

District Highlights





July: District Manager Joe Chairvolotti conducting invasive species mapping on Kasoag Lake.



August: invasive species intern with a water chestnut plant.



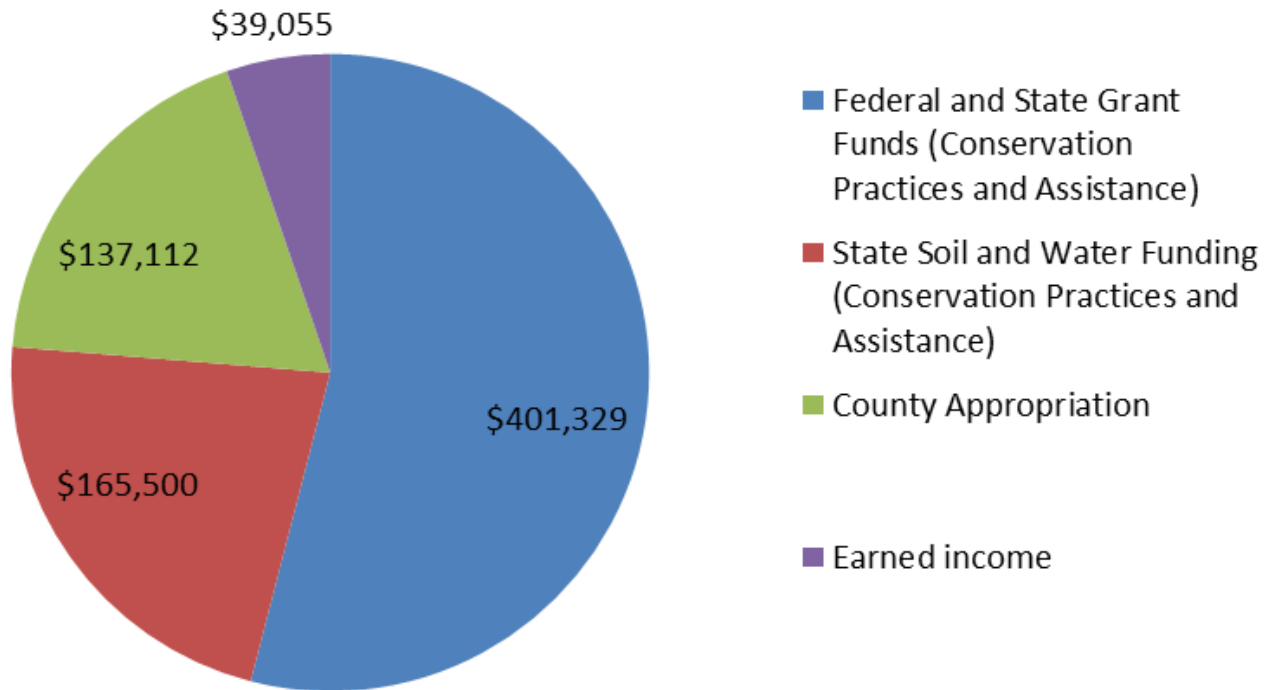
cover photos - clockwise from top right: August - forestry intern working on a forest management plan, September - students learning about turkeys at the annual Conservation Field Day, August - Lake Lorraine at the Oswego County Nature Park at Camp Zerbe, August - Oswego County onions growing in muck soil, December - completing a survey of an agricultural field.



April: District Secretary/Treasurer Cindy Williams packing an order for the annual tree & shrub sales program.

2019 Funding Allocations

During 2019 the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) **leveraged \$605,884** in funds for the **\$137,112 investment** from the County. This represents a **\$4.42 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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**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

Right: Plant-a-Tree program coordinators and sponsors. Educational materials, along with Norway spruce seedlings were part of the 28th annual Plant-a-Tree program which is open to 3,500 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.

Plant-a-Tree



Envirothon



Students from six county high schools participated in the 29th 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 Pulaski High School won the Oswego County Envirothon. In June, the students and their advisor, along with the District's Envirothon Coordinator, were recognized with a proclamation by members of the Economic Development and Planning Committee of the Oswego County Legislature.



Conservation Field Day

Right: At Oswego County's 31st annual Conservation Field Day at Selkirk Shores State Park, students at the station run by Dr. Susan Ehrhardt of Fruit Valley Veterinary Clinic learned about parasitic worms, ticks, and grubs. 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.



Forestry

Oswego County Reforestation Management

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

Right: Seasonal District employee, Christian Munar, marks a spruce tree as part of the 2019 timber sale. Christian was receiving training from District Manager, Joe

Chairvolotti, on sustainably marking a forest stand for harvest. This particular tree is being painted with a pulpwood mark which identifies a tree that will be cut for pulp or other chipwood products. 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 2019 on a total of approximately 35 acres of hardwood and mixed wood stands. A competitive bid was conducted for an income of \$8,270.

Left: G & C Martin Logging conducts harvest clean-up in the spring of 2019. This timber sale was cut during the 2018-2019 winter and it was decided that it would be beneficial to wait until the summer for restoration. 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.



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

Technical Assistance

The District provided forestry assistance to approximately 72 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 Education

1. The District provided a forest health presentation to approximately 25 participants at the Rice Creek Field Station. The workshop focused on the identification of major invasive insects and diseases and the impacts they could have on Oswego County. One insect covered was the Emerald Borer pictured on the left. (Photo Courtesy of the US Forest Service)

2. District Manager, Joe Chairvolotti, was one of 4 instructors for a course at Conservation Skills Workshop open to Soil and Water staff from across NYS. The course provided the details of the addition of Forestry Planning to the Agricultural Environmental Management program. The information focused on Best Management Practice planning in forested areas of agricultural operations.



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 installing a Heavy Use Area Protection System which is a system for the interception, collection, and safe treatment of runoff water from a barnyard or concentrated livestock area. This helps protect and improve water quality.



- Agricultural Interactive Career Day: participant
- Agricultural Literacy Week: participant
- Central Square Middle School: presentation
- Forest Health Workshop at Rice Creek: presentation
- Exelon Generation Safety, Health & Wellness Fair: booth
- New York State Envirothon Competition: participant
- New York State Fair: booth
- Oswego County 4-H Winter Weekend: presentation
- Oswego County Fair: booth
- Oswego County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Day: booth
- Salmon River Fish Hatchery Open House: booth
- Volney Elementary School Earth Day: participant

Presentations

Educational Booths

Outreach



Technical Assistance

Right: 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, and the installation or maintenance of ponds. In 2019 the District worked with the Friends of Great Bear and the City of Fulton to apply for a permit in order to stabilize a 50 foot section of the shoreline at Great Bear Recreation facility pictured on the right. It is expected that implementation will take place in the fall of 2020.



Municipal Tree Planting

Left: The OCSWCD worked with 6 villages in Oswego County to arrange the planting of approximately 70 trees in the fall of 2019. District staff worked collaboratively with village representatives to select priority planting locations as well as the tree species for each site. The contractor for the project, selected through a bid process, was required to utilize two-inch caliper stock and proper planting procedures. Planting locations were primarily along streets, but included parks and cemeteries as well. A properly planted tree in the Central Square Cemetery is shown here.

Tree and Shrub Program

48th Annual Tree and Shrub Program

In 2019, the District offered 27 varieties of trees and shrubs to the public in the spring tree and shrub sale. Over 10,000 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 48th 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 2019 approximately 60 sites were visited for control. The majority of these sites located throughout Oswego County had been treated with herbicides. Many others were monitored with no control efforts needed. This program was implemented using State Soil and Water funding.

Below: Of the original 280 acres of water chestnut just in the Oswego River and Ox Creek, approximately 110 acres were dense enough to require herbicide treatment in 2019. Treatments were conducted in several locations in late



July and proved to be quite successful. In addition to this treatment, the District also employed 7 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. The team removed approximately 33,000 lbs of chestnut plants from waterbodies throughout Oswego County. This program was funded by grants from NYS Senator Patty Ritchie and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Pictured at the left are District interns weighing water chestnuts after a day of hand-pulling. The information is recorded and utilized as one of several required statistics for their final report.

Invasive Species Education

Left: The annual water chestnut hand-pull on the Salmon River Estuary was held at the Pine Grove Boat Launch. The event was coordinated by the Oswego County SWCD 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. Pictured on the left are District interns participating in the hand-pull.



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 through a bid process to treat approximately 24 acres of fanwort. The application proved to be very successful as a follow up inspection revealed no fanwort plants in the treatment areas. The photo on the left shows a small patch of fanwort that was 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. The District was awarded funding from NYS Senator Patty Ritchie for the distribution of larvicide kits and spraying in Oswego County as well as Onondaga, Madison, Oneida and St. Lawrence. The District purchased more than 3,400 larvicide kits for distribution throughout the aforementioned counties, 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 town and village offices throughout the county. The remaining counties were provided these kits through their health departments or Soil and Water Districts. Spraying for mosquitoes was partially funded in Oswego and Onondaga Counties in 2019 with the funding. This photo shows District Intern, Derek Hilton, delivering dunk kits to the Town of Richland.

