

FLOWPA FUNDAMENTALS

FINGER LAKES - LAKE ONTARIO WATERSHED PROTECTION ALLIANCE
FROM STREAMS, TO LAKES, TO GREAT LAKES
PROTECTING OUR WATER RESOURCES BEGINNING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

IN THIS ISSUE:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
(USFWS) FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

GREAT LAKES BASIN PROJECT (GLBP) FOR SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT
CONTROL

USFWS FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

As part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), FLOWPA was awarded \$231,000 in September 2012 to administer three projects which will help to improve fish populations in Central New York by mitigating barriers to reconnect habitat, to restore ecosystem function, and to improve brook trout and lake sturgeon populations in the Lake Ontario watershed. The following is a summary of the completed projects:

Cayuga-Seneca Mudlocks Project: Lake Sturgeon Spawning Habitat Enhancement

In 2014, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office and the US Geological Survey created three spawning beds equal to 21,600 square feet in the Seneca River adjacent to the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Seneca County to provide new habitat for species that require clean rock reefs for spawning, especially Lake Sturgeon. During subsequent spawning seasons the effectiveness of the spawning beds will be evaluated. This milestone in collaborative native fish restoration was reached in partnership with the Montezuma NWR, the USFWS Region 5 Office, the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), and the New York State Canal Corporation.



Photo credit: Z. Biesinger



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Rauber Dam: Sky Acres/Reynolds Gully Project

The removal of the dam at the Sky Acres property along Reynolds Gully, Livingston County, was completed in 2013 when the dam was officially



Photo credit: K. LaManche (before)

removed and segments of the stream were reconstructed. USFWS staff then visited the site after the snow melted in 2014 and identified an area near the lower structure that could be blocking



Photo credit: G. Dodici (after)

the passage of brook trout along the 4.6-mile stream section critical to spawning. A repair plan calling for reconstruction of the affected stream segment and installation of an additional structure downstream to provide some relief to the repaired structure and also create a chute type riffle to facilitate passage through the first two structures was reviewed and approved by the DEC. The work was completed in March 2015 and follow-up visits conducted by staff from the USFWS determined that the repairs are holding, the site looks great, and the new structures are functioning as expected.

Old Seventysix Road Project

Working in partnership with the Tompkins County Highway Department and the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District, staff from USFWS coordinated the removal of the old culvert and retrofitting of the stream (Boyer Creek) along Old Seventysix Road to restore fish passage to 2 miles of stream habitat in the summer of 2015. Over 62 tons of rip rap were installed, along with 200 tons of heavy stone fill and 1,410 tons of gravel was placed at the site to allow fish passage. Upon completion of the culvert installation and stream retrofitting, a variety of shrubs and trees were planted along the streambank.



Photo credit: G. Dodici

Old Seventysix Road during and after all work was completed and plants installed.



For more information on these projects, contact [Kristy LaManche](mailto:Kristy.LaManche@twcny.rr.com) at klamanche@twcny.rr.com.

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FLOWPA AWARDED GREAT LAKES BASIN PROJECT (GLBP) GRANT

The Great Lakes Basin Project is funded by the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) through funds provided by the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Conservation Service in conjunction with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The GLC is an interstate compact agency that promotes the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of water and related natural resources of the Great Lakes basin and the St. Lawrence River. Its members include the eight Great Lakes states with associate members in the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

In October 2012 FLOWPA was awarded \$207,790 by the GLC for the Critical Area Stabilization in the Lake Ontario Watershed Project. Grant funds were used by Cayuga, Onondaga, and Wayne County, in a collaborative effort with units of local government and landowners in New York State to implement hydroseeding and streambank stabilization projects to reduce sediment loading and soil erosion. All projects, completed by September 2015, are discussed below:

Project Partner	Original Budget	Amended Budget (05/2015)	Actual Expenses	Actual Match
Cayuga County SWCD	\$65,000.00	\$80,938.10	\$81,274.16	\$65,000.00
Onondaga County SWCD	\$66,870.00	\$82,808.11	\$82,808.00	\$66,956.00
Wayne County SWCD	\$65,920.00	\$34,043.79	\$33,707.84	\$122,578.00
WRB (Grant Admin)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Total	\$207,790.00	\$207,790.00	\$207,790.00	\$254,534.00

Photo credit: D. Kierst

The **Cayuga County Soil Water Conservation District** was originally awarded \$65,000.00 for their portion of the project, but their budget was increased to \$80,938.10 when additional funds were available. The District completed several stabilization /seeding projects that took place throughout the County by providing hydroseeding equipment, supplies and staff resources to seed over 17.2 acres of roadbank and agricultural drainage areas.



An area at the dam operated by the City of Auburn that was hydroseeded by the District on left. Photo on the right shows the area after 7 weeks.

Grant funds were also used to address an erosion problem at the north end of Owasco Lake by placing small stone in a 200 foot by 2 foot area, scoured by ice and wave action, in order to stabilize the area and mitigate future problems.



Photo credit: D. Kierst



A cross culvert was extended 20 feet on Scipio - Booth Road in the Town of Scipio.

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Grant funds were also used to stabilize a section of Booth Road in the Town of Scipio. A cross culvert was extended 20 feet. Thirty feet of bottom width at the culvert was stabilized with stackable concrete blocks to a height of 6 feet and medium stone fill was installed to stabilize the remaining bank.

Lastly, grant funds were used to assist with the stabilization of Moon Beach in the Town of Sterling where the shoreline is highly eroded and continues to erode at a rapid rate. Working with the landowner to design a project that would mitigate the shoreline erosion and obtain the necessary permits to conduct the work, the project was completed in late 2014 on 266 feet of Lake Ontario shoreline. Very large stone blocks were keyed in and placed on the slope, with large rip-rap placed above the large blocks. A significant drainage system was placed between the blocks and the soil to alleviate both groundwater and lake water from collecting behind the blocks and damaging the installed practice. As a result of the work, several other landowners along the shoreline are seeking technical assistance and are hopeful that they may be eligible for funds to implement similar projects. For more information, contact Doug Kierst of the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District at dkierst@cayugaswcd.org.

Photo credit: D. Kierst



Photos of the Moon Beach Project showing the conditions prior to and post installation of the shoreline stabilization practices.

The **Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District** utilized their portion of the GLBP funds for critical area seeding and revegetation activities in the Skaneateles Lake watershed and Onondaga County. Skaneateles Lake is a major source of drinking water for the City of Syracuse, the Village and Town of Skaneateles, as well as other nearby municipalities in Onondaga County. Working with the Onondaga County Highway Department, a total of 97.42 acres of critical area seeding and revegetation activities were implemented using the District's Finn T-90 hydroseeder and a two-person crew. The District's staff and representatives from the Onondaga County Highway Person's Association attended monthly meetings to strengthen working relationships, educate highway personnel and promote critical area stabilization in conjunction with roadbank maintenance. District staff also attended Onondaga County Storm Water Coalition meetings to participate in the development of the annual total maximum daily load report to ensure the acreage of critical area stabilization projects was included. During the project, District staff applied for and received a grant from NYS DEC to continue this critical area seeding program for another three years. The new grant will compliment and expand upon the work conducted with the funds from the GLBP. For more information, contact Mark Burger of the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District at mburger@ocswcd.org.



Before and after photos from critical area seeding in the Towns of Camillus (left), Marcellus (right) and Spafford (next page)

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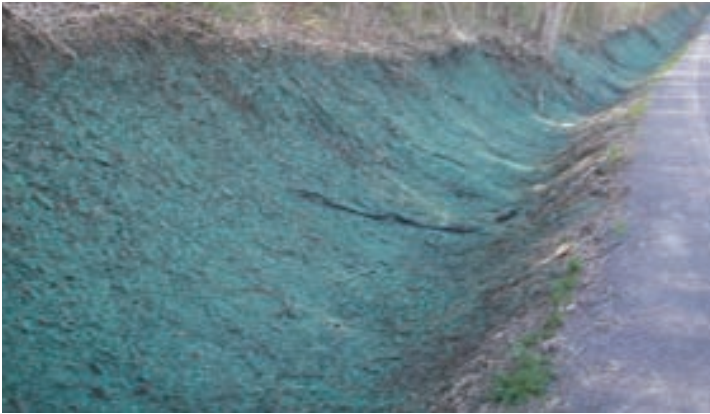


Photo credit: M. Burger

The **Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District** was originally awarded \$65,920.00, but their budget was reduced to \$34,043.79 when it became apparent that the District could not fully utilize their original award due to difficulties generating local interest in the program. The District's remaining funds were reallocated to the Cayuga and Onondaga County projects, as reported above.

The GLBP grant created an opportunity for the Wayne County Soil and Water District to educate and assist municipalities, local governments, landowners and community members with sediment and erosion control practices through critical area seeding and mulching from 2013 through 2015. The District focused on areas that had significant amounts of acreage that were exposed during a season of unexpected weather and landowners who had contacted the District for guidance and assistance in handling erosion control issues on steep slopes near water channels.



Photo credit: L. Gerstenslager



Grading completed and cover installed in Wayne County in top photo and showing evidence of success after only one week in bottom.

In August 2015, the Great Lakes Commission awarded FLOWPA a grant of \$199,878 for the Phosphorus Control in the Lake Ontario Basin Project. The grant will be utilized by Cayuga, Onondaga, and Wayne Counties with project completion by September 30, 2018.

The grant was used to perform critical area seeding on over 14 acres, including unique controls such as straw matting, bamboo matting, mulching and staged seeding for areas that had significant challenges because of soil type, slope and use.

The grant also provided funding to assist 35 highway and municipal workers associated with job site inspection. They were able to participate in the NYS DEC's stormwater and sediment erosion control course, which provided an opportunity to demonstrate work that was being completed locally through implementation of this program. It also provided education on future considerations when developing projects and maintenance planning for drainage, construction site reviews and technical assistance. For additional information, contact [Lindsey Gerstenslager](mailto:wayneswcd1@rochester.rr.com) of the Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District at wayneswcd1@rochester.rr.com.

The total impact of the Critical Area Stabilization in the Lake Ontario Watershed Project, using the Great Lakes Basin Program grant funding, expanded far beyond implementation, awareness and education of potential issues that will compound due to loss of soil. Project partners from all three counties expressed their gratitude to the Great Lakes Commission for this funding.

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FLOWPA POLO SHIRTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

Polo shirts with the FLOWPA logo fully embroidered on the left side are available in your choice of pistachio green or metro blue for \$32.00 each, plus shipping. Contact the WRB at (315) 592-9663 to place your order.



FLOWPA membership includes the following New York State counties wholly or partially in the Lake Ontario Drainage basin:

Allegany, Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Genesee, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates

The **mission** of the **Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance** is to facilitate processes that encourage watershed partnerships and implementation of action plans to protect and enhance water quality based on: local needs assessment, holistic approach, information exchange and public education, measurable goals and milestones

*Please visit our website at www.flowpa.org for more information about
Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance*

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