



THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

News from MCSWCD



*Providing Today,
Protecting Tomorrow*

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Starting the School Year with the 35th Annual Conservation Field Days

What better way for over 700 students to kick off their school year than attending the 35th annual Conservation Field Days education event at Ellison Park! Eleven local schools attended Conservation Field Days this year, allowing their fifth and sixth grade classes to spend a day outdoors learning about various environmental conservation topics ranging from urban wildlife to local agriculture to pollinators to many, many more. New stations and topics this year included beaver adaptations, bird migration, mycology, and making plant presses with City of Rochester Forestry Division.

Over 25 instructors representing the following 19 organizations participated this year: Braddock Bay Raptor Research, CCE of Monroe County (including Master Gardeners and 4-H), City of Rochester Forestry Division, Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Genesee Country Village & Museum, Cumming Nature Center, Monroe County Department of Environmental Services, Monroe County Parks Department, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Public Service, Oatka Creek Watershed Committee, Rochester Area Mycological Association, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Seneca Park Zoo, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Thank you to all of the instructors, volunteers, and sponsors of this event. This event is truly special, bringing so many organizations and schools together to educate and learn about conservation topics and the District is proud to be able to host this event for our local schools!

If you are interested in being involved in next year’s Conservation Field Days event, whether as an instructor or if you are a teacher in Monroe County, please reach out to our office at 585-753-7380 or mcswcd@monroecounty.gov.



Monroe County
Parks



2024 District Dates & Deadlines

October 4

Fall Fish Order Deadline

October 10

Fall Fish Stocking Distribution

October 17

Erosion & Sediment Control Training

Our office will be closed:

Columbus Day -
October 14th

Veterans Day -
November 11th

Thanksgiving -
November 25th &
November 26th

Fall Fish Stocking Program Reminder!

Distribution will be on **October 10, 2024 at 12:00 pm**

For years our Fish Stocking Program has provided pond landowners with the opportunity to stock or restock their pond at the perfect time of year, ensuring less stress for the fish as they enter their new home. Less stress overall leads to higher survivability of your fish.

Orders with payment are due by **October 4th** with distribution on **Thursday October 10th at 12:00 pm in the District parking lot**. Address on final page of this newsletter.

If you missed out on ordering from us this fall, sign up for our mailing list to receive an email when we first announce ordering. Our mailing list can be found on the home page of our website. Our next Fish Program will be in the spring 2025.

Find the order form on the last page of this newsletter or visit our website at <https://www.monroecountyswcd.org/page-9.html>

You can also place an order online: [click here](#)

The Great New York State Fair



Each year the NYS Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc. (NYSCDEA) has a booth in the Horticulture Building highlighting the programs delivered by the Conservation Districts in New York State. The Monroe County SWCD participates on the committee to organize, prepare, and staff this booth for the past 15 years. Every two years, the committee promotes a different "theme" at the booth. This year the

committee chose a new theme;

"Conservation Districts: Then and Now". Displayed on one of the booth walls were seven different picture collages each showing five pictures of Conservation Districts in action since the 1930's. The collages depicted the dust bowl highlighting the creation of



NYSCDEA booth at the State Fair

Soil & Water Conservation Districts and continuing throughout the decades showcasing the various projects and programs implemented by Districts. Also on display were vintage conservation tools used throughout the years for conservation planning & design. A main highlight was also how to inquire about having a career with the SWCDs in NYS, and the various duties performed as an employee. The booth provided many opportunities for fairgoers to interact with SWCD staff including soil jokes, the yearly Ronny Raindrop® Coloring Contest with him surveying a residential lot, and the popular guessing contest which was comprised of a container filled with soy beans for an opportunity to guess the number and win your very own Ronny Raindrop Beach Towel. If you were one of the 868,745 people that attended this year and visited the Horticulture Building, you may have seen us there; if not, make sure to come check us out next year!

District Staff Participate in Various Training Opportunities

District staff were busy this summer and fall participating in various training opportunities ranging from agricultural environmental management to native plant identification.

Staff attended a training to learn about various agricultural best management practices (BMPs) from several of our neighboring Finger Lakes counties and got to see several different BMPs in various stages of construction and post-construction. Staff observed completed grassed waterways and water & sediment control basins in construction, and more. Our thanks to the NYS Conservation District Employees' Association (CDEA) for funding this opportunity and to the Ontario Yates, and Seneca County SWCD's for sharing two days of their staff's agricultural knowledge.

Continuing with agriculture, staff also attended a training from NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets to brush up on the process of completing the various tier assessments as part of the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. Various Districts met at a dairy farm to work together to perform a Tier 2 assessment and learn the best way to build relationships with our local farmers to continue meeting their business objectives while ensuring our natural resources stay protected and conserved.



Trainees viewing a recently completed grassed waterway

Staff also attended the 2024 Conservation Skills Workshop in Auburn, NY. Conservation Skills is an annual series of workshop hosted by the NYS CDEA relating to all facets of Conservation District life with a focus on in the field, hands-on training. Here, the staff attended a training focusing on local plant identification and ecology.

Agricultural BMP Highlight: Grassed Waterways

Grassed waterways are a common agricultural best management practice (BMP) implemented to convey stormwater runoff through established vegetation that in turn prevents soil erosion, controls gully erosion, and protects and improves water quality. Grassed waterways can also support native wildlife depending on the vegetation established.



As heavy rainfall events become more and more common, BMPs, like grassed waterways, can help our local farmers continue to meet their business objectives all while preserving and conserving the natural resources of our state.

For more information on BMP installation projects, reach out to our office to discuss joining the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program.

Stormwater Management Highlight: Preventing Illicit Discharges

When strolling around your neighborhood, driving to work, or walking through parking lots, you will notice many storm drains around you. Storm drains are meant to collect stormwater runoff, preventing water from collecting on roadways and other impervious surfaces. As their name suggests, these drains are meant for stormwater collection only as they drain directly to our local creeks, rivers, and lakes.



Since these drains go directly to our waterways, it is important to ensure that **only rain goes down the drain**. Dumping any sort of materials down the drain is not only harmful to the environment, but is also illegal. This includes accidental spills that are not cleaned up properly. Materials illegal to dump can include hazardous waste, automotive products, gasoline, chemicals, chlorinated water (don't drain pools, fountains, or spas into drains), sanitation products, construction materials, soapy materials, cleaning products, food waste, painting products, fertilizers, pesticides/herbicides, oil of any kind, trash, yard waste, and more.

Chemicals dumped into a storm drain that ended up in the nearby creek that drains to Lake Ontario



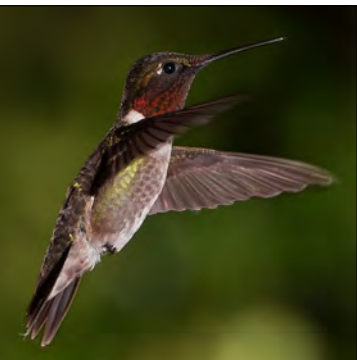
For more information on illegal dumping or to report illegal dumping reach out to your municipal member of the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition: <https://www.stormwatercoalition.com/>

**REMEMBER: ONLY RAIN
DOWN THE DRAIN**

Don't Take Your Hummingbird Feeders Down Too Early!

There is a common myth that you should take down hummingbird feeders after Labor Day or else hummingbirds won't know to migrate. This is entirely false; food availability does not trigger hummingbirds to migrate. They migrate in response to hormonal changes, which are triggered by decreased daylight. In fact, leaving feeders up throughout the end of summer and into early fall can help fuel any hummingbirds that haven't embarked on their migration journey yet.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) are the only breeding hummingbird species found east of the Mississippi River, thus the only breeding species found in Monroe County. Males are probably the most recognizable with their iridescent red throat feathers which are on full display during breeding season, along with their darker green feathers. Females are lighter green and lack the red neck feathers. Juvenile males can appear very similar to females. Found in many habitats, these hummingbirds feed on nectar and are pollinators just like bees and butterflies. They actually prefer orange or red flowers! Known for their fast wing beats (53 times in a second!) you can hear their buzz when close by.



Stream Health Activities for Local Youth

This summer staff led stream health activities for youth groups in the county including the Mendon Public Library's summer reading program and Rochester Cub Scouts Pack 2005. These activities are hands-on and allow youth to get into our streams and examine and think about stream health right at the source.

Using kick-nets, youth sample for macroinvertebrates within two local streams this season: Honeoye Creek and Irondequoit Creek. The goal is to find and identify the macroinvertebrate larvae and depending on the species found and how many, the kids can then determine the relative health of their local stream, at least in that particular sampling area.

Aquatic macroinvertebrates are the nymph or larval stages of insects who spend at least part of their time in water. Aquatic macroinvertebrates also include crayfish, clams/mussels, some snails, and some worms. They are important to stream ecosystems as they replenish nutrients back into the ecosystem, along with providing food to higher level organisms. They are also very important indicators of stream health. Aquatic macroinvertebrates can be broken up into three groups: pollution sensitive, somewhat pollution tolerant, and pollution tolerant. As their names suggest, macroinvertebrates that are pollution sensitive would not be found in streams affected by heavy amounts of pollution while those that are pollution tolerant would still be present in pollution-heavy streams while pollution sensitive would not.

If you are an educator, scout leader, community organization member, etc. and are interested in having this activity hosted for your school or group please reach out to our office for scheduling. This activity can be performed May through early September with May and June seeming to be the best time for finding a good variety of organisms.

Youth observe what species were found



(L) Water penny larva; (R) Crayfish



Youth use kick-net sampling to find aquatic macros

Fall Planting

When we think of planting trees or shrubs, we of course think of springtime when plants are still dormant and already established plants are beginning to flower and leaf out.

Spring isn't the only season for planting though, as fall can be just as good if not better for planting projects, especially into late fall when plants have gone dormant and hardened off in preparation for winter. It is important to wait until then (typically mid-November in our region) so the plants are less shocked when being transplanted. With how mild temperatures are well into November/early December now, fall planting allows roots to establish well before the ground freezes. Another benefit is that less watering on your part should be needed due to more common rain showers in the fall as well as the increasingly more common snowmelt events throughout late fall and winter.

Come spring, your plants will be ready to bloom or leaf out at the first sign of spring having focused energy all winter establishing a root system.



Fall planting doesn't just apply to trees and shrubs though, if planting wildflowers from seed this can also be done in the fall just as you would in the spring. Simply plant the seeds through whatever planting method you use, cover with soil/mulch, and await their growth come spring.



Fall Harvest Gathering for Community Gardeners



Join the Urban Agriculture Working Group and your fellow community and urban gardeners at the Fall Harvest Gathering!

Come celebrate the end of a successful growing season with fellow gardeners, community members, friends, and more. Please bring a dish to pass if attending.

Where: First Market Farm
20 1st St
Rochester, NY 14605

When: Saturday October 5th

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.



**Monroe County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

145 Paul Road, Building 5
Rochester, NY 14624
Phone: 585-753-7380
M-F 8am-4pm

mcswcd@monroecounty.gov

www.monroecountyswcd.org

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follow us on Instagram by
visiting the links or using
the QR codes below!**

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Don't Miss Upcoming Stormwater Management Trainings!

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)-Endorsed 4-Hour Erosion & Sediment Control Trainings have begun to be scheduled. Don't miss the first one of the fall on October 17th. In order to be a qualified inspector or a trained contractor on permitted active construction sites in New York State, you must take this course. This class will be virtual and run from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm.

Pre-registration is required for this class and costs \$100. Registration is required by October 11th. For more information including class brochure, payment link, and registration visit our website at:

<https://monroecountyswcd.org/page-2.html>.

Qualified inspectors and trained contractors must have 4 hours of training in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control endorsed by the NYS DEC. Training is **not** required for Certified Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control (CPESC), Landscape Architect (LA), NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate Program holder (NYSE&SCCP), and Professional Engineer (PE) certified persons. Upon completion of the course, each participant will receive a NYS DEC Stormwater Training Number on a certificate and wallet card good for 3 years.

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HAPPY
FALL

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District and is available at no cost to interested landowners, land users, and to the general public. If you would like to receive our newsletter, please visit our website and sign up for our newsletter mailing list or view it directly online at www.monroecountyswcd.org. Programs and services offered through the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District are made possible through the financial support of the County of Monroe, State of New York, specialized grant opportunities, and fundraising programs. All SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to age, color, national origin, political beliefs, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. Our Board



MONROE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

145 Paul Road, Building #5, Rochester, NY 14624 Phone: (585)753-7380

<http://www.monroecountyswcd.org>

2024 FALL FISH STOCKING PROGRAM

SCHEDULED DISTRIBUTION is Thursday October 10th, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

All orders must be received with payment by Friday October 4th.

Distribution will be at the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation Office (address above). We have no holding facilities.

PLEASE ARRIVE PROMPTLY AT 12PM. NO REFUNDS FOR ORDERS NOT PICKED UP.

PLEASE READ:

- 1) You will need to bring **20 gallons of pond or lake water** for every 6 Grass Carp, 500 minnows, 75 Perch, 50 Blue Gill, 50 Bass, 50 Black Crappie. **Do NOT use tap water!**
- 2) Recommended travel time should not exceed 30-45 minutes.
Aquarium aerators can be used to decrease stressors to fish during transport.
- 3) **Please bring a cover for the container(s) of water in order to reduce risk of fish loss or water loss.**
A garbage bag with a tie is acceptable if you do not have a container with an appropriate lid.
- 4) Additional information to consider before ordering specific species or items can be found on the next page.
You NEED a Triploid Grass Carp permit to buy carp. See next page how to obtain a permit.
- 5) Online ordering is available at <https://monroe-county-soil-and-water-conservation-district.square.site/fish-stocking-program> Credit card payments are also accepted over the phone at (585)753-7380.

PLEASE SEND YOUR GRASS CARP PERMIT (3 copies) WITH YOUR ORDER

OR a copy can be sent via email to mcswcd@monroecounty.gov

(Retain a photocopy for your records). This will enable us to expedite the distribution of your order.

You will receive a signed copy with your grass carp the day of distribution.

NO PERMIT=NO GRASS CARP

*The Soil & Water Conservation District is **not** responsible for fish after they leave the pick-up area.*

----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- **CUT HERE** ----- ✂ --- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ -----

Please complete form, detach and return with payment to the address at the top of the page.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Fish Species	Length	Rate per Acre	Price		Quantity Ordered	Price
			Each	Per/25		
Triploid Grass Carp	10-14"	Set by DEC	\$30			\$
Fathead Minnows	2-3"	2,000	\$20 per ½ lb. <small>(½ lb.= approximately 75 minnows)</small>			\$
Yellow Perch	3-5"	50	\$8	\$98		\$
Largemouth Bass	3-5"	50	\$8	\$98		\$
Bluegill	3-5"	50	\$7	\$85		\$
Black Crappie	3-5"	12	\$8	\$98		\$
Fish Food 5 lb. bag	--		\$15			\$
Fish Food 10 lb. bag	--		\$30			\$
Fish Food 44 lb. bag	--		\$73			\$
					Total:	\$

Credit card refunds will be subject to a 5% administrative fee deducted from the total amount of purchase.

(Sales Tax is already included)

****Please consider the following additional information below before ordering these species or items.**

Additional Information:

➤ **Grass Carp Orders - You NEED a Triploid Grass Carp permit to buy carp.**

If you do not have a permit, call the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DEC), Fisheries Office at (585) 226-5343 to obtain an application or download the form from the NYS-DEC at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/grasscarpstockap.pdf.

The form is also available on our Fish Program webpage: <https://monroecountyswcd.org/page-9.html>

Triploid Grass Carp control aquatic vegetation by consuming various types of soft stemmed rooted plants. Grass Carp will NOT control algae. Customers have been known to successfully use barley straw to reduce algae growth. For more information visit our website.

- Unfortunately **Barley Straw** is **NOT** available through our 2024 Fish Stocking Program due to a lack of local supply. Barley Straw can be used as a more natural preventative practice to minimize the potential for algae growth in ponds. Note that if you use barley straw to help reduce algae growth, it is best to put the straw in the pond as early as possible in the spring before algae starts to grow. Contact our District if you need help determining how much barley straw you will need for your pond.
- You may obtain a free Farm Fish Pond License to stock fish by calling the NYS-DEC Fisheries Office at: (585) 226-5343. Permits are good for 5 years. This form is also available on the District website.
- Koi are no longer offered at our Fish Stocking Event. Koi are now listed as a regulated invasive species in New York State due to their harmful impacts on native populations in natural waterbodies. Please feel free to contact our office for suggestions on similar functional replacements for your pond.
- Additional information about fish needs and other items offered is available in our Fish Program Catalog: <https://monroecountyswcd.org/page-9.html>
- Of course as always, fish sizing and availability may vary depending on yearly weather conditions.