

Livingston County Environmental Management Council

Annual Report 2020

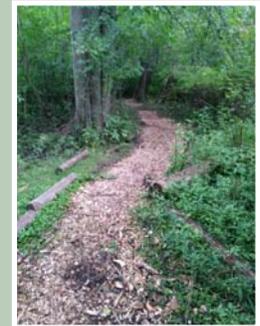


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**LIVINGSTON COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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History & Mission

The Livingston County Environmental Management Council (EMC) is a formal citizens advisory group that was formed by the Livingston County Board of Supervisors in 1979. The EMC has an authorized membership of 20 members, and there were 13 members in 2020. The membership is comprised of representatives of agriculture, general citizenry, and industry-commerce. The EMC was established as a step to foster coordinated action on environmental issues among local governments and public and private organizations within the County. Its charge is to work cooperatively with the Board of Supervisors, local municipalities, and citizens of the County on the protection, preservation, development, and use of the County's natural resources.

Environmental Management Councils (EMCs) were established in New York State under Article 47 of the Environmental Conservation Law passed in 1970. These boards were optional and consisted of volunteers meant to advise the county governments and connect the community and the county.

The history of the Livingston County EMC has been compiled into a report, "30-Year History: The Livingston County Environmental Management Council," which synthesizes 30 years of history and documents the important and diverse services that the Council has provided.

This Livingston County EMC Annual Report documents the activities of the EMC from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, and provides a proposed program for 2021.

2020 Activities

Work Plan

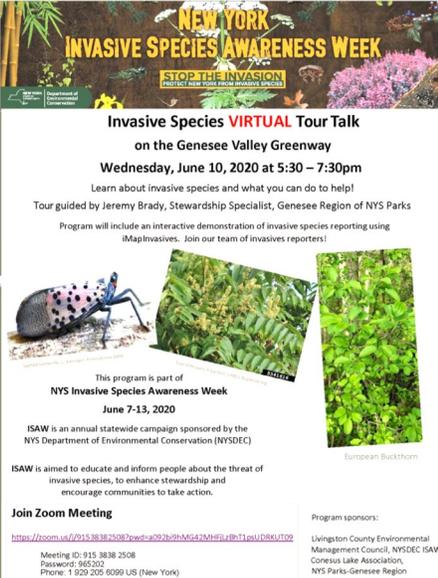
The Livingston County EMC Work Plan reflects the mission of the EMC, identifies the activities that support the mission, and tracks the progress of those activities. The Work Plan recognizes and emphasizes the importance of education as a primary goal of the EMC and the importance of the EMC being a resource for municipal officials, environmental and governmental agencies, and the community.

SWOT—from a Livingston County Environmental Viewpoint

Strengths (Internal) EMC Erosion control regs/laws Farmland and soil quality Fresh water lakes Genesee Valley Conservancy Good location relative to climate change	Hardwood forests Liv Co Community Clean Up Natural Resources Inventory State Lands & Parks Stormwater Toolkit SUNY Genesee Watershed Education Center	Weaknesses (Internal) Aging infrastructure, septic systems, wastewater facilities County economy Lack of diversity of EMC membership – need business and industry view
Opportunities (External) Aesthetic improvements to natural areas Continue working w/ Highway Depts: ditching, hydroseeding Education, impacts to soils Electric vehicle infrastructure Hydro-power Keep agriculture strong New recycling possibilities New technology Use of Stormwater toolkit	Threats (External) Climate change Development pressure Economic pressure on farmers External interest in our resources Fracking in NYS Human footprint Invasive species Inactive municipal dumpsites, junkyards Lack of clean water regs Landfills in County Large-scale solar Long-term consequences of mining operations State/fed policies & regs	

The EMC conducts an annual SWOT, a study to identify the internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as the external opportunities and threats, focusing on the Livingston County environment. The SWOT analysis is used by the EMC in workplan development, ensuring coverage of all important topics in its efforts to protect and enhance the Livingston County environment.

Education (continued)



**NEW YORK
INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK**

**STOP THE INVASION
PROTECT AND RESTORE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Invasive Species VIRTUAL Tour Talk
on the Genesee Valley Greenway**
Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 5:30 – 7:30pm

Learn about invasive species and what you can do to help!
Tour guided by Jeremy Brady, Stewardship Specialist, Genesee Region of NYS Parks
Program will include an interactive demonstration of invasive species reporting using
iMapInvasives. Join our team of invasives reporters!

This program is part of
NYS Invasive Species Awareness Week
June 7-13, 2020

ISAW is an annual statewide campaign sponsored by the
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

ISAW is aimed to educate and inform people about the threat of
invasive species, to enhance stewardship and
encourage communities to take action.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91538382508?pwd=Zm9hbnM5MzR4MjR1a1R1L0k0L0p0>
Meeting ID: 915 3838 2508
Password: 965302
Phone: 1 920 205 6099 US (New York)

Program sponsors:
Livingston County Environmental
Management Council, NYSDEC ISAW,
Conevus Lake Association,
NYS Parks-Genesee Region



MacKay Wildlife Preserve & Nature Walk



In addition to the Watershed Education Center programming, the EMC sponsored or co-sponsored the following educational & training tours in 2020:

- ◆ Invasive Species Virtual Tour & Talk on the Genesee Valley Greenway, NY
- ◆ MacKay Wildlife Preserve & Nature Walk, Caledonia, NY

Membership & Meetings

The EMC has representation in three broad categories of agriculture, industry-commerce and general citizenry. The Council proudly recognizes the commitment of several long-term members: David H. Swanson (38 years), David W. Parish (38 years), Robert Donnan (34 years), Susan Walker (26 years) and William McCleary (22 years).

Please call the Planning Department at (585) 243-7550 or (585) 335-1734

Membership List 2020

	<u>Original Appointment</u>		<u>Original Appointment</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>		<u>GENERAL CITIZENS</u>	
Robert Donnan (York)	3/86	Ray Case (Livonia)	2/10
David H. Swanson (Mount Morris)	2/82	Dan DeZarn (SUNY Geneseo)	5/15
Susan Walker (Springwater)	5/94	Barry Ganzhorn, Sr. (Caledonia)	9/08
2 Vacancies		Dana Henry (Ossian), <i>Secretary</i>	6/18
		William McCleary (Livonia), <i>Vice Chair</i>	8/98
<u>INDUSTRY-COMMERCE</u>		Darlene Necaster (SUNY Geneseo)	5/15
Paula Smith (Leicester)	3/19	David W. Parish (Geneseo)	11/82
4 Vacancies		Alex Pierce (Nunda), <i>Chair</i>	1/13
		Wendy Stevenson (Springwater)	4/08

The EMC meets on the fourth Wednesday of every other month. All meetings are open to the public.

Earth Day Award

In observance of Earth Day, the Livingston County Environmental Management Council began the Earth Day Award Program that provides recognition to individuals, organizations, groups, or businesses for outstanding achievements in preserving or improving Livingston County's environment or educating others about the County's environment. The EMC selected Brian Sheldon as the 2020 Earth Day Award recipients.

The EMC recognized Mr. Sheldon for more than 10 years of exemplary service as a Science teacher with Livonia High School, his dedication to student education, and his innovative and engaging science curriculum.

The EMC noted Mr. Sheldon's creative approach to bringing the real-world experience to his students, from tours in the community, to research projects in the field, to clean up events in the community. Encouraging students to learn within and beyond the classroom is a hallmark of Mr. Sheldon's dynamic approach to connecting his students with their social and natural communities.

Mr. Sheldon is known by his peers as a catalyst for learning, an agent for change, and an outstanding educator. The work of Mr. Sheldon and his students is highly regarded in the community, and the EMC was pleased to select him as the recipient of the 2020 Earth Day Award, on the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day.



Award recipient Brian Sheldon with (left to right) Livingston County Planner Mary Underhill, EMC Chairman Alexander Pierce, and Ruth Holbrook.

Livingston County EMC 2020 Earth Day Award accepted by Brian Sheldon from Livingston County Board of Supervisors Chairman David LeFeber. Mr. Sheldon is accompanied by EMC Chairman Alexander Pierce and Mr. Sheldon's former student, Ruth Holbrook.



Award recipient Brian Sheldon is joined at the podium by (from the left) Ruth Holbrook, Alexander Pierce, and Livingston County Deputy County Administrator Angela Ellis.



Website Content

The EMC works to enhance awareness of the EMC and promote access to local and regional environmental resources through website resources. The Livingston County EMC website was first created in March 2001 (www.livingstoncounty.us/emc). The site provides a description of the EMC, a list of current members, and information on meeting dates and times. The site also has a link to EMC Annual Reports, the EMC 30-Year History Report, the Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory, the Earth Day Award Program and EMC sponsored events.

Environmental Inventory

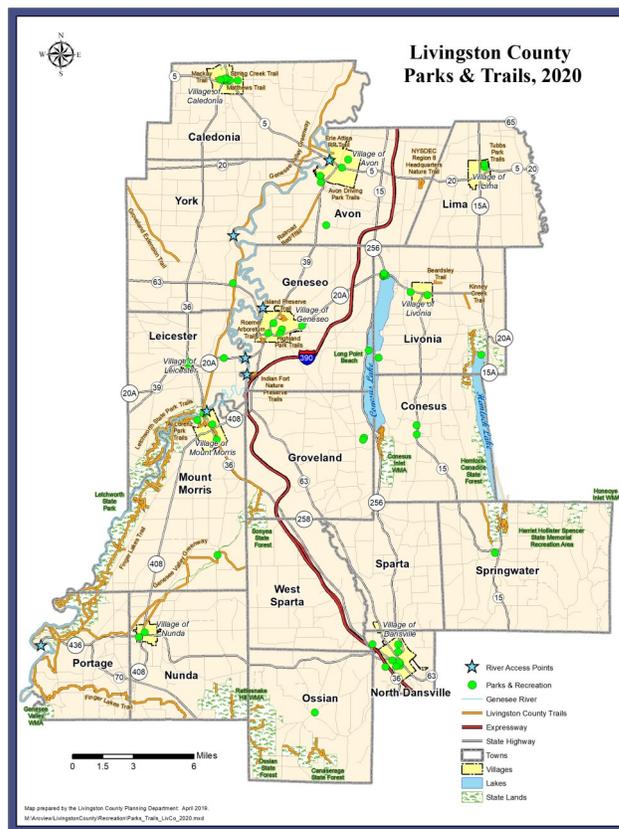
As per the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, Section 47-0107(5-a), one of the primary goals of the EMC is to develop and maintain an inventory of natural resources within Livingston County. A major undertaking of the EMC has been the development of the Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Over the course of many years, the EMC worked diligently to compile information on Livingston County's natural and historic resources, engage local governments in the identification process, and produce NRI Volume I in 2005 and Volume II in 2007. The full NRI was published and widely distributed to Towns, Villages, local libraries, and other interested parties in 2007.

The NRI is available on the Livingston County website, and it is utilized by the Livingston County Planning Board regularly. NRI comments are included in the Livingston County Planning Board staff reports, which are generated for County Planning Board zoning referrals. NRI comments provide information on the presence and location of natural and historic resources and advisory comments regarding impacts.

The EMC receives updates from the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation whenever a site is accepted to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Another resource is the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Inventory of Culturally Significant Areas. The EMC anticipates conducting periodic updates of the NRI.

In 2020, the EMC identified the need for an update of the Natural Resources Inventory. As part of the update, new trails in Al Lorenz Park, Mount Morris, were added to the Livingston County Parks & Trails map.

A map included in the Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)



Regulatory Environment

The EMC assembles and reports information on the status of regulatory permitting and redevelopment programs that may have an impact on local communities. In 2020, the EMC reported regularly on NYS DEC Environmental Permits, State and Federal Proposed Regulations, and the NYS DEC Brownfield Clean-up Program, as information became available. Public meetings were attended for large-scale solar projects, and the new Office of Renewable Energy Siting Draft Regulations (94-C) that will replace Article 10 Regulations.

County/Regional Projects & Communication

Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan (CLWMP)

In 1998, the EMC recognized the need for a Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan and expressed a willingness to participate in the planning process. Increasing development pressure, degradation of the water quality in the Lake, and more stringent Federal and State standards for public drinking water supplies made it crucial that a comprehensive watershed management approach to conserving and protecting Conesus Lake be developed. Two EMC members served on the CLWMP Policy Committee, which was the official decision-making body during the creation of the Plan. EMC participation on the CLWMP Policy Committee continued through 2003.

After the Plan was completed in 2003, the Conesus Lake Watershed Council (CLWC) was created in December 2003. The CLWC is responsible for Plan implementation and support of the Conesus Lake Watershed Inspection Program. The EMC receives updates on the implementation efforts and activities and water quality issues at each bi-monthly meeting.

Communication with the Board of Supervisors

A goal for 2020 was to continue a dialogue with the Livingston County Board of Supervisors through the Public Services Committee to maintain communications, foster good relations, and gain a better understanding of how the EMC can best serve the County's environmental needs. The Planning Department continued to communicate bi-monthly activities of the EMC to the Board of Supervisors and the Public Services Committee. In December 2020, EMC Chairman Alex Pierce presented to the Livingston County Public Services Committee, providing an overview of the EMC.

County and Regional Projects

One of the primary goals of the EMC is to act as a resource for Livingston County. The EMC works to provide municipalities with educational and environmental resources. The EMC has identified that countywide communication is a way to meet this goal by connecting municipalities with resources that assist them in increasing energy efficiency, reducing energy costs, and accessing low or no-cost funding sources.

Throughout 2020, the EMC actively participated in several regional projects providing representation on or contributions to committees, projects or programs:

- ◆ Acted as a regional source for solar and battery energy storage information, providing resources and materials, and facilitating training for Livingston County municipalities and landowners.
- ◆ In response to the County Administrator's interest in Livingston County facilities improvements and clean energy actions, the EMC continues to investigate high impact actions and programs as they become available, such as the Clean Energy Communities Program.

Participation in Other Activities

The EMC participates on committees and in meetings and events as needed. EMC members report back to the committee as a whole on their findings and/or their participation. In 2020, the EMC maintained ongoing communication with neighboring Monroe and Steuben County EMCs.

Annual Livingston County Community Clean Up Event

The EMC co-sponsored the Annual Livingston County Community Clean Up Event in 2020. Due to COVID-19, Livingston County participants were encouraged to work on socially distanced or individual earth friendly activities. The County provided social media promotion and a site for posting pictures.



For details on the Community Clean Up, go to: <http://www.livingstoncounty.us/cleanuplivco>



Invasive Species Alerts & Information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87s1KYtPgWY>



Spotted lanternfly (SLF) on host plants

Invasive species can cause harm to the environment, human, animal and plant health, and the economy. Human activity has dramatically increased the rate of spread of invasives. Prevention, early detection and rapid response can help stop the spread of new and emerging invasive species, and public education is key.

The EMC continues to address the priority of invasive species education by disseminating invasive species alerts and information to municipalities, agencies and interested partners.

Emilie Swackhamer Penn State University



SLF egg masses

L. Barringer PA Dept of Ag. Bugwood.org



SLF cycle

Richard Gardner_UMES_Bugwood.org



Tree of Heaven, host for SLF



Mile-a-Minute vine

Leslie J Mehrhoff_U of Conn_Bugwood.org

UGA5273091

University of Wisconsin Extension



Gypsy moth life cycle

2021 Proposed Program & Activities

Work Plan

The 2021 EMC Work Plan identifies the mission of the EMC and the proposed 2021 activities that support the mission, and will be used to track the progress of those activities. The completed Work Plan will be incorporated into the EMC Annual Report. The EMC has identified the following priorities for 2021: environmental education with a focus on invasive species; Earth Day Award; best management practices for prime soils & soils of statewide importance; impacts of solar development on natural resources, and promotion of trees and green space.

Education

Watershed Education Center Series

- ◆ Soil Core Analysis of Livonia High School Wetlands
- ◆ Aquatic & Underwater Surveillance of Conesus Lake
- ◆ Amanda's Garden: Gardening with Native Plants
- ◆ Tick Talk
- ◆ A Bird Walk of Our Conesus Lake Inlet
- ◆ Youth Planting Workshop
- ◆ Native American Storyteller
- ◆ Conesus Lake, How We Got Where We Are
- ◆ Aquatic & Terrestrial Invasives
- ◆ Marine Patrol Activities including Sonar
- ◆ Trains, Planes and Boats Part 2: 1930's to 1970
- ◆ Tree Safety
- ◆ The Health of Conesus Lake • CSLAP
- ◆ Cornell Cooperative Extension
- ◆ Macro Invertebrates
- ◆ SUNY Brockport Students - Project Updates

The Livingston County community has embraced the Town of Livonia's Watershed Education Center and is eagerly anticipating another full year of programming. The WEC hosts a monthly speaker series on watershed and environmental topics. The programs will be held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions and will move to hybrid programming (in-person at the WEC and on-line) when permitted.

For details on the Town of Livonia's WEC Programs, go to: www.conesuslake.org

Click on Lake Community
Click on WEC

Additional programs sponsored by the EMC

- ◆ Invasive Species Awareness Week Tour
- ◆ Annual Letchworth State Park Tour
- ◆ Al Lorenz Park Tour

Contact the Planning Department for details on the EMC Tours: 585-243-7550.

Annual Livingston County Community Clean Up Event



In recognition of Earth Day, Livingston County will be encouraging a "socially distanced or individual" Community Clean Up for 2021. Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, the EMC is encouraging those interested to work on earth friendly clean up and educational activities individually or at home.

Participate by posting photos of Clean up activities to Livingston County's Facebook and Twitter pages and tagging the County using #cleanuplivco.



Membership

The EMC will continue ongoing membership recruitment from all three broad categories of agriculture, industry-commerce, and general citizenry. For 2021, the EMC has developed a plan for recruiting new members, especially from the industry-commerce sector. Parties interested in joining the EMC can call the Planning Department at (585) 243-7550 or (585) 335-1734 for more details.

2021 Meeting Schedule

January 27, 2021	September 22, 2021 (Al Lorenz Park Tour)
March 24, 2021	November 17, 2021
May 26, 2021	The EMC meets on the 4th Wednesday of every other month. Meetings are open to the public. Contact the Planning Department to determine if meetings are virtual or in-person: 585-243-7550
July 28, 2021 (Letchworth State Park Tour)	

Earth Day Award

In support of the global observance of Earth Day and the concern for protecting and preserving the environment, the EMC will continue its award program where an individual(s), organization, group, or business is recognized for their positive contribution to the natural environment in Livingston County.

The EMC will publicize its award program through press releases, social media, contact with school officials in the County, Town Supervisors and Village Mayors, Livingston County Chamber of Commerce, SUNY Geneseo, NYSDEC, in local advertisements and through EMC members. Nominations may be presented by both the public and private sector. Nominees are not required to reside in the County, but the actions and achievements on which the nomination is based must have occurred partially or wholly in Livingston County.

Nominations may be for outstanding technical contributions to the environment or for contributions of time and energy toward a positive environmental goal or objective. Such activities may have occurred during the previous year or may be recognition of efforts over many years' time. The accomplishment must be based on work above and beyond what would be considered as regular duties.

The annual Earth Day Award is selected at the regularly scheduled March meeting of the EMC.

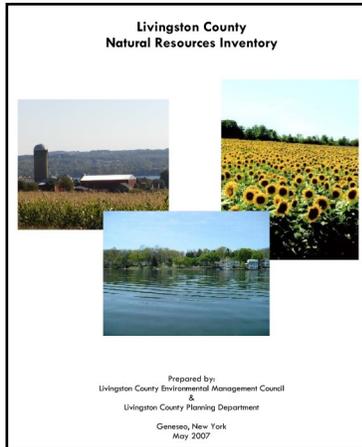


Website Content

The EMC will continue to utilize and enhance web resources to promote the awareness of the EMC and encourage access to local and regional environmental resources. The Livingston County EMC website will be updated in 2021 to include membership information, links to the 2020 Annual Report, and the 2021 Earth Day Award Program and Nomination form. For EMC educational programs, postings of program flyers, location maps and presentation materials will be added to the EMC Events section of the website, when available.

In addition, the EMC will review existing municipal and environmental websites to explore additional educational opportunities, links, and resources that may be used to enhance Livingston County web resources.

Environmental Inventory



The EMC will continue to act as a resource for Livingston County environmental information and data, with a goal in 2021 to continue the Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) update.

The update will include the assessment of the existing NRI and the identification of new resources and those that need updating.

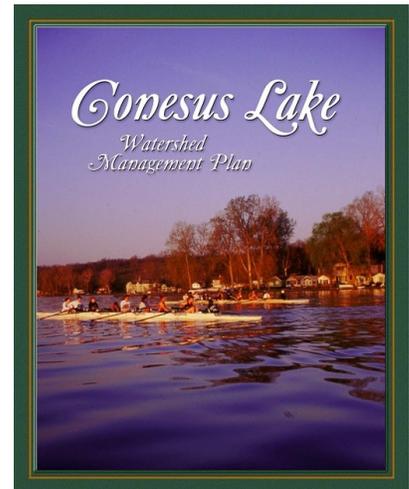
Regulatory Environment

The EMC will continue reporting information on the status of regulatory permitting and redevelopment programs with potential local impact, including the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Permits and Brownfield Clean Up Programs.

County Projects & Communication

Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan (CLWMP)

Planning Department staff will continue to update the EMC on the progress of Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan recommendation implementation. The Conesus Lake Watershed Council releases Conesus Lake Annual Report Cards that provide an update on the Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan implementation activities and yearly water quality monitoring results.



Communication with the Board of Supervisors

The EMC will continue its normal activities and assist the Board of Supervisors. The Planning Department will communicate the activities of the EMC to the Board of Supervisors Public Services Committee. The EMC will present the 2020 Annual Report to the Public Services Committee in 2021. The EMC will also invite members of the Public Services Committee, or a representative from the Committee, to attend EMC meetings in 2021.

Participation in Other Activities

EMC members will continue to participate on committees and in meetings and events as needed, and provide reports to the EMC as a whole on their participation or findings.