

# What FL-LOWPA Does ... Highlights of Action and Projects

Since 2000, the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA) has cost-shared and provided technical assistance on literally hundreds of water quality improvement projects based on documented need. Working with more than **175 partners** across the Lake Ontario Basin, over **\$15 million** has been leveraged in addition to FL-LOWPA funding to address water quality concerns relating to **agriculture, septic systems, erosion and stormwater, invasive species, habitat protection, drinking water and more.**

*Since the year 2000, FL-LOWPA has provided support to:*

## AGRICULTURE

- **Complete comprehensive nutrient management plans for 155 CAFO operators** so they could comply with federal CAFO regulations and reduce agricultural pollutants from **over 52,975 farm acres.**
- **Install hundreds of Best Management Practices on farms** to reduce nutrients, pathogens and pesticides from reaching our waterways, including:
  - **43 manure storage facilities**
  - **29 silage leachate systems**
  - **29 pesticide preparation and storage facilities**
  - **50 barnyard runoff collection systems**
  - **30 stream crossings** for livestock, and fencing systems to keep livestock out of streams
  - **76 rotational grazing systems** which reduce soil erosion and costs of production while improving herd health.



*Wyoming County: Home to more cows than people with 730 farms and 70 CAFO operators.*

## SEPTIC SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

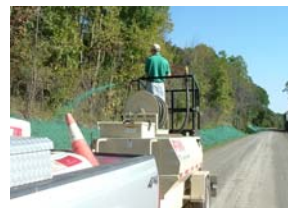
- **Inspect 8,828 septic systems**
- **Remedy 747 failing systems**
- **Consult with 1,564 rural homeowners**
- **Train 285 professional inspectors/code enforcement officers**



*Replacement of failed septic tank in Schuyler County*

## WATERSHED STABILIZATION

- **Stabilize 522 miles of roadbank**
- **Stabilize 59612 linear feet of streambank**
- **Construct 37 artificial wetlands** covering 669 acres to filter storm water
- **Hydroseed 1,300 "critical" acres**



*Roadbank stabilization in Tompkins County*



*Streambank stabilization in Wayne County*



*Before: Limestone Creek, East Branch, Madison County*



*After: Stabilization measures installed*

## PHASE II STORMWATER REGULATION COMPLIANCE

Federal storm water regulations introduced in 2003 call for storm water plans and erosion control measures in populous “MS4” communities and for every construction project disturbing an acre or more of soil.



- **Provide technical assistance to over 65 “MS4” communities** preparing mandated **stormwater management plans**
- **Conduct 110 stormwater workshops, serving 3,916 stakeholders.**
- **485 site visits; 393 consultations** with contractors, developers, or private parties and **440 consultations** with municipalities

*Evidence of Storm Water Impacts, Genesee River, Lake Ontario*

## INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

- **Remove 30,475 tons of invasive aquatic vegetation:**
  - **Primary Species:** Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut and curly-leaf pondweed
  - **Primary Locations:** Finger Lakes, Fulton Chain of Lakes, Lake Ontario, Oneida Lake/Three Rivers Area, Madison County Reservoirs, and Tully Lakes.
- **4,788 man hours per year (38,302 since 2000).**



*Invasive Water Chestnut, Oswego County*

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING

- **Assess 150 lakes and streams at over 1,230 sampling locations annually.** Data is used to: ID pollutant sources; prioritize management actions and evaluate efficacy; document trends; update DEC’s statewide *Waterbody Inventory* and educate citizens and local governments.
  - Monitoring programs are designed to meet research objectives, using certified laboratories for analysis.



*Above: Harvesting Eurasian watermilfoil, Finger Lakes  
Left: Water quality monitoring on Keuka Lake*