**POLLINATORS**

Pollinators are vital for both wildflowers and crops. Without them, about 85% of plants would be unable to produce seeds or fruits. A pollinator garden can be developed anywhere. Plant it with a diversity of flowers that together provide bloom from early spring to late summer, and you will create a valuable resource for pollinators.
WETLANDS

Wetlands play a key role in the ecosystem. They act as filters, removing pollutants from waters. They serve as reservoirs, and they aid flood and erosion control by absorbing excess water. They are home to a great variety of plant and animal species, some endangered, that have evolved to live in a wetland’s unique conditions. Wetlands are used for recreational activities such as fishing, bird-watching, hunting, hiking and photography.
WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is a geographic area in which all runoff and groundwater is collected and flows to a common point. It is generally referred to as a drainage basin. Everyone lives in a landscape of many interconnected basins. Everything you do in your watershed affects the larger watershed downstream. Keeping your watershed healthy and productive is important.
A shade tree absorbs 10 pounds of air pollution each year including 4 pounds of ozone and 3 pounds of particulates.

One shade tree can intercept 760 to 4000 gallons of rainfall in its crown annually, depending on species. This reduces runoff of polluted storm water and can affect the size of drain pipes and retention ponds needed in new developments.

Trees reduce the need for power plants by providing natural air conditioning. They also reduce the effects of car exhausts and industrial emissions by “sequestering” carbon (locking it in their wood). A single tree can eliminate 90 pounds of carbon, or 330 pounds of carbon dioxide, from the air each year.

By the time a tree reaches maturity, it produces 5 pounds of pure oxygen every day, enough to keep a family of 4 breathing.
The water on earth is constantly moving, it recycles over and over again. Water evaporates from the ground, turns into clouds, falls as rain, sleet or snow, and the whole process continues endlessly in a cycle. Many processes work together to keep Earth’s water moving in a cycle. There are five processes at work in the hydrologic cycle: condensation, precipitation, infiltration, runoff and evapotranspiration.
Rain barrels are an important way to save water and reduce the amount of polluted runoff entering our streams, creeks, rivers and lakes.

The collected water in rain barrels can be used for watering gardens and landscaping, washing cars, filling fountains, ponds and birdbaths.

The harvesting of rainwater saves money and minimizes the impact on municipal water supplies.

More than 70% of the Earth’s surface is covered by water, but only 2.5% of this supply is considered fresh water. Protecting this precious natural resource is paramount.
There are 58 conservation districts in New York, one representing each county and five districts representing the boroughs of New York City.

More than 90% of New York’s water quality problems are due to nonpoint source pollutants. Districts are at the hub for protecting ground and surface water supplies.

Initiated by Districts in 1990, the Envirothon is the state’s largest environmental program for high school students.
ERIE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS A LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUBDIVISION UNDER NEW YORK STATE LAW. THE DISTRICT WAS ESTABLISHED AS A PUBLIC BENEFIT BY THE COUNTY OF ERIE.