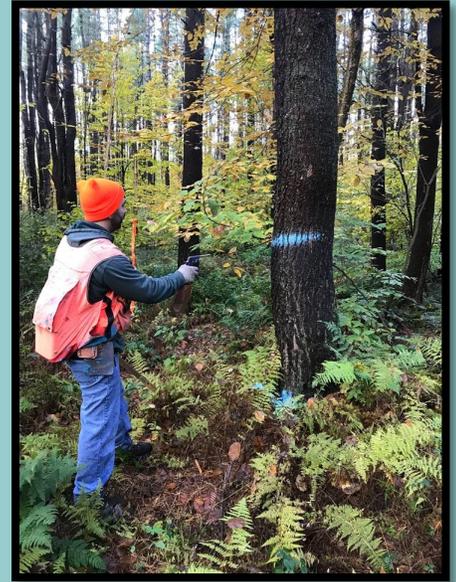




Oswego County Reforestation Management

The District implements a multiple use forest management plan on 2,200 acres of County Reforestation property.

Right: District Manager, Joe Chairvolotti, marks a white pine tree as part of the 2018 timber sale. This is being painted with a sawtimber mark which identifies a tree that will be sawn into lumber. The District marks each timber sale according to a sustainable forestry prescription, and plans the operational aspects as well. One timber sale was planned and marked in 2018 on a total of approximately 25 acres of softwood plantation. A competitive bid was conducted for an income of \$17,101.00.



Left: G & C Martin Logging conducts harvest clean-up in the spring of 2018. This timber sale was cut in late in 2017 and it was decided that it would be beneficial to wait until the following year for restoration during drier conditions. The contractors are required, to grade all skid trails and log landings, and repair or install any Best Management Practices to maintain site integrity and water quality.

Technical Assistance

The District provided forestry assistance to approximately 74 forest landowners and municipalities in the following categories:

- Forest Management
- Insect/Disease Identification & Control
- Forest Management Plan Development
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- Forestry/Trail Best Management Practices
- Urban Forestry
- Invasive Species Outreach



Forestry assistance plays an important role in promoting sustainable forestry practices in Oswego County.



Emerald Ash Borer Outreach

Left: Oswego County SWCD coordinated with St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario, Partnership for Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) in an outreach effort regarding Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). This invasive beetle was originally detected in Oswego County in 2017 and causes mortality of all ash trees. This will have a significant impact on municipalities managing trees along roadways and on other property holdings as dead trees represent safety, liability and legal concerns. A presentation was provided at the Oswego County Town Supervisors Association meeting in May, regarding the impacts of this insect. Information on planning for EAB was discussed with approximately 25 participants. **Photo Courtesy: US Forest Service**



AEM – Agricultural Environmental Management

AEM is a voluntary, incentive-based program that helps farmers operate environmentally sound and economically viable businesses. Site specific farm plans are developed for participants by Oswego County SWCD staff and contracted planners. Using the priority issues identified in the plans, District staff apply for state and Federal grants to improve and correct the issues.



Left: Grant funds are used for Best Management Practice projects such as field borders, which reduce soil and nutrient runoff. This helps protect and improve water quality.



Presentations

Educational Booths

Outreach

- Agricultural Agency Awareness Workshop partner agency
- New York State Envirothon Competition
- New York State Fair
- Oswego County Fair
- Salmon River Fish Hatchery Open House



Technical Assistance

Below: The District works with property owners to address erosion along lakes, streams and/or river banks. The loss of sediment into the water creates a detrimental condition for fish survival, water clarity issues, nonpoint source of pollution, and deposition of sediment downstream. A variety of Best Management Practices can be implemented based upon permit conditions, landowner desires, and of course, financial resources available at the time. The Soil and Water District also works with landowners on drainage and flooding issues. This photo shows a section of Oswego River shoreline at Great Bear Recreational Area, which has experienced loss of vegetation and significant erosion. The District began working with the Friends of Great Bear and the City of Fulton to complete a permit application in order to conduct shoreline stabilization work.



Camp Hollis - Town of Oswego

Left: Camp Hollis is a summer residential youth camp that is also used by other groups throughout the year. The District worked with Seneca County SWCD to design, and the Oswego County Highway Department to install, a drainage project. The purpose of the project is to keep the athletic fields dry and convey water safely away from the eroding shoreline. Over 3500' of drain tile was installed. Onondaga County SWCD was hired to complete 2 acres of hydro seeding once the earthwork was completed.

Tree and Shrub Program

46th Annual Tree and Shrub Program

In 2018, the District offered over 25 varieties of trees and shrubs to the public in the spring tree and shrub sale. Over 7,520 trees were planted for a variety of reasons including reforestation, shade, erosion control, wind and snow breaks and wildlife habitat improvement.

Right: Orders assembled for pick up at the 47th Annual Tree and Shrub Program.



Invasive Species Program

Right: Giant hogweed not only has an ecological impact, but also is a threat to human health. The sap from this invasive can induce hypersensitivity to sunlight and cause severe burns. The District has led a program for several years to control this noxious weed and in 2017, approximately 60 sites were visited for control. The majority of these sites located throughout Oswego County had been previously chemically treated. Many other sites were monitored with no control efforts needed. This program was funded by a grant through the United States Forest Service, and State Soil and Water funding



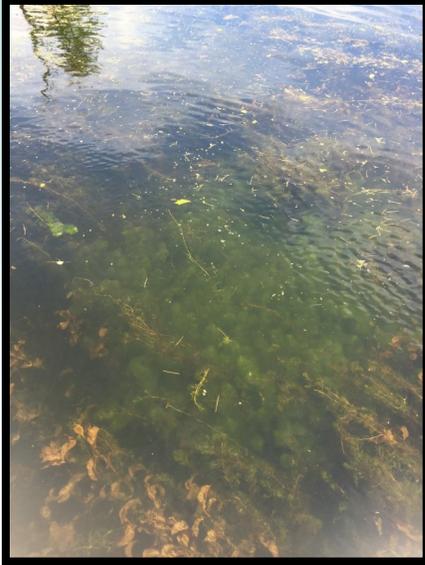
Of the original 220 acres of water chestnut just in the Oswego River, approximately 40 acres were dense enough to require chemical treatment in 2017 and another patch of 40 acres in the upper reaches of Ox Creek was treated as well. In addition to chemical treatment, the District also employed 5 college interns known as the Water CATs (Water Chestnut Assault Team) for a period of 9 weeks during the summer to physically hand-pull this aquatic invasive. Team members (**shown at left**) removed almost 7 tons of chestnut from waterbodies throughout Oswego County. This program was funded by grants from NYS Senator Patty Ritchie and the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA), and State Soil and Water funding.



Invasive Species Education

Left: The annual water chestnut hand-pull on the Salmon River Estuary was held at the Pine Grove Boat Launch and consisted of volunteers and agency staff. The event was coordinated by the Oswego County SWCD, NY Sea Grant and St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM). The attendees were provided with an educational session covering several aquatic invasive species and this was followed by a combined effort to pull the existing water chestnuts from small scattered patches located throughout the estuary.

Invasive Species Program



Left: Fanwort is an aquatic invasive species and has been found in Kasoag Lake in Williamstown, NY. Controlling this aggressive invader before it spreads to other waterbodies is of extreme importance. As such, the Oswego County SWCD worked with the Kasoag Lake Conservation Association to implement aquatic herbicide control. The District hired a licensed applicator to treat approximately 18 acres of fanwort. The application proved to be very successful as a follow up inspection revealed no fanwort plants in the treatment areas. The remainder of the lake was surveyed with several new locations found. The photo on the right shows one of several patches of fanwort that will be controlled in 2019. Funding for this project was provided by the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance.

Mosquito Control

Right: Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), a mosquito borne illness, has had a known presence in Oswego County in past years. This area is rich in water resources, especially wetlands, causing mosquito populations to thrive and allow this disease to become established, given the right conditions. Although residents can take certain precautions to avoid mosquito bites, control measures for homeowners are limited. Therefore, the District purchased 2,700 larvicide kits for distribution throughout the county, available to residents. Each package of larvicide contains 24 water soluble packets that are intended to be placed in any containerized water (i.e. bird baths, rain barrels, rain gutters, etc.). The District made these products available to homeowners through our office, educational booths, and at 26 different town and village offices throughout the county. This program was implemented with Sate Soil and Water funding. This photo shows District intern, Derek Hilton, delivering dunk kits to the Town of Richland.

