

WYOMING COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



The Mission of the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote wise management of our natural resources through a wide variety of quality conservation and educational programs.

Wyoming County SWCD provides technical assistance on soil, water, and related natural resources to municipalities, farmers, and landowners who utilize the information to make sustainable land use decisions and protect water resources. The Wyoming County SWCD works with many stakeholders to secure cost share funding which is used to complete Best Management Practices on farms, water quality improvement projects, and stream channel restoration.



District Phone & Fax:

585-786-3675

wcswcd@frontiernet.net

www.wcswcd.org

2020 Accomplishments



775 ACRES OF COVER CROPS IMPLEMENTED



490 TREES PLANTED



13 HYDROSEEDING PROJECTS COMPLETED



35 MUNICIPAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE



85 AGRICULTURAL BMPs INSTALLED

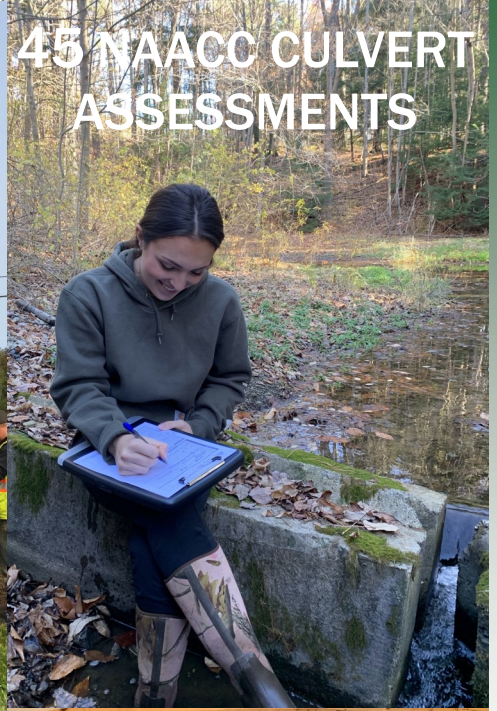
2020 Accomplishments



**0.65 ACRES OF
INVASIVE SPECIES
MANAGEMENT**



**3 CULVERT
REPLACEMENT
PROJECTS**



**45 NAACC CULVERT
ASSESSMENTS**



**4 MINED LAND
RECLAMATION PROJECTS**



**256
INDIVIDUALS
ASSISTED**



**14.47
MILLION
GALLONS OF
MANURE
STORAGE
CREATED**



**250 LINEAR FEET OF
STREAMBANK STABILIZATION**

2020 Accomplishments

6.52 Acres of Riparian Buffers Installed



**COMPLETED \$951,138.99
IN GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS**



**LEVERAGED \$1,974,950.26
FOR IMPLEMENTED
PROJECTS**

**MEET:
EMELYN BELL**



**OUR NEW DISTRICT
TECHNICIAN**



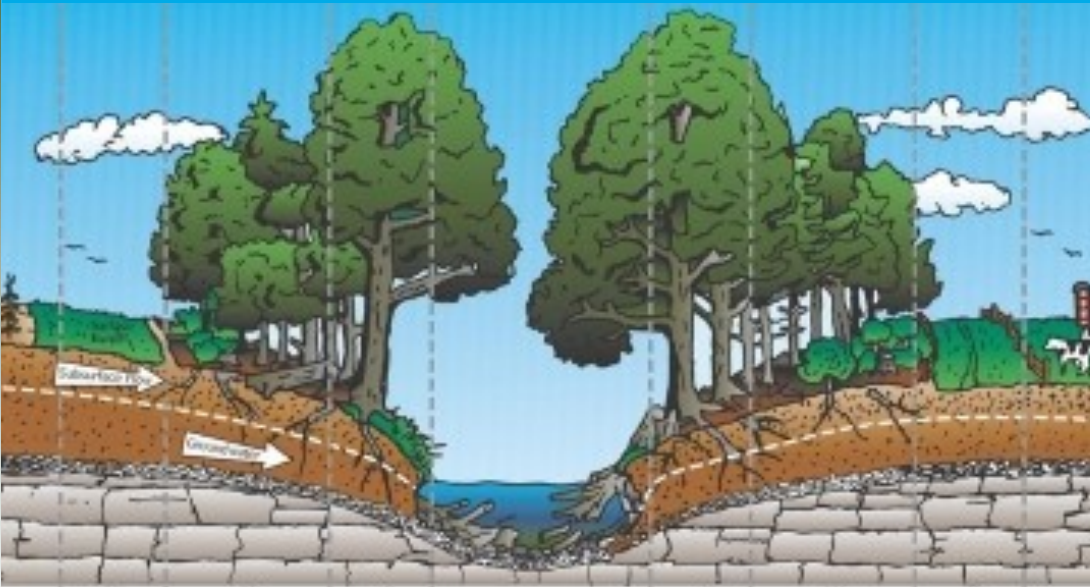
**118 AGRICULTURAL VALUE
ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED**

**PURCHASED A NEW HYDROSEEDER
FOR SHARED COUNTY USE**



Why does Wyoming County SWCD value riparian buffers?

The Streamside Forest Buffer



Riparian zones are critical to the health of every stream and its surroundings environment. They create a unique ecosystem between the aquatic and upland areas. Functioning as a filter for runoff, habitat for wildlife and providing other critical services to the ecosystem. Grass Buffers can help keep soil

and nutrients in fields and out of waterways. Keeping streams healthier and reducing downstream sedimentation of larger waterbodies (Lake Ontario, Lake Erie or even Silver Lake!).

Agricultural forest buffer at the bottom of a field to capture nutrient runoff before it goes into a drainage ditch.



Streambank erosion in desperate need of stabilization by a riparian forest buffer to establish roots and hold the bank.

The implementation of these waterways, even on a small scale can have tremendous effects on increasing downstream water quality and decreasing field erosion. The vegetation slows down runoff and helps prevent soil, nutrients, pesticides and other runoff carried pollutants from entering the water. This picture depicts what was previously a cow pasture that was put into buffer to increase stabilization and improve water quality. The conservation seed mix used for the buffer will capture nutrient runoff from the farm driveway and root down to prevent soil erosion.



Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Projects



The District completed two of its four planned Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) funded Projects in 2020. The AEM Base program is geared towards completing smaller Agricultural BMP's on farmsteads to reduce environmental impacts. The farm operations that completed these projects have an extensive history with the district and work to keep their AEM plans up to date.

The first project completed was a Heavy Use Area Protection for a beef producer in Gainesville. This project involved the construction of a concrete feed alley in an area where the animals would be confined over winter.

The Heavy Use Area provides a hardened, stable surface for the cows to stand on while also keeping the cows out of the mud, improving foot health. This project also simplifies the farm's manure management during winter months by adding curbs to help with clean up. The project also improved an existing grassed waterway on the farm. The Heavy Use area will help to reduce unnecessary manure runoff and improve the farms manure management in the future.

The second project was a Streambank Stabilization along the Buffalo Creek in Java. This project protected and restored a heavily eroded bend and involved the installation of 250 feet of heavy rip rap. The erosion was damaging a farm field and imputing large amounts of sediment into the Buffalo Creek. Over 700 tons of rock was used to stabilize and construct the armored streambank, including two rock stream barbs that will defect high velocity flows back into the center of the stream channel. This project was a complete success and will preserve the farms important production ground and reduce sedimentation in the Buffalo Creek.



Invasive Knotweed Management in the East Koy/ Wiscoy Creek Watershed



Japanese knotweed adjacent to the Pike Mill Dam

Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District developed an invasive species management strategy for the East Koy/ Wiscoy Creek Watershed in 2019 to implement during the field season of 2020. The main focus of management began with high trafficked, ecologically sensitive areas in the county. Therefore, after much consideration, the East Koy/ Wiscoy Watershed was selected as a good starting point for Japanese Knotweed Management.

20 sites of Japanese knotweed were identified and totaled 5 acres. Out of those 20 sites, seven were manually cut and treated in 2020. WCSWCD's management strategy is to target and eliminate small areas first, this prevents the Japanese knotweed spreading further into the habitat.

Same infestation after two cuttings and one herbicide treatment



Japanese knotweed Before & After photos continued



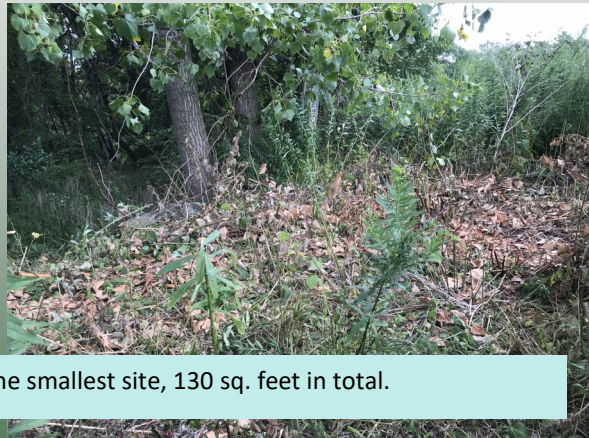
Site #1: Before and after photos of approximately 0.03 acres of Japanese Knotweed in Bliss, NY.



Site #3: Before and after photos of a 0.07 acre isolated site in the Town of Eagle.



Site #4: Approximately 217 sq. ft. of knotweed at this site, will need secondary treatment next year.



Site #10: Before and after photos of the smallest site, 130 sq. feet in total.

**Sites are strategically numbered for documentation purposes, and therefore may not be in numerical order*

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