

ERIE COUNTY WATER QUALITY STRATEGY



*ERIE COUNTY WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 2011*

**ERIE COUNTY WATER QUALITY STRATEGY
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INTRODUCTION

Water quality issues, particularly those that involve nonpoint source pollution, are a great concern for people living in New York State. Government agencies, private sector groups, and the general public all have an interest in protecting and restoring water quality. The citizens of New York State realize the critical role that good quality water plays for economic, social, and environmental health.

This document defines the structure and goals of the Erie County Water Quality Committee (ECWQC). The ECWQC was established in 1992 and is organized using the format from Guidelines for Establishing County Water Quality Strategies, which was prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee. The minimum contents of a County Water Quality Strategy as proposed by these guidelines are included in **Appendix D**.

Erie County has many water quality organizations and activities. The purpose of this committee is to identify existing efforts, and share this information, without adding another level of bureaucracy. The Committee members intend to maximize public efforts by various agencies and organizations and to be a resource for adapting state and federal programs to local needs. Through teamwork, the ECWQC will act as an umbrella structure under which water quality issues affecting Erie County can be addressed. The ECWQC upholds a policy of open membership for interested organizations and stakeholders and can also designate representatives to regional water quality groups.

A "SNAPSHOT" OF ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK

Erie County has a population of 950,265 people (2000 census) and is a unique combination of urban, suburban and rural communities. The western part of the County is primarily urban, while the eastern and southern portions are primarily agriculture based. Suburban areas are interspersed. Dominant economic sectors include agriculture, manufacturing, commercial, government and human services. The lake-front city of Buffalo is the second largest city in New York State, and while its population has declined since its peak in the 1950's, suburban and rural areas continue to experience residential and commercial growth. This population shift from the city to the suburbs and rural communities is indicative of U.S. demographic trends. The County has many potential water quality problems because of its diversity of human activities and geologic features.

The County is divided into two physiographic provinces. The northern and western ends of the County are in the Erie-Ontario Lake Plain Province typified by relatively flat terrain. The southern and eastern boundaries are in the Allegheny Plateau, which is characterized by steep valley walls and wide ridge tops. Elevations range from 569 feet to 1,935 feet above mean sea level.

Erie County is underlain by bedrock of the Upper Silurian and the Middle and Upper Devonian periods. The older bedrock is in the northern part of the County, and becomes progressively younger toward the southern part of the County. This is due to glaciers, which advanced and

retreated several times during the last Ice Age, and resulted in surficial deposits of unconsolidated material of various sizes, shapes, and mineral content.

Erie County lies completely within the Lake Erie-Niagara River drainage basin. There are 17 major watersheds in the County and 36 major streams that all drain into Lake Erie or the Niagara River. Hydraulic characteristics vary dramatically within and between watersheds. The headwaters of most watersheds are in the Allegheny Plateau. Some watersheds are found exclusively in the County, while others cross county boundaries. A list of watersheds, drainage basins, waterways, agricultural districts, watershed codes, and tributary priority ranking is included in **Appendix B**.

Drinking water is supplied to about 90% of the County population from several intake points along Lake Erie and the Niagara River. The remaining 10% depend on groundwater from public or private systems. Water is a very important recreational resource throughout Erie County. Lake Erie and its tributaries provide extensive opportunities for swimming, fishing, and boating, thus enhancing tourism and the quality of life for County residents. The Lake also provides habitat for many plants and animals, some of which are endangered. For these reasons, protecting water is a top priority in Erie County.

The International Joint Commission (IJC) has identified two Areas of Concern (AOC) in Erie County. They are the Buffalo River and the Niagara River. A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) has been developed and implemented for the Buffalo River. The Niagara River RAP was completed in September of 1994. Erie County has the highest number of Superfund Sites (active and inactive hazardous waste sites) in the State which are in various stages of remediation. Major concerns of Erie County residents involve drinking water quality, water supply, pollution prevention, solid and hazardous waste management, flood control protection, habitat protection, habitat restoration, and other environmental management problems.

Surface and groundwater quality in Erie County has been greatly impacted because of industry, agriculture, suburban environments, and densely populated urban areas, although there is some evidence of general improvement. Many of these problems are already being addressed, while others are just surfacing.

Although the Erie County area contributes pollution to Lake Erie, it is not the sole source. The land use surrounding Lakes Superior, Huron, and Michigan all have an impact on Lake Erie because of their hydrologic nature. Water flows from Lake Superior and Lake Michigan into Lake Huron and then into Lake Erie. Lake Erie drains through the Niagara River into Lake Ontario. From this point, the water flows into the St. Lawrence River, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and out to the Atlantic Ocean. In addition, atmospheric deposition from other areas contributes additional pollutants to the Great Lakes.

The ECWQC supports and encourages good stewardship practices that protect and restore water quality within New York State and the Great Lakes system. This means fostering public support and involvement by providing a mechanism, the Erie County Water Quality Committee, to pursue water quality issues.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Erie County Water Quality Committee is to protect and improve the quality of both surface and groundwater for their intended uses, primarily through the reduction of nonpoint source pollution and by focusing on Erie County water-related issues.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The ECWQC strives to coordinate existing interests and activities dealing with water quality. The Committee is set up as an ad hoc organization with three parts; a lead agency, a voting committee, and a full committee. The Committee is responsible for developing and maintaining a Water Quality Strategy (WQS) for Erie County. It is also responsible for fostering implementation of the Strategy through identification, prevention, remediation, and monitoring of nonpoint source pollution. For present operating procedures see the **Committee Bylaws**.

A. The lead agency, Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District, has the following duties:

1. Arrange committee meetings and mail correspondence
2. Receive communication from or direct it to the New York Nonpoint Source Coordinating Committee (NYNPSCC)
3. Coordinate the application and receipt of funding
4. Spend such funding on behalf of the ECWQC for goods and/or services to fulfill its mission statement

B. The voting committee is composed of local, state, and federal municipal members desiring to be more involved and committed (via subcommittees) by attending regular meetings. Municipalities will be solicited annually to participate in the ECWQC. Each of these participating municipalities will have one vote each in all matters and must designate a single voting representative. A list of voting committee members is included in the **Committee Bylaws**.

C. The full committee consists of persons and agencies desiring to be active for the purpose of supporting the ECWQC Mission. Additional organizations and agencies are welcome to become part of the Committee as stated in the Bylaws. A list of the full committee members and their roles relative to water quality is in **Appendix A**.

COMMITTEE REPORTING

The ECWQC reports to the New York Nonpoint Source Coordinating Committee (NYNPSCC), the Erie County Legislature, and the public.

A. The ECWQC reports the following items to the NYNPSCC:

1. Adopted changes to the Erie County WQS
2. Changes to the Committee
3. Required progress reports or financial reports

B. The ECWQC also reports to the public and the County Legislature on:

1. Contents of the Erie County WQS
2. The Committee's endorsement of projects
3. Committee resolutions in support of water quality protection efforts

COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

The ECWQC has the following functions:

- A.** Develop and adopt a Water Quality Strategy for Erie County
- B.** Execute the Water Quality Strategy by promoting prevention and remediation of nonpoint source pollution in Erie County according to the Action Plan
- C.** Address other water quality issues as directed by the NYNPSCC or issues that become evident in Erie County and report those issues as directed
- D.** Represent Erie County in the Water Resource Board of the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) and other regional water quality groups

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

A. Maintain a Water Quality Strategy for Erie County.

The ECWQC will prepare the minimum contents of the WQS (see **Appendix D**) and will evaluate and update it annually to reflect changes in priorities and water quality activities. The ECWQC will also evaluate Committee membership and structure relative to its progress and effectiveness.

B. Identify nonpoint source water quality issues in Erie County.

Issues affecting water quality in Erie County are hazardous waste sites, land-use activities, mining, agriculture, landfills, septic systems, combined sewer overflows, urban runoff, and others. These impacts and others will be part of the ongoing water quality assessment, which will be initiated by a survey of municipalities.

C. Prioritize nonpoint source water quality issues in Erie County.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Priority Water Bodies Problem List was used to develop the current ECWQC priority list. The categories under which the water bodies were evaluated include watersheds, targeted desired uses (TDU) and targeted pollution sources (TPS). The ECWQC is also undertaking a survey and needs assessment of municipalities in order to create a new set of prioritized water quality issues. The Committee's priorities and list of projects will be publicized along with any recommendations for promoting nonpoint source pollution prevention and remediation in the targeted areas.

D. Identify sources of funding to implement the ECWQC mission.

A list will be compiled of government and private sector funding sources available for water quality projects. The ECWQC will sponsor or co-sponsor incentives as they become available and will partner with Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties in LEWPA – and any other regional water quality groups – to gain access to more regional funding in support of its mission.

E. Facilitate cooperation and coordination of all water quality activities in Erie County, both watershed specific and countywide.

A commitment document will be developed for all participating organizations expressing a pledge to work together toward the ECWQC mission. The ECWQC realizes the importance of first knowing what the agencies are engaged in and then minimizing the duplication of effort among groups. On an ongoing basis, the ECWQC will identify gaps that may exist in water quality improvement activities within the County and will recommend programs to fill these gaps.

F. Educate Erie County communities about the impact of nonpoint source pollution.

The ECWQC will support ongoing and new projects involving water quality protection via publicity and education. This will be accomplished by sponsoring and coordinating public education events, publishing fact sheets on related subjects, and encouraging local community and industrial stewardship projects. The ECWQC will strive to make water quality a household word by participating in existing public environmental events such as fairs and Earth Day activities, and by utilizing the existing outreach and educational initiatives of its member organizations (i.e. WNYSC, USDA-NRCS, Riverkeeper) to educate the community. Potential activities include storm drain stenciling, public service announcements, citizen monitoring programs, and projects addressing “adopt-a-highway” or “adopt-a-stream.”

ACTION PLAN FOR OBJECTIVES

The Erie County Water Quality Committee will identify, organize, and prioritize regional water quality concerns and projects as well as foster the partnerships necessary to successfully obtain funding, pool resources, and collectively implement efforts to improve the overall water quality in the Lake Erie Watershed.

A. Maintain a Water Quality Strategy (WQS) for Erie County.

1. Evaluate and update the WQS annually to reflect changes in priorities and water quality and quantity activities.
2. Evaluate Committee membership and structure for progress and effectiveness.

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>COST/FUNDING SOURCE</u>
Update the WQS	ECWQC	on-going	N/A
Prepare 2010 and 2011 annual report	ECDEC, ECSWCD	in progress	\$3,000-Round 10-NYS Water Quality Improvement Grant

B. Identify nonpoint source water quality issues in Erie County.

1. Review the NYSDEC Priority Water Bodies Problems List for Erie County.
2. Conduct a survey of all municipalities, regional agencies, and organizations in Erie County that are involved in the management of water resources, stormwater, wastewater, and other water quality initiatives to:
 - a) Collect information regarding the specific water quality and quantity concerns, projects, and issues
 - b) Identify and quantify the local and regional impacts and benefits associated with these concerns and projects
 - c) Create an initial list of projects with estimated costs to be evaluated and prioritized

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>COST/FUNDING SOURCE</u>
Develop Survey	ECSWCD, ECDEP	complete	N/A
Compile survey results	ECSWCD, ECDEP	to complete early 2011	N/A

C. Prioritize nonpoint source water quality issues in Erie County.

1. Evaluate the Erie County waterbodies (streams, lakes, watersheds, aquifers) according to state, county, and committee standards.
2. Establish benefit criteria to prioritize each specific project listed.
 - a) The full committee will have input in the development of a draft set of criteria.
 - b) The voting committee will vote on the criteria.
3. Prioritize projects based on benefit criteria.
 - a) Establish a technical subcommittee to evaluate and prioritize projects.
 - b) The subcommittee will utilize the benefit criteria established and approved by the Committee to evaluate and develop a prioritized list of projects to present to the full committee for approval.
 - c) The subcommittee will look for the opportunity to group, coordinate and combine similar and/ or overlapping projects.
4. Select waterbodies, water problems, and/or specific projects or issues from the prioritized list for committee action.
5. Develop and implement recommendations to address priorities and adopt position statements as needed.

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>COST/FUNDING SOURCE</u>
Establish benefit criteria for prioritization	ECWQC subcommittee	to complete in 2011	N/A
Prioritize projects	ECWQC	annual	N/A

D. Identify sources of funding to implement mission.

1. Investigate and identify resources and potential funding sources.
 - a) Continually track grant opportunities and maintain discussions with potential funding sources to identify resources available for identified priority projects.
 - b) Continually communicate with state and federal officials to market priorities and secure support for priority projects.
 - c) Facilitate access to funding information for Committee members by creating a list of sources.
2. Provide training for Committee members to understand what types of projects might be eligible for each potential funding source and assist with grant application process.

3. Coordinate, develop and submit applications for grant funding.
 - a) Utilize LEWPA and other regional water quality groups to facilitate the integration of grant requests into larger three-county applications for funding where appropriate.
 - b) Directly submit grant applications for priority projects in Erie County that are not appropriate to include in the LEWPA and other regional water quality group requests.
4. Act as a coordinating entity and technical resource to funnel grant funding as necessary to the appropriate partner(s) to implement the projects utilizing ECSWCD as treasurer.
5. Distribute funding to prioritized projects as they qualify.
6. Cumulatively track the progress of all of the projects implemented for inclusion in an annual Water Quality Committee report and forward this information to the Erie County Environmental Management Council for inclusion in their annual State of the County Environment Report.

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>COST/FUNDING SOURCE</u>
Identify funding sources (Task #1)	ECWQC members	on-going	N/A
Grant proposal training	ECSWCD, ECDEP	to complete in 2011	N/A
Circulate financial assistance and grant announcements	ECDEP, ECSWCD	on-going	N/A
Create a subcommittee to compile grant apps.	ECWQC	as needed	N/A
Communicate with funding agencies	ECSWCD, ECDEP	on-going	N/A
Develop an annual proposal to secure state resources designated for WQCC's (mini-grants)	ECWQC	annual	NYS
Participate in Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance	LEWPA reps.	on-going	N/A

E. Facilitate cooperation and coordination of water quality related activities in Erie County, both watershed specific and Countywide.

1. Establish a full committee of agencies, organizations, and entities involved in water quality issues in Erie County (See **Appendix A**).
2. ECWQC members will provide a list of activities and updates on progress for the purpose of maintaining ECWQC Strategy accuracy, securing cooperation and support, and avoiding duplication of efforts.
3. Identify and engage the necessary partnerships and responsible entities to manage and implement prioritized projects.
4. Network and match organizations within and outside of the ECWQC.
5. Participate and coordinate with LEWPA and other regional water quality committees.
6. Continue to invite and involve representatives from the offices of state and federal elected officials.

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>COST/FUNDING SOURCE</u>
Coordinate, solicit, and update membership and general obligations of each ECWQC member	ECSWCD, ECDEP and members	on-going	N/A
Hold regular meetings of ECWQC to inform members	ECSWCD, ECDEP and members	on-going	N/A
Maintain email distribution list to inform members	ECDEP	on-going	N/A

F. Educate the Erie County community about the impacts of nonpoint source pollution.

1. Sponsor or aid in coordinating public education events.
 - a) Topics include, but are not limited to: the Great Lakes Basin, watersheds, water quality, pollution prevention, stewardship, stormwater management, agency and organizational roles.
 - b) The committee will strive to reach non-traditional audiences or sectors such as suburban homeowners or owners of septic systems to fill program gaps.

2. Publish and distribute information on related subjects.
3. Promote community and industrial stewardship projects.
4. Participate in public environmental events such as fairs and Earth Day programs.
5. Educate the members or staff of ECWQC agencies and organizations.

<u>WORKSHOP/EVENT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>COST/FUNDING SOURCE</u>
Biennial Great Lakes Student Summit	ECDEP, NRCS, ECEEI, ECSWCD, NY Sea Grant	biennial	\$15,000 various sources
Erie County Envirothon	ECSWCD	annual	N/A
Water Quality Displays at Erie County Fair	ECDEP, WNYSC ECSWCD, NRCS	annual	N/A
Member Presentations to ECWQC	ECWQC members	on-going	N/A
Earth Day Education and Environmental Awareness	ECDEP, ECEEI, ECEEI, City of Buffalo, Private Company Sponsors, WNYSC	annual	N/A
WNY Earth Day Exposition	ECSWCD, ECDEP, NYSDEC, Others	annual	N/A
Family, Food and Farm Tour	CCE, ECSWCD, NRCS	annual	N/A
Fish Stocking Program	ECSWCD	annual	N/A
WNY Contractors' Meeting	Erie, Wyoming, Cattaraugus, Orleans, Genesee, Niagara SWCD's	annual	N/A

*****The "Workshop/Event" list will be reviewed and updated annually, or as the Committee deems necessary and appropriate*****

ERIE COUNTY WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Erie County Water Quality Committee (ECWQC).

ARTICLE II – MISSION

Section 1. The mission of the Erie County Water Quality Committee is to protect and improve the quality of both surface and groundwater for their intended uses, primarily through the reduction of nonpoint source pollution and by focusing on Erie County water-related issues.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the committee shall be to develop and promote a strategy for coordinated improvement and protection of surface and groundwater quality and for preventing further water quality degradation.

Section 2. The strategy will outline committee objectives and an action plan that encourage public participation, interagency cooperation, education and implementation of best management practices to be used in areas of construction, urban development, agriculture, road maintenance, forestry, and stream protection to ensure continual improvement of water quality and to provide decision makers (local governments, agencies, and organizations) with information to actively encourage better protection of water resources throughout Erie County.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

Section 1.A. Each full committee member agency, municipality, or organization shall designate one representative to attend Committee meetings and to receive correspondence. Full committee membership is open to all organizations, agencies, and municipalities involved in water quality issues in Erie County and membership is listed in **Appendix A**.

Section 1.B. Only the following municipal government member agencies, organizations, or entities shall be considered a voting member of the ECWQC and are considered to be a part of the voting committee:

*USDA Farm Services Agency, East Aurora office
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, East Aurora office
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 9
Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
Erie County Division of Sewerage Management
Erie County Environmental Health Department*

Erie County Department of Public Works, Division of Highways
Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District
Erie County Water Authority
Buffalo Sewer Authority
Town of Amherst
Town of Aurora
Town of Brant
Town of Concord
Town of Collins
Town of Eden
Town of Elma
Town of Evans
Town of Grand Island
Town of Lancaster
Town of Orchard Park
Town of Sardinia
Town of Tonawanda
Town of Wales
Village of Depew
Village of Orchard Park

- Section 2.** Voting membership will designate Committee representatives to any regional water quality associations according to that association's bylaws and conditions.
- Section 3.** Additional full committee or voting committee members can be added to the roster by majority approval of those voting member representatives present at any regular or special meeting of the ECWQC provided the party in question meets the membership requirements.
- Section 4.** Representatives and/or members may be added or removed from the Committee by written request from the organization represented. Members lose voting status if they fail to participate in at least one Committee meeting per year.
- Section 5.** Members may be reinstated with full voting privileges by majority approval of the Committee following a written request from the organization.
- Section 6.** For voting purposes, a quorum shall consist of a minimum of 9 voting members.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND LEAD AGENCY

- Section 1.** Officers of the Committee will be Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 2.** The Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District shall be the lead agency for the ECWQC and shall serve as Treasurer of all Committee funds.

ARTICLE VI – RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used in the absence of specific procedures listed herein.

ARTICLE VII – EXPENDITURES

Section 1. Decisions on commitment and expenditure of funds shall be by majority approval of those voting members present at any Committee meeting. Expenditures under \$250 shall be approved by the Chairperson and the Treasurer. Expenditures in excess of \$250 require approval of voting members.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

Section 1. Meeting dates will be determined at each meeting by the officers’ action. An annual meeting will be held at the first calendar meeting of the new calendar year with at least one (1) meeting per calendar quarter each year. Officers for the year will be elected at the annual meeting. The lead agency shall notify all members of upcoming meetings by written notice at least one (1) week in advance of the scheduled meeting. Meeting minutes shall also record the date, time, and location of the next scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE IX – DISSOLUTION

Section 1. In the event of the dissolution of the ECWQC, any assets which cannot be returned to the original source of the funds will be transferred to an organization of charity whose goals are compatible with those of the ECWQC. None of the assets shall be distributed for the benefit of any individual.

APPENDIX A

FULL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FEDERAL AGENCIES:

USDA Farm Service Agency
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
Contact: Annette Hyman
Fax: (716) 652-1402

(716) 652-1400

E-mail annette.hyman@ny.usda.gov

The Farm Service Agency implements federal farm programs related to commodities and farm credit. Some of these programs also affect water quality via erosion & sediment control.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
Contact: John Whitney
Fax: (716) 652-8506

(716) 652-8480

E-mail: john.whitney@ny.usda.gov

NRCS implements the policy of the United States government regarding soil conservation and water quality, and provides technical expertise in the solution of agricultural and related types of nonpoint source pollution. They are responsible for engineering and agronomic assistance to farmers, design of measures funded by the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and farm compliance with the conservation provisions of the federal farm bills.

NEW YORK STATE AGENCIES:

NYSDEC Region 9
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
Contact: William Smythe
Fax: (716) 851-7009

(716) 851-7070

E-mail: whsmythe@gw.dec.state.ny.us

NYSDEC implements New York State and Federal laws, regulations and standards relative to water quality through state pollution discharge elimination system permits, oversight of wastewater treatment, hazardous and solid waste management programs, and numerous natural resource conservation programs.

Great Lakes Center at Buffalo State College
Classroom Building C215
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

Contact: Kim Irvine, Professor (716) 878-6204 E-mail: irvinekn@buffalostate.edu
Fax: (716) 878-6644

The Great Lakes Center for Environmental Research and Education serves as both a catalyst and a facilitator for increasing the college's role in environmental research and education. It links high quality research with undergraduate and graduate education, fosters collaboration internally and externally, and serves the regional community as a technical and intellectual resource for resolving environmental issues.

ERIE COUNTY AGENCIES:

Erie County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)
21 South Grove Street, Suite 240
East Aurora, NY 14052

Contact: Deborah A. Roberts (716) 652-5400 E-mail: erie@cornell.edu

The Erie County CCE provides an educational link between Erie County and research-generated knowledge and leadership at New York State's land grant college. CCE is responsible for agriculture research and education, soil testing services, rural, family and youth programs.

Erie County Department of Environment & Planning
95 Franklin Street, 10th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Division of Environmental Compliance Services (ECS) and Division of Planning
Contact: Kathy Konst (716) 858-6716 E-mail: kathy.konst@erie.gov
Fax: (716) 858-7248

ECS and the Pollution Prevention Program help Erie County businesses, citizens, industries, and local governments in finding less hazardous and less waste producing means in their operations. Program services include on-site consultations, workshops, presentations and newsletters. They also provide community education and outreach to encourage environmental stewardship.

The Division of Planning assures sound, orderly development in Erie County by balancing environmental, economic and social concerns. They are responsible for agriculture district review, major commercial and residential development proposals, and master plan preparations.

Division of Sewerage Management

Contact: Michael Quinn, PE (716) 858-7537 E-mail: michael.quinn@erie.gov

Fax: (716) 858-6257

The DSM is responsible for the planning, financing, design and construction, and subsequent operation and maintenance of the County's sanitary sewer facilities. The Erie County Sewer Districts provide sanitary sewer services to communities within their respective boundaries, in addition to Out-of-District agreements for service.

Erie County Environmental Health Department

95 Franklin Street

Buffalo, NY 14202

Contact: Dr. Scott Zimmerman (716) 898-6100 E-mail: scott.zimmerman@erie.gov

The Environmental Health Department is responsible for monitoring the supplies of public water for Erie County and also regulates sewage disposal systems for individual households. The Erie County Public Lab performs NYSELAP approved testing on potable and non-potable water samples and solid and hazardous waste samples. Current NYS Testing Certification includes metals, organics, inorganics, nutrients, minerals, residues, oxygen demand, and bacteriology.

Erie County Environmental Management Council

95 Franklin Street Room 1077

Buffalo, NY 14202

Contact: Tom Hersey (716) 858-7674 E-mail: thomas.hersey@erie.gov

The EMC serves primarily in an advisory capacity to Erie County on matters of the environment, especially those impacting the County such as development, landfills, changing regulations, etc.

Erie County Department of Public Works/ Division of Highways

95 Franklin Street, 14th Floor

Buffalo, NY 14202

Contact: Carl P. Dimmig, P.E. (716) 858-8371 E-mail: carl.dimmig@erie.gov

The Erie County DPW is primarily responsible for water quality as it pertains to highway and bridge construction projects.

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Contact: John Mills-District 13 (716) 655-5650
Lynne Dixon-District 12 (716) 649-2640
Fax: (716) 858-8818

E-mail: jmills13@erie.gov
E-mail: lynne.dixon@erie.gov

The Erie County Legislature is comprised of 17 representatives who take action on communications from the County Executive, the various county departments and agencies, other governments, the public, and the legislators themselves.

Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District (ECSWCD)

50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052

Contact: Mark C. Gaston (716) 652-8480
Fax: (716) 652-8506

E-mail: mark.gaston@ny.nacdnet.net

The ECSWCD works with landowners, land managers, local government agencies and other local interests to address a broad range of natural resource concerns including stream bank protection, wildlife and fisheries habitat management, watershed management, Agricultural Environmental Management, erosion & sediment control, stormwater management, resource mapping & interpretation, and conservation education.

Erie County Water Authority

350 Ellicott Square Building
295 Main Street

Buffalo, NY 14203-2415 (716) 849-8484

Since its inception, ECWA has enhanced the quality of life throughout Erie County and Western New York by providing an abundant supply of safe, high quality drinking water at an affordable rate.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper

1250 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14213

Contact: Richard Tindell (716) 852-7483
Fax: (716) 885-0765

E-mail: rtindell@bnriverkeeper.org

RIVERKEEPER leads Buffalo Niagara's efforts to safeguard our water for present and future generations. Their mission is to protect and restore the quality and quantity of our water while connecting people to water.

Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCFE)

3109 Main Street

Kenmore, NY 14217

Contact: Brian Smith

(716) 831-3206

E-mail: bsmith@citizenscampaign.org

Fax: (716) 831-3207

CCFE is an 80,000-member, non-profit, non-partisan, statewide grassroots organization with a mission to build widespread citizen understanding and advocacy for policies & actions designed to protect the natural environment and public health. Issues include wetlands protection, eliminating sanitary sewer overflows, reducing the use of pesticides, and expanding the use of renewable energy.

Great Lakes United

248 Cassety Hall

1300 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14222

Contact: Bonnie Danni

(716) 886-0142

E-mail: glu@glu.org

Fax: (716) 836-0303

G.L.U. is a coalition of environmental, sports, labor, government and small business organizations which provide a catalyst for Great Lakes citizens to be involved in the decision making process. G.L.U. educates citizens on Great Lakes issues, encourages environmentally sound strategies, and promotes public support and coordinated action.

League of Women Voters Lake Erie Basin Committee

1272 Delaware Ave.

Buffalo, NY 14209-2401

Contact: JoAnn Ross, Coordinator (716) 631-9351

E-mail: jross18@roadrunner.com

The League of Women Voters (LEBC) is composed of League members from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan who monitor and advise on water management in their area. LEBC seeks to preserve and restore Lake Erie and its tributaries through pollution control, abatement and prevention, and improved management of water and related land resources.

New York Sea Grant
204 Jarvis Hall
SUNY Buffalo
Amherst, NY 14260

Contact: Helen Domske
Fax: (716) 645-3612

(716) 645-3610

E-mail: hmd4@cornell.edu

New York Sea Grant acts as a public information and education link between Great Lakes research and the public. It informs the public on environmental quality issues as they specifically relate to the Great Lakes.

MUNICIPALITIES:

The following municipalities and municipal agencies are responsible for reviewing, recommending, planning, developing, implementing, legislating, or overseeing programs aimed at improving water quality in the region.

Buffalo Sewer Authority
1038 City Hall
65 Niagara Square
Buffalo, NY 14202

Contact: David P. Comerford
Fax: (716) 856-5810

(716) 851-4664

E-mail: dcomerford@sa.ci.buffalo.ny.us

Town of Amherst
5583 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Contact: Barry A. Weinstein

(716) 631-7032

E-mail: bweinstein@amherst.ny.us

Town of Aurora
5 South Grove Street
East Aurora, NY 14052

Contact: Jolene Jeffe

(716) 652-7590

E-mail: jjeffe@townofaurora.com

Town of Brant
1294 Brant North Collins Road, PO Box 254
Brant, NY 14027

Contact: Leonard Pero

(716) 549-0301

E-mail: supervisor@brantny.com

Town of Concord
9238 Middle Road
Springville, NY 14141

Contact: Gary Eppolito

(716) 592-4946

E-mail: supervisor@townofconcordny.com

Town of Collins 14093 Mill Street Collins, NY 14034 Contact: Merle Harvey	(716) 532-4874	E-mail: mharvey43@aol.com
Town of Eden 2795 East Church Street Eden, NY 14057 Contact: Glenn Nellis	(716) 992-3408	E-mail: ray@edenny.gov
Town of Elma 1600 Bowen Road Elma, NY 14059 Contact: Michael Nolan	(716) 652-3260	E-mail: supervisor@elmanewyork.com
Town of Evans 8787 Erie Road Angola, NY 14006 Contact: Francis Pordum	(716) 549-5787	E-mail: supervisor@townofevans.org
Town of Grand Island 2255 Baseline Rd. Grand Island, NY 14072 Contact: Peter McMahon	(716) 773-9600 x616	E-mail: pmcmahon@grand-island.ny.us
Town of Lancaster 21 Central Avenue Lancaster, NY 14086 Contact: Robert Giza	(716) 683-1610	E-mail: robertgiza@lancaster.com
Town of Orchard Park 4295 South Buffalo Street Orchard Park, NY 14127 Contact: Janis Colarusso	(716) 662-6400	E-mail: opsupervisor@orchardparkny.org
Town of Sardinia 12320 Savage Road Sardinia, NY 14134 Contact: Dan Miller	(716) 496-8900	E-mail: millerdl49@yahoo.com
Town of Tonawanda 779 Two Mile Creek Road Tonawanda, NY 14150 Contact: Kenneth Maving	(716) 693-4900	E-mail: kmaving@tonwanda.ny.us

Town of Wales
12345 Big Tree Road
Wales Center, NY 14169
Contact: Rick Venditti

(716) 652-0589

E-mail: rvenditti@moog.com

Village of Depew
85 Manitou Street
Depew, NY 14043
Contact: Jim Taton

(716) 683-5700

E-mail: jtaton@villageofdepew.org

Village of Orchard Park
4295 South Buffalo Street
Orchard Park, NY 14127
Contact: Andy Slotman

(716) 662-3866

E-mail: dpw@orchardparkvillage.org

MUNICIPAL COALITIONS:

Western New York Stormwater Coalition (WNYSC)
Contact: James Cornelius

(716) 692-3508

E-mail: jamesc@wheatfield.ny.us

The goal of the WNYSC is to utilize regional collaboration to identify existing resources and develop programs to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater pollution. Forty three Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems in Erie and Niagara counties have joined together to develop a stormwater management program to protect our waterways and enhance our quality of life.

PRIVATE INTERESTS:

Bergmann Associates, P.C.
Waterfront Village Center
40 La Riviere Drive, Suite 150
Buffalo, NY 14202-4306

Contact: Dean R. Goodison, PE, CFM (716) 852-3211 E-mail: dgoodison@bergmannpc.com
Fax: (716) 852-1767

Bergmann Associates is a full service, multi-disciplinary design firm with offices located throughout the Lake Erie and other Great Lakes watersheds. For thirty years, Bergmann has been providing solutions to watershed management challenges. Bergmann's water resource engineers, scientists and GIS specialists have an integrated reputation with their core business disciplines that ensures projects are designed in an environmentally conscious manner, protecting our valuable waters.

Ecology and Environment, Inc.
368 Pleasantview Drive
Lancaster, NY 14068

Contact: Paul Fuhrmann
Fax: (716) 684-0844

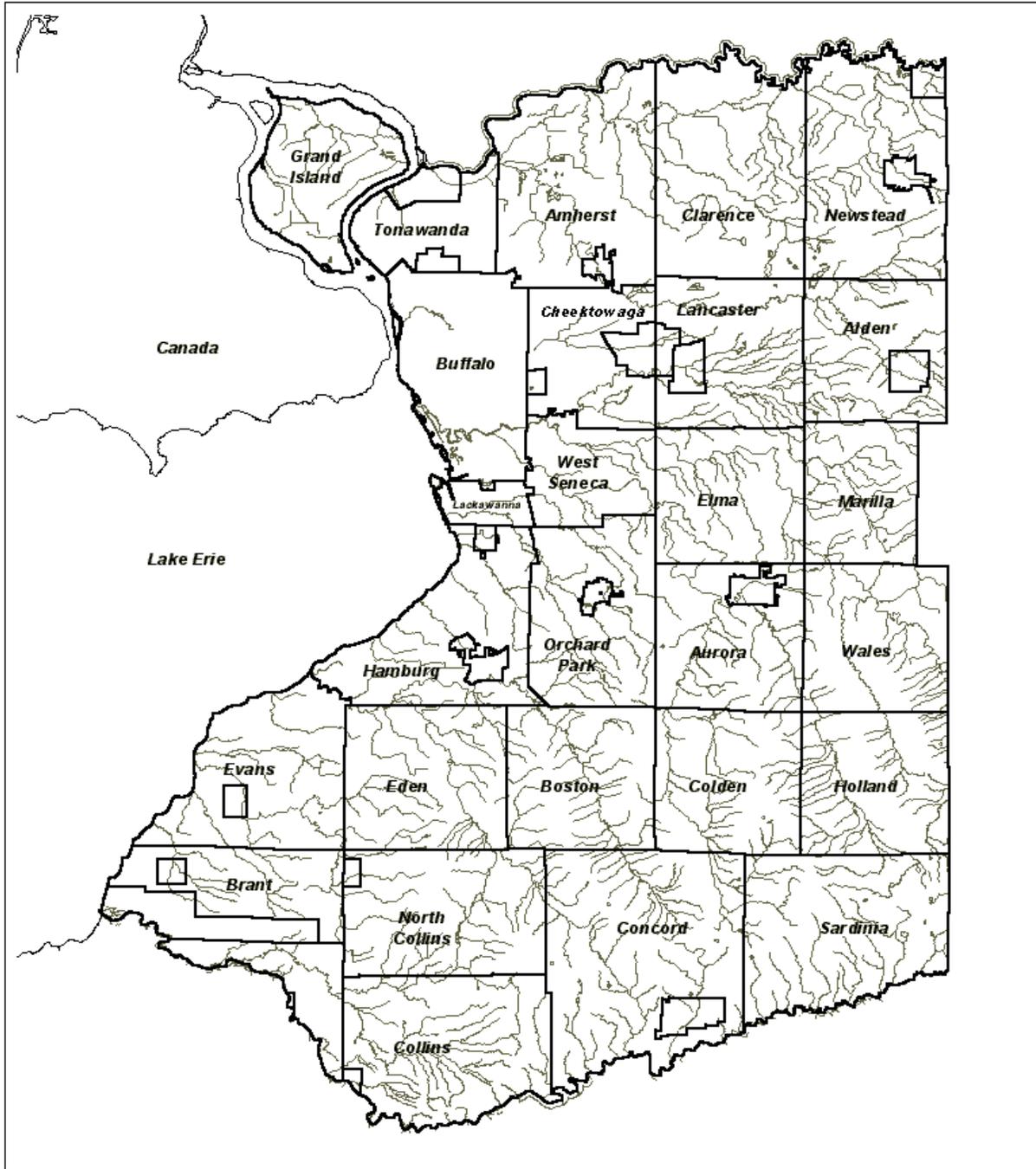
(716) 684-8060

E-mail: pfuhrmann@ene.com

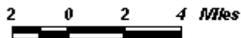
Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E) is a multidisciplinary, international environmental consulting firm with project experience in all aspects of environmental issues. E & E applies environmental science and technology locally and globally to assess and quantify human impacts on air, land and water resources. E & E assists government and private industry with remedial action plans based on sustainability and the preservation of biological integrity within terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

APPENDIX B

ERIE COUNTY WATERWAYS AND MUNICIPALITIES



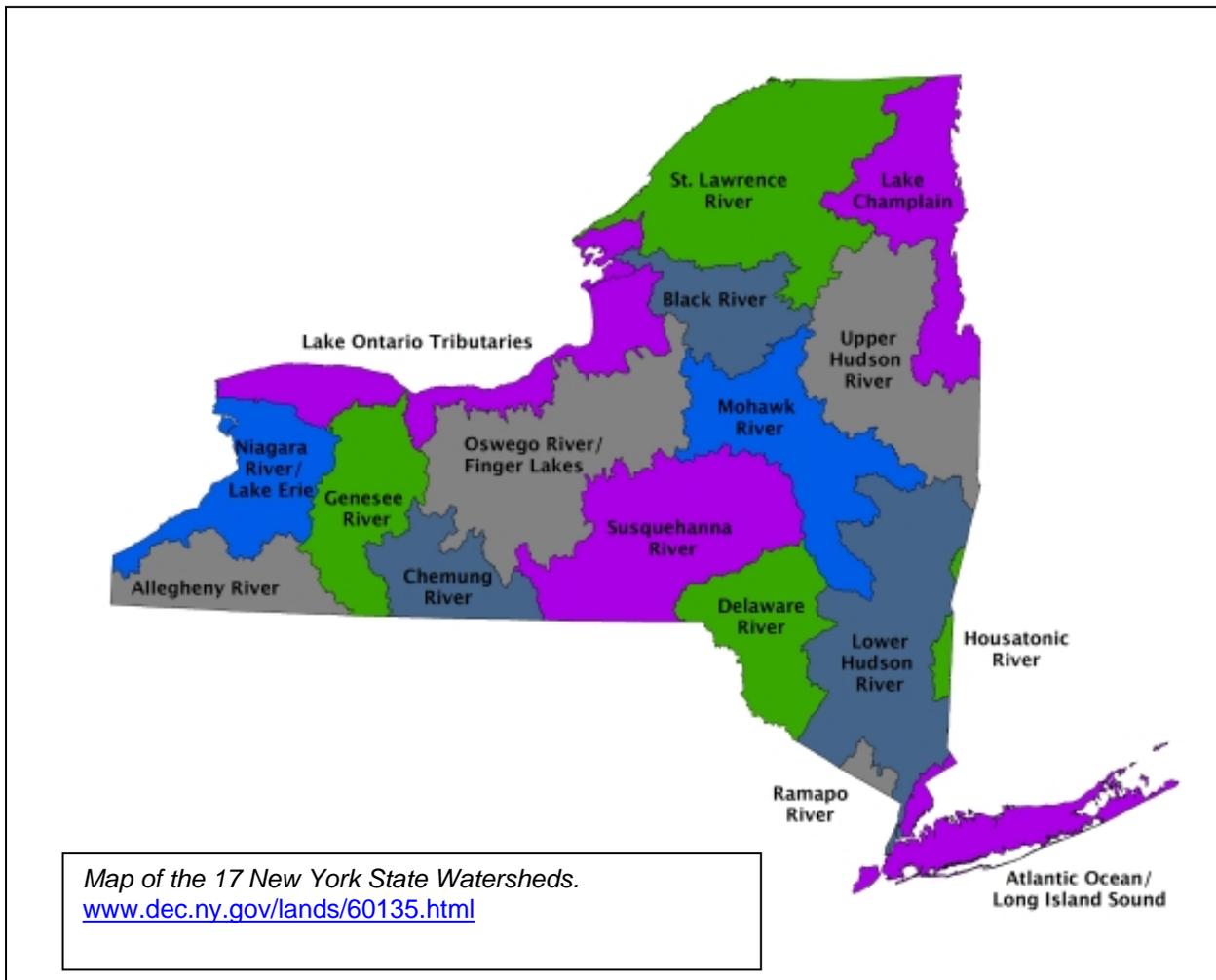
*Prepared by the Erie County
Department of Environment and Planning
Division of Environmental Compliance*



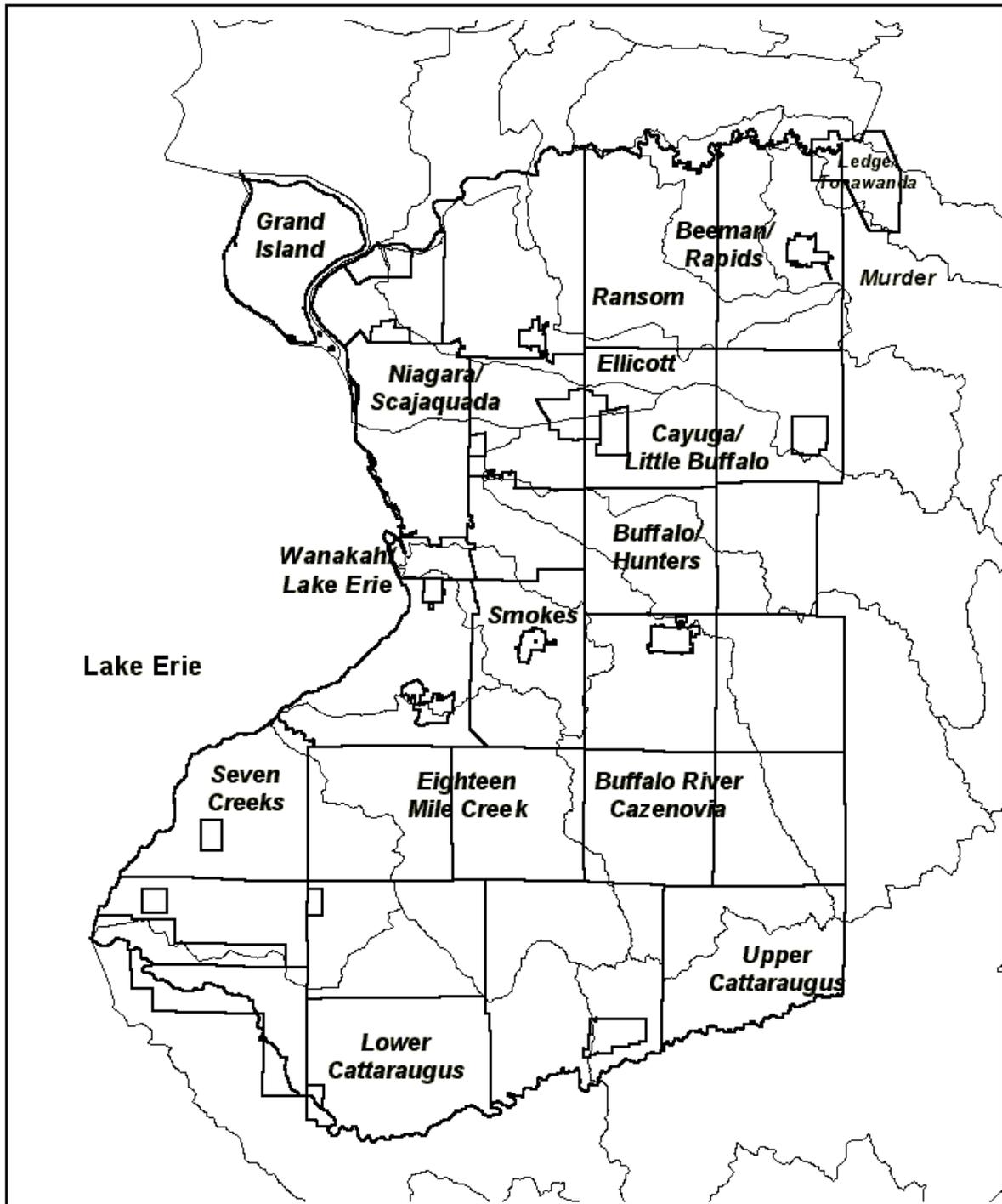
**Erie County,
New York**



NEW YORK STATE DRAINAGE BASINS



WATERSHEDS OF ERIE COUNTY



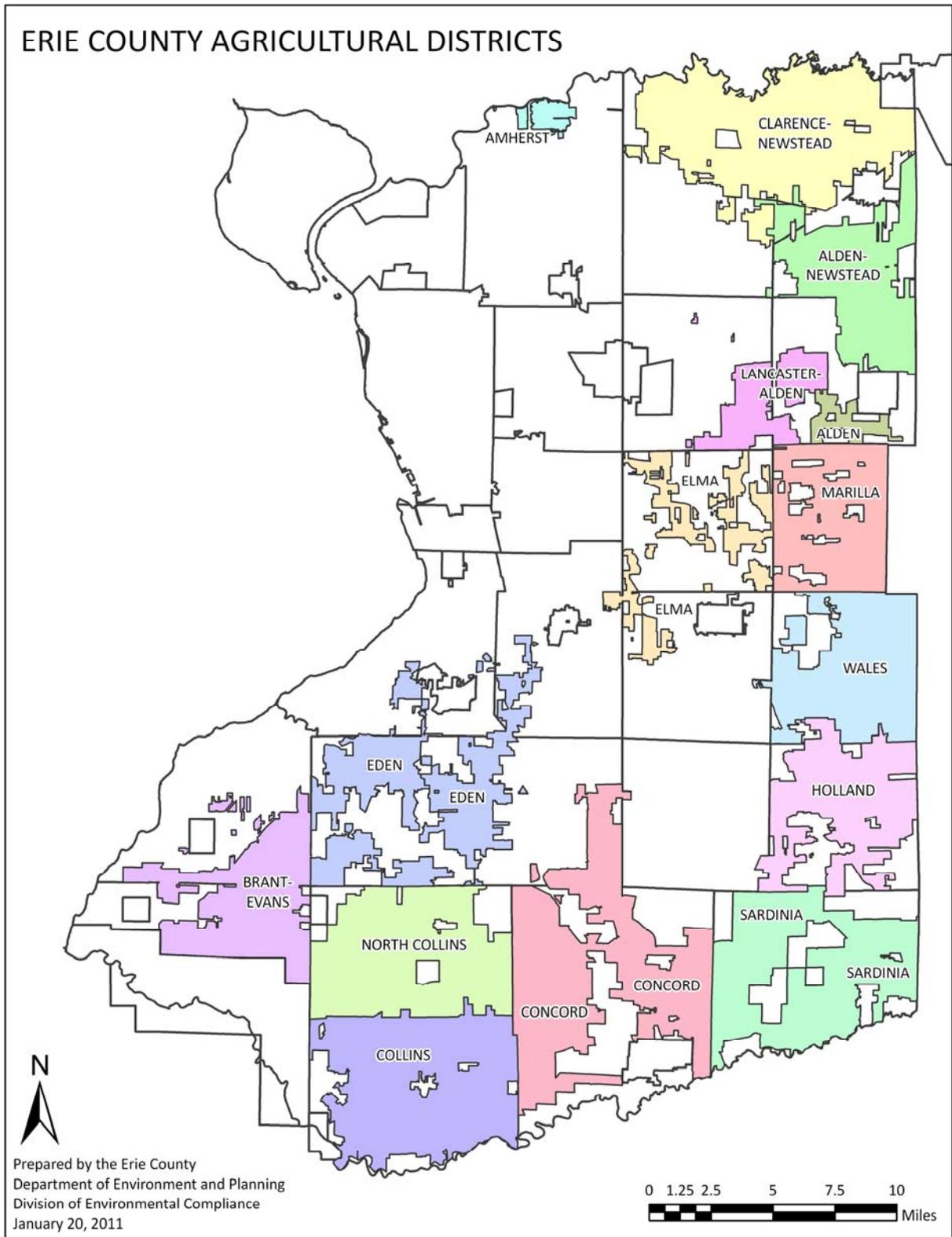
Prepared by Erie County
Department of Environment and Planning
Division of Environmental Compliance

20000 0 20000 Feet

Erie County Watersheds



ERIE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS



WATERSHEDS & HYDROLOGIC WATERSHED CODES

<u>Watershed</u>	<u>Hydrologic Watershed</u>
Upper Cattaraugus	04120102.010
Lower Cattaraugus	04120102.030
Seven Creeks	04120103.010
Eighteen Mile Creek	04120103.020
Wanakah/Lake Erie	04120103.030
Smokes	04120103.040
Buffalo/Hunters	04120103.050
Cayuga/Little Buffalo	04120103.060
Buffalo River/Cazenovia	04120103.070
Niagara/Scajaquada	04120104.010
Ledge/Tonawanda	04120104.030
Murder	04120104.040
Beeman/Rapids	04120104.050
Ransom	04120104.070
Ellicott	04120104.080
Grand Island	04120104.100

ERIE COUNTY TRIBUTARY RANKING BY ECWQCC – UPDATED AUGUST 1997

TRIBUTARIES	HIGH	MED/HIGH	MED	LOW/MED	LOW
Cazenovia Creek	H				
Eighteen Mile Creek	H				
Ellicott Creek I and II	H				
Niagara River	H				
Rush Creek	H				
S. Branch Eighteen Mile Creek	H				
Scajaquada Creek/Delaware Lake	H				
Smokes Creek	H				
Buffalo Creek		MH			
Cattaraugus Creek I and II		MH			
Cayuga Creek		MH			
Got Creek		MH			
Gun Creek		MH			
Little Buffalo Creek		MH			
Murder Creek		MH			
Pike Creek		MH			
Ransom Creek		MH			
Tonawanda Creek		MH			
Two Mile Creek		MH			
Big Sister Creek I and II			M		
Big Six Mile Creek			M		
Black Rock Canal			M		
Clear Creek			M		
Spicer Creek			M		
Spring Brook			M		
Woods Creek			M		
Delaware Creek				LM	
Dorsch Creek				LM	
Beeman Creek					L
Derby Creek					L
Ledge Creek					L
Spooner Brook					L

APPENDIX C

COMPLETED PROJECTS

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>COST</u>
Buffalo River Combined Sewer Overflow Pollution Prevention Project	ECDEP, BSA BSC	330,000
Clean Sweep Demonstration	ECAPPP	72,000
WNY Wetland Mapping	NRCS, ECDEP	50,000
Ag & Farmland Protection Plan	ECAFPB, ECDEP	98,000
Upper Buffalo Watershed (Cazenovia) Project-Planning	ECDEP, Public 11 Municipalities	200,000
Buffalo River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project	ECDEP	500,000
Wellhead Protection Program Expansion - Master Plan Updates	ECDEP, Municipal Governments	150,000
Ag. and Farmland Protection Plan Implementation Amherst/Conservation Easements	ECAFPB, Town of Amherst, WNYLC	1,000,000 (local share 25-50%)
Wyoming County Buffalo River Watershed Signage Project	ECWQC, WCWQC	200
Cazenovia Creek Identification Signage Project	ECWQC, ECDEP, ECDPW	3,000
Buffalo Creek Identification Signage Project	ECWQC, ECDEP, ECDPW	2,000
Buffalo River Watershed Identification Signage Project	ECWQC, ECDEP, ECDPW	4,000

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>COST</u>
Master Gardener NPS Training: BMPs for the Homeowner	NYS Sea Grant	1,000
“Watershed Ed” Middle School Education Packet	ECWQC	550
Watershed Education Series: Septic System Maintenance Seminars, Septic System Seminars for Realtors	ECWQC	1,000
Biennial Great Lakes Student Summit – 1995, 1997, 1999 2001, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2010	ECDEP, ECCEEI	15,000
POTW Pollution Prevention Training	ECDEP	25,000
Eighteenmile Creek Agricultural Environmental Management	ECSWCD, NRCS	55,550
Buffalo Creek Agricultural Environmental Management	ECSWCD, NRCS	15,000
Scajaquada Creek Habitat and Streambank Restoration Project	ECSWCD, NRCS, P.U.R.E. Erie- Niagara	9,950
Eighteenmile Creek Streambank Inspection	ECSWCD	7,500
National Agricultural Pesticide Risk Analysis – Eighteenmile Creek and Seneca Lake Watersheds	ECSWCD, NRCS, CCE	28,500
National Agricultural Pesticide Risk Analysis User Manual	ECSWCD, NRCS, CCE	10,000
Mercury P2 in Health Care	ECDEP	70,000

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>COST</u>
Cazenovia Creek Habitat Restoration and Stewardship	ECDEP, ECSWCD, 5 area schools	69,500
Tribal HHW Collection Program	ECDEP, Seneca/ Tuscarora	50,000
Mercury P2 Education Project	ECDEP	132,000
Buffalo River Watershed Protection Corridor and Wetland Restoration	ECDEP	96,500
Niagara Frontier Wetland Initiative	NRCS, ECSWCD, ECWQC	65,000
Buffalo Creek Ag Phase II	ECSWCD, NRCS, CCE, WCSWCD	755,260
Buffalo Creek Streambank Stabilization Partnership Phase I	ECSWCD, NRCS, 8 Townships, NYSDEC, NRCS	652,450
Ellicott Creek Amherst Inspection	ECSWCD	9,000
Eighteenmile Creek Water Quality Sampling	WNYLC, NRCS	N/A
Cattaraugus Creek Agricultural Environmental Management	ECSWCD, NRCS	45,765
Scajaquada Creek Watershed Management Plan	ECSWCD, SCWAC, EC Legislature	50,000
Ellicott Creek Park Canoe Launch Restoration	ECSWCD, EC Parks	N/A
Septic System P2 BMP Project	ECWQC, BSC ECDEP, ECSWCD	43,084

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>COST</u>
Scajaquada Creek Streambank Restoration for Erosion Control	ECSWCD	33,801
Erie County CAFO CNMP Planning	ECSWCD, NRCS	240,000
USEPA Buffalo Creek Watershed Protection Project	ECSWCD, USEPA, NRCS	475,000
Community-based Environmental Management	ECSWCD, NYSDEC, CCE, ECDEP, NRCS	133,480
Buffalo River Watershed Restoration Project-Joint Board J-L	ECSWCD, NYS DOS	18,308
Cattaraugus Creek Streambank Restoration Project	ECSWCD, CCSWCD, WCSWCD, NYS DOS	40,050
Buffalo Creek Partnership Phase I	ECSWCD, NRCS CCE, WCSWCD	645,000
Cazenovia Creek Streambank Stabilization	ECSWCD, Erie & Wyoming County Joint Boards	87,110
Cazenovia Creek Streambank Stabilization-Joint Board 27L	ECSWCD	20,000
Seneca Bluffs Habitat Restoration Project	ECDEP, DOS, NYSDEC, NPOs	423,000
Dental Waste Management Program	ECDEP	30,000

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>COST</u>
Stormwater Outfall Illicit Connection Trackdown Project	ECDEP, Buffalo State College, WNY Stormwater Coalition	180,900
Storm Drain Stencil Projects	ECDEP and Sponsor	
Septic System Symposium	ECWQC, ECDEP, ECSWCD, NRCS, Audubon Society, EMC, ECEHD	
Creek Identification Signage Project (Cayuga Creek)	ECWQC, ECDEP, ECDPW	20,000
Green Infrastructure Training	ECDEP, WNYSC	650
Post Construction BMP Training	ECDEP, WNYSC	200
Buffalo Creek Ag Phase III	ECSWCD, NRCS, CCE, WCSWCD	1,176,552
Ellicott Creek Cleanup Project	ECSWCD, EC Parks	70,000
Buffalo Creek Streambank Stabilization Partnership Phase II	ECSWCD, NRCS, 8 Townships, NYSDEC, NRCS	512,826
Erie County Highway Stream Maintenance Program	ECSWCD, EC Highway Dept.	120,000
Western New York Stormwater Local Ordinance Project	ECDEP, Regulated MS4s	656,000

APPENDIX D

MINIMUM CONTENTS OF A COUNTY WATER QUALITY STRATEGY

- 1. List of County Water Quality Coordinating Committee members**
 - Full Committee members listed in Appendix A
 - Voting Committee members listed in the “Committee Bylaws”

- 2. Statement on who the Committee reports to**
 - Included in “Committee Reporting” section

- 3. The Committee’s mission/purpose statement**
 - Included in “Mission Statement” section
 - Also described in “Committee Bylaws”

- 4. Description of the Committee’s function(s)**
 - Included in “Committee Function” section

- 5. Summary of individual agency and organization roles, authorities, and existing programs or activities to protect and improve water quality in the County**
 - Included in list of Full Committee members in Appendix A

- 6. List of prioritized water quality problems: watershed specific and county-wide**
 - Included in Appendix B and Appendix C. (To be updated in 2011)

- 7. List of Committee goals and objectives for:**
 - **informing the public**
 - **on-going problem assessment and verification**
 - **addressing watershed specific and county-wide issues**
 - **overall program evaluation**
 - Included in “Action Plan for Objectives” section

- 8. List of work tasks for achieving each objective, including:**
 - **who is responsible for carrying out each task**
 - **estimated time frame for completing each task**
 - **potential sources of funding**
 - **estimated costs (where possible) for tasks to be implemented over the next two years – including water quality initiatives presently underway**
 - Included in “Action Plan for Objectives” section

- 9. Description of the Coordinating Committee’s role in implementing the strategy.**
 - Included in “Action Plan for Objectives” section