Annual Report of the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance—Year 1

The Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) formed in 2012 as an alliance of municipal officials and concerned stakeholders working together within the Niagara River/ Lake Erie Watershed including Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Erie counties. The mission of LEWPA is to foster collaboration and partnerships within the watershed to address regional water quality and quantity concerns, and in doing so, protect and enhance our Lake Erie resource.

The $250,000 New York State Environmental Protection Fund investment in LEWPA leveraged $762,763 additional funds resulting in over $1 million in water quality improvements for Year 1.

Watershed Stabilization to Reduce Erosion (Sediment and Nutrient Pollution Reduction)

- Over 2,800 feet of road bank and stream bank were stabilized at 8 locations throughout the three counties.

Galen Hill Road (Cattaraugus County)

Slippery Rock Creek (Chautauqua County)

Cayuga Creek (Erie County)

- Over 13 acres were hydro-seeded.

Invasive Species Control

- Over 11 acres of invasive species removed from native trout stream headwaters.
- Invasive species were replaced with native plants at a local park.

Spring Brook Fen
Invasive Species Removal Project

Village of Springville

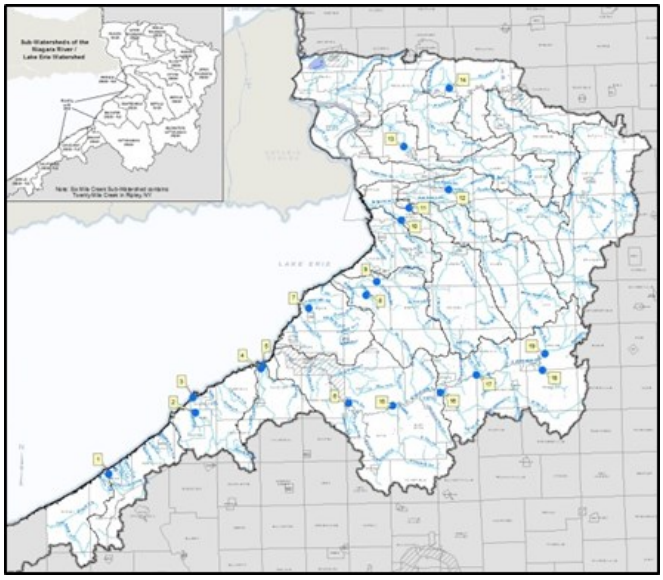
Best Management Practice Implementation

- Stormwater control measures were put in place on a dairy farm to prevent bacteria from entering the Bournes Creek watershed.
- A riparian buffer and green infrastructure including a rain garden were installed along Spring Brook in Springville to prevent runoff.

Outreach and Education

- Boaters were educated about aquatic invasive species prevention at Dunkirk Harbor during the summer of 2017.
- LEWPA tabled at several outreach events to inform the public about the issues and initiatives.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™



Water Quality Monitoring Locations

Water Quality Monitoring

- Worked with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and US Geological Survey to begin nutrient monitoring at 19 sites throughout the watershed.
- Developed a Quality Assurance Project Plan for bacteria sampling at these 19 sites for year 2 in preparation of a source track down.

Technical Assistance

The following studies were funded to provide initial design for future grant proposals:

- Yorkshire Sewer System Feasibility Study to reduce septic system reliance in a rural area.
- Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study at Hamburg Town Park Beach to reduce stormwater pollution.
- Engineering Study for a constructed wetland at Wright Park Beach West to reduce beach closures.