



Western New York Stormwater Coalition, c/o Erie County Department of Environment & Planning

Phone: (716) 858-6370

New Billboards in Erie and Niagara Counties

By Joanna Panasiewicz, ECDEP



You may have noticed the intriguing “Our Water Future” billboards in both Erie County and Niagara County this past August and September. “Our Water Future” is a new campaign funded by an Environmental Protection Fund grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation. The Western New York Stormwater Coalition has partnered with the Buffalo Audubon Society and Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper to educate citizens about the importance of conserving our water resources and protecting water quality in Western New York. Learn more at www.ourwaterfuture.org

The Use of LiDAR in Stormwater Management

By Steven Russell Jr., ECDEP

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LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is used to determine the shape of the ground plus the shapes of other man-made and natural features such as buildings, trees and power lines. LiDAR is a technology that has been around since the 1960's. However, it has only been used commercially in the US since 1993. In recent years, LiDAR has been used as a tool to help with stormwater management including large-scale flood plain and contour mapping.

LiDAR data collection consists of a sensor mounted to an airplane, which sends laser pulses every 3-5 feet across an area and collects the reflected light. A range finder measures the time between the sending and receiving of the laser pulse to calculate the returned elevations.

(See *LiDAR* on page 2)

Upcoming Stormwater Trainings

Erie County Fire Training Center
3359 Broadway
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Thursday, September 30, 2010 - Post Construction BMP Monitoring & Maintenance Training
9:00 am - 11:00 am - This training is designed for stormwater management officers and municipal staff responsible for construction/post construction compliance inspections. Call Mary Rossi at 858-7583 to register by 9/28.

Thursday, October 28, 2010 - Green Infrastructure / Low-Impact Development Workshop
8:00 am - 12:30 pm - This training is designed for municipal staff, stormwater management officers, code enforcement officers, engineers, consultants, planners, contractors, and developers working with stormwater management design and execution. Call Joanna Panasiewicz at 858-8077 to register by 10/22.



Facilities Management Expo
Thursday, November 4, 2010
11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Hearthstone Manor
333 Dick Road
Depew, NY 14043

The event is free to attend and will offer seminars on various topics including a presentation on simple, low-cost ways to "green" your facility and save money by reducing the amount of polluted stormwater runoff entering our local waterways. A range of methods for stormwater management will be described. Look for the seminar entitled:

Shut off the Filthy Run-off - Stormwater Management for Your Site
By Joanna Panasiewicz, ECDEP

For more information, visit:
<http://www.fmexpo.net>

LiDAR (continued)

LiDAR is an active technique that does not require sunlight. LiDAR data collection can be performed during the day or at night. Its accuracies can be up to 6 inches vertical and 2-4 feet horizontal.

The end products of LiDAR include Digital Terrain Models or Digital Elevation Models (DTM/DEM) for flood plain and contour mapping. Compared to traditional surveying methods, LiDAR is a quicker and more cost-effective solution to create large-scale DEM's. Additional uses of LiDAR include 3D topographic images, virtual reality visualizations, and land cover change detection over areas with new developments. The rock band Radiohead even shot a music video in 2008 for the song "House of Cards" entirely in LiDAR.

The size of LiDAR data can be an issue. Areas as big as Erie County can easily contain 500GB of data. Therefore, storage space quickly becomes a concern. In addition, a computer with adequate processing power is required to work with LiDAR data. Super computers such as those found at the University at Buffalo's Center for Computational Research are often required to accurately process large study areas. Stormwater management uses of LiDAR will continue to grow as computers become more powerful and the costs associated with acquiring LiDAR data decrease.

Local Stormwater Video in Progress

By Joanna Panasiewicz, ECDEP

The Western New York Stormwater Coalition has contracted with a private company to create a local stormwater pollution prevention video. It will be 15 to 20 minutes in length with three Public Service Announcements included and will address stormwater pollution prevention and water quality protection in Western New York.

"The goal of the video is to help Western New Yorkers realize their personal impact on local water resources," says Mary Rossi of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning. "There are other videos about stormwater pollution prevention, but we wanted local examples to make it relevant to people in Western New York."

The video will show the everyday uses of water and will provide ways for residents to reduce their impact on stormwater pollution. This will include ideas such as creating a rain garden or washing the car on the lawn instead of the driveway. Look for the video to be released in late fall 2010.

Southtowns Watershed Group Inspires Regional Collaboration Initiative

By Joanna Panasiewicz, ECDEP

One year ago, several towns and villages in southern Erie County experienced extensive flood damage following heavy rainfall. As a result, mayors and supervisors formed a group committed to proactively addressing water quality and quantity issues. The Watershed Action Consortium (WAC), led by Erie County Legislator John Mills and Town of Brant Supervisor Leonard Pero, has enlisted the support of various local and state elected officials in this effort.

This collaboration has inspired a change in the organization of the Erie County Water Quality Committee (ECWQC). Since its inception in 1992, the ECWQC has helped to unite water quality organizations in the common goal of protecting local waters. The ECWQC will now open membership to all municipalities in Erie County, including WAC members. Tom Hersey, chair of the ECWQC, believes that opening up the membership will result in new ideas and increased participation in the group. The overall goal of opening the membership is to harness the grassroots enthusiasm and direct it toward regional collaboration for a common goal. This will allow Erie County to partner with Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties in a Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance for the purpose of seeking state and federal grant funds for regional watershed improvements.



- Floodplain and Stormwater Workshops to be held in Batavia, NY
- Check out: <http://www.semo.state.ny.us>

Look for Stormwater Outreach at the following Fall Events:

- ✓ Reinstein Woods Fall Fest - Sept. 18, 2010
- ✓ Daemen College Environmental Summit - Sept. 25, 2010
- ✓ Niagara Power Vista Wildlife Festival - Sept. 25 & 26



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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://www.erie.gov/stormwater>

WNYSC Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday
of each month from 2:00 - 3:30 PM at

*Julia Boyer Reinstein Public Library
1030 Losson Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227*

The public is invited to attend all meetings



2010-2011 MEETINGS

October 13th
November 10th
December - No Meeting
January - 12th
February - 9th
March - 9th
April - 13th
May 11th



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