



**December 2021**

**Rain Garden at Emerson Park  
Adam Effler, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council**

An Emerson Park volunteer rain garden installation was proposed for the fall of 2021 to meet the following goals:

- Establish a Lake Friendly Rain garden project near the Owasco Lake shoreline using native plants to promote no fertilizer/pesticide use;
- Start with a small project to demonstrate an attractive alternative to higher maintenance lawns;
- Develop community visibility and volunteer involvement; and
- Demonstrate community organizational collaboration towards natural resource protection.

The October 23<sup>rd</sup> planting event attracted community involvement and volunteerism for beautifying Emerson Park and demonstrated a recommended practice for capturing runoff and settling sediments. Rain gardens are considered 'green infrastructure' practices. Green infrastructure is a recommended strategy within multiple Owasco Lake watershed and lake management plans. One hundred selected native and wet-tolerant plants were planted in a 500 square foot area along a foot path that runs parallel with the lake outlet at Emerson Park. Project partners included the Owasco Watershed Lake Association, Cayuga County Parks and Trails, Wegmans Food Markets, and the community volunteers that provided their time and assistance.



*Proposed Location for Rain Garden at Emerson Park*



*Volunteers at Work*



*Rain Garden Project Team*



*Final Rain Garden. Photos courtesy of Adam Effler.*

## **Dam Removal Pat Mooney, Lake Como Association**

On Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, a crew of volunteers helped pull out one of the many beaver dams below Lake Como under a NYSDEC permit in an attempt to control the flooding of the Lake. Thanks to Jeremy Barber, Dylan Barber, Chris Sutton, Ed Ehinger and Pat Mooney for their hard work.





*Photos courtesy of Pat Mooney*

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event  
Jenna DeRario, Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development**

On October 16<sup>th</sup> Cayuga County held their annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event. Despite the rainy conditions, 242 cars dropped off 19,092 pounds of hazardous waste! Accepted items included pesticides, mercury, smoke detectors, pool chemicals and more. Special thanks to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development and our contractor for facilitating the event.



Photo courtesy of Doug Kierst

### **Resources Available from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County Ron Kuck, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County**

The Homeowners Lawn Care Water Quality Almanac is available on-line and provides a month-by-month plan for lawn care that results in a healthy lawn while preventing environmental damage. You can find it at <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/68>.

If you need to analyze your soil, you can get packages to do so by contacting Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County at 315-255-1183 x2870.

Available Packages include:

- (833E) PrePlant \$13: pH, buffer pH (lime requirement), organic matter, Modified Morgan phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, aluminum, iron, zinc, and manganese.
- (833M) Maintenance \$13: pH, buffer pH (lime requirement), organic matter, Modified Morgan phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, aluminum, iron, zinc, and manganese.
- (834E) PrePlant Troubleshooting \$18: 833 Package plus soluble salts. This troubleshooting test should be used to determine if poor plant growth may be related to high salt concentrations in the soil due to over fertilization or road salting practices.
- (834M) Maintenance Troubleshooting \$18: 833 Package plus soluble salts. This troubleshooting test should be used to determine if poor plant growth may be related to high salt concentrations in the soil due to over fertilization or road salting practices.
- (856) Home Lawn \$8: pH, buffer pH and phosphorus – *A soil test indicating that additional phosphorus is needed for proper lawn growth as required for the purchase or application of P containing fertilizer in New York as of January 1, 2012 in compliance with the NY Nutrient Runoff law Article 17 Title 21.*

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County can also provide water sampling. Call them at 315-255-1183 x2870 for more information.

Updated Groundwater Protection Guidelines for Water from the Cornell University Nutrient Management Spear Program can be found at <http://nmssp.cals.cornell.edu/publications/files/GroundwaterGuidelines2021.pdf>.

## Manure Management Guidelines

Michele Wunderlich, Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

In February of 2016, the Cayuga County Legislature voted to adopt a plan entitled “Improving Manure Management: A Fourteen-Point Countywide Agenda for Action.” The plan outlined actions the County can take to foster improvement of manure management practices and minimize the potential negative environmental impacts of manure runoff. While County officials are aware that it is necessary to examine all of the many possible sources of nutrient pollution, the adoption of the plan underscored the Legislature’s desire to focus attention on matters relating to manure as an important immediate step in reaffirming its commitment to water quality. One of the tasks discussed in the Agenda for Action involves developing a set of specific manure management guidelines for the County to promote. The task of developing the guidelines was assigned to the Cayuga County WQMA. The guideline document created presents the results of the efforts of a working group of the WQMA to formulate guidelines intended to encourage progress through expanded voluntary use of proven, cost-effective methods, technologies, and techniques rather than force changes through legislation or rule-making. The Manure Management Guidelines were adopted by the Cayuga County WQMA in March 2017.

These guidelines can be found at <https://www.cayugacounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/1507/Cayuga-County-Water-Quality-Management-Agency-Manure-Management-Guidelines-PDF>.

### Cayuga County WQMA

For more information about the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency, check out our website at [www.cayugacountywater.org](http://www.cayugacountywater.org). The Cayuga County WQMA is also on social media. For up to date information on water quality issues and events, please either friend us on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/CayugaCoWQMA> or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/CayugaCoWQMA>.

The Cayuga County WQMA is looking for story ideas for its webpage and its newsletter. If you have something you would like to share, please email us at [wqma@cayugacounty.us](mailto:wqma@cayugacounty.us).

Have a wonderful holiday season.



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