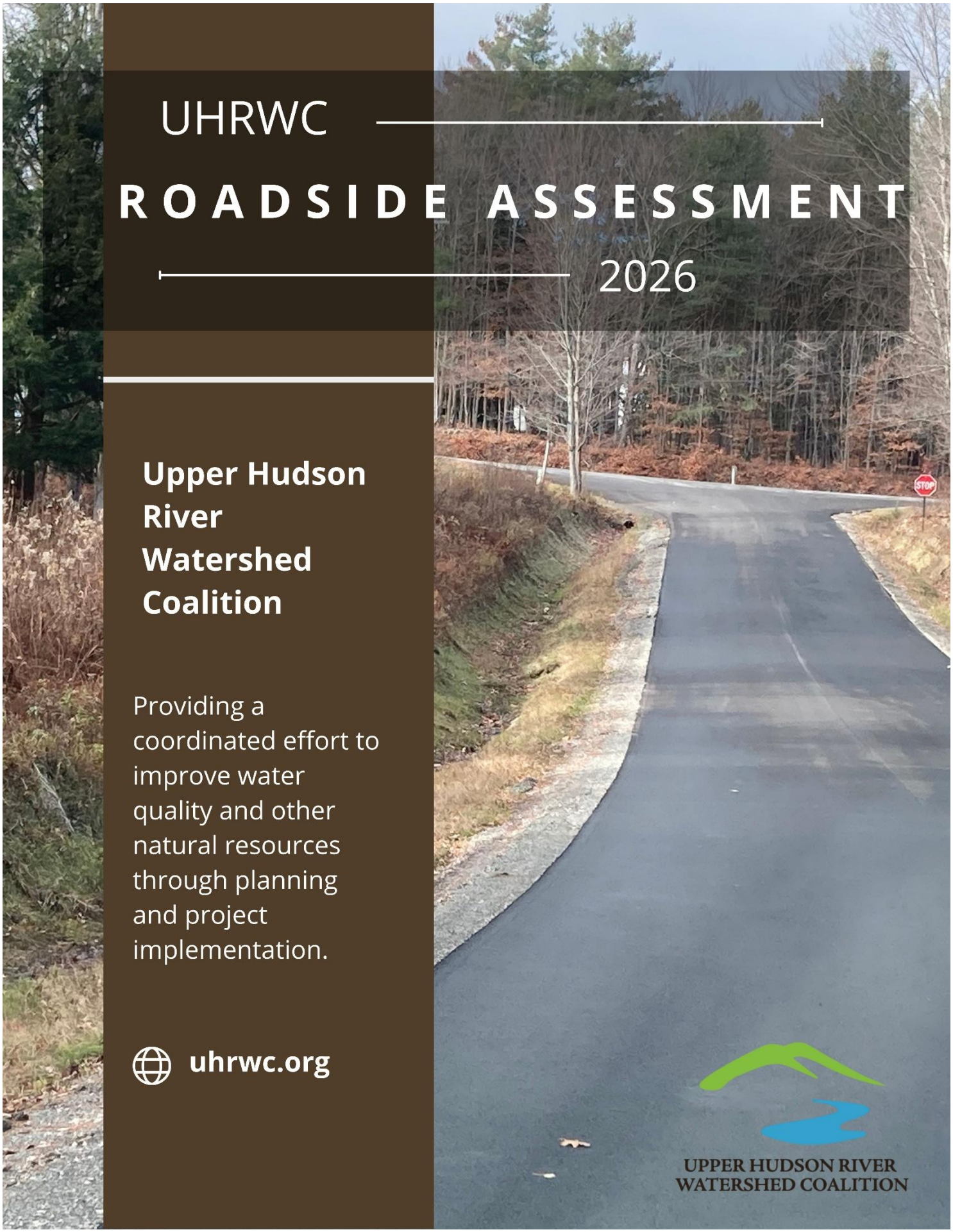


UHRWC ROADSIDE ASSESSMENT 2026

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition

Providing a coordinated effort to improve water quality and other natural resources through planning and project implementation.

uhrwc.org

UPPER HUDSON RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

Introduction

The Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (Coalition) is committed to improving water quality and protecting the natural resources of the watershed through coordinated planning and project implementation. By addressing the unique challenges of this region, we aim to foster ecological, economic, and recreational opportunities for all who live, work, and play here.

Erosion is listed as a priority issue and water quality concern in the Upper Hudson River Watershed Revitalization Plan, and one source is roadsides. Poorly maintained roadside ditches devoid of vegetation often fill in with debris, and are the main cause of roadside erosion. Roadside erosion occurs when water traveling through unvegetated roadside ditches erodes the ditch, and carries and deposits soil and debris at the end of the ditch line. This can have a profound effect on a receiving waterbody through sedimentation. Additionally, roadside ditches act as conduits of pollutants, so even if the ditch itself is not eroding, it can still carry sediment from a disturbance into a waterbody.

There are approximately 6,500 miles of roadways within the Upper Hudson River Watershed, many of which have a roadside ditch on one or both sides which accepts the water that is conveyed off the road surface and directs it away from the roadway. This water is conveyed directly into the woods, or, in most cases, directly into the nearest wetland or surface water.

Utilizing a grant provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Coalition completed the Upper Hudson River Watershed Roadside Erosion Assessment in 2016, with the report by the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board. Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) employees collected data on roadside erosion sites on state, county and local roads, and used that data to rank sites as low, medium, or high priority based on based on five remediation factors:

1. Direct connection to a surface water - this can result in the direct loading of sediment into a waterbody.
2. Percent vegetation present - the fewer plants to hold the soil in place, the more erosion occurs.
3. Level of erodibility - indicative of whether slumping is actively occurring at the site.
4. Bank slope - the greater the slope, the more potential for soil loss.
5. Site area - the more surface area exposed, the more soil loss.

Roadside erosion sites that were ranked as high priority for remediation have a direct connection to a waterbody, have a low percentage of vegetation present, are actively slumping, have a high slope and are large in size. In total, the Upper Hudson River Watershed Roadside Erosion Assessment identifies 787 sites totaling almost $2,000,000 in remediation costs, shown in the table below.

Table 14: Upper Hudson River Roadside Erosion Assessment Results
Source: Upper Hudson River Watershed Roadside Erosion Assessment (2016)

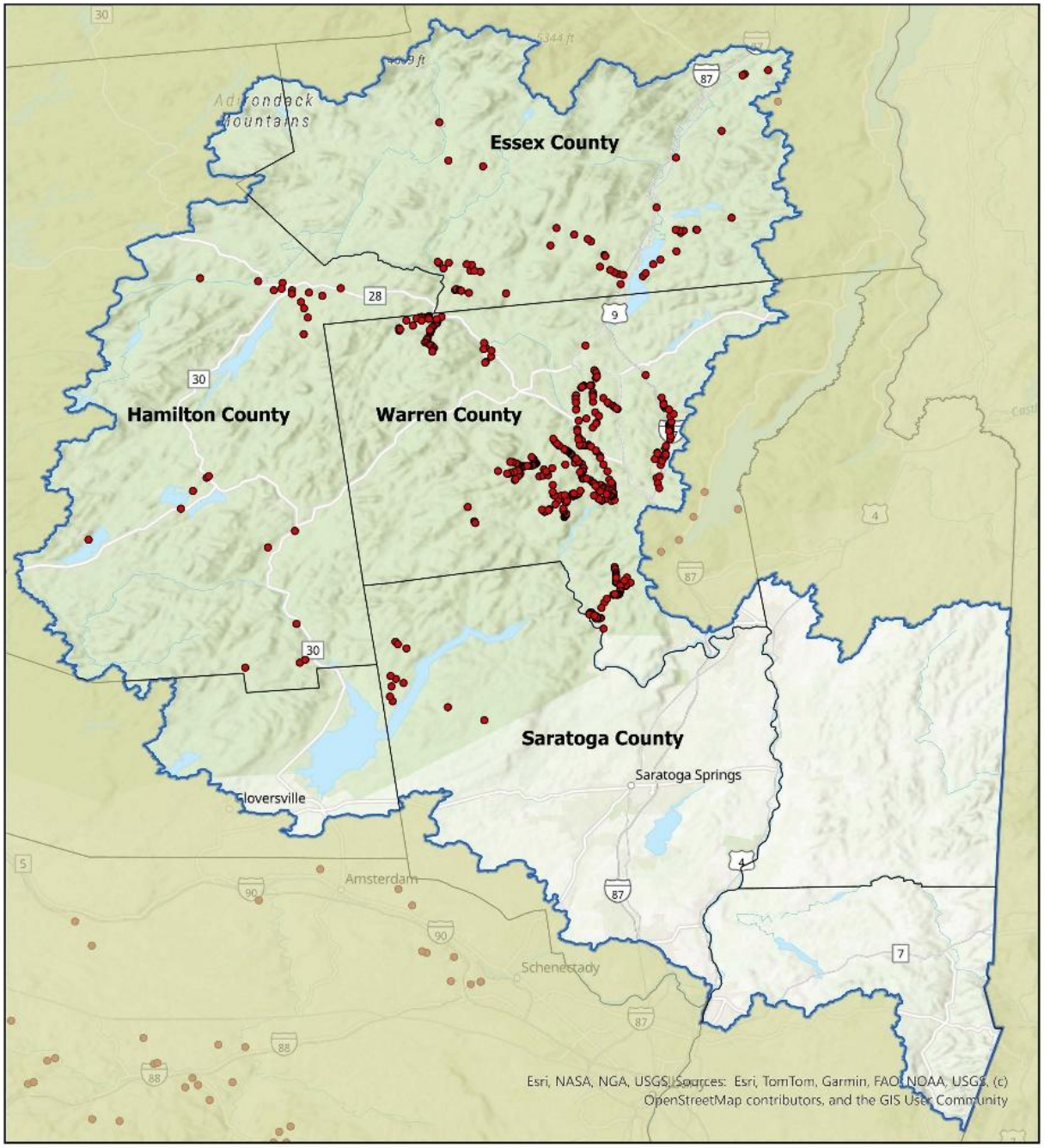
County	High Priority Sites	Medium Priority Sites	Low Priority Sites	Total Number of Sites	Total Cost
Essex	43	57	50	150	$548,700
Fulton	14	60	56	130	$248,200
Hamilton	0	17	18	35	$87,250
Rensselaer	1	8	56	65	$113,700
Saratoga	13	38	61	112	$318,750
Warren	45	125	86	256	$518,000
Washington	3	13	23	39	$91,700
Total	109	317	351	787	$1,926,300

Several methods can be used to remediate roadside erosion. The easiest and most cost-effective is hydroseeding. Hydroseeding provides a vegetative covering that is spread directly after ditching work is completed. To promote fast establishment of vegetation, fertilizer and mulch are included within the hydroseeding slurry to help grass grow quickly and hold soil particles in place. Additional methods for roadside erosion remediation include installing sediment basins, rolled erosion products, bank toe stabilization and check dams.

The Coalition was awarded two DEC Water Quality Improvement Project grants totaling $663,063 to implement Phases I and II of the Upper Hudson River Watershed Roadside Erosion Remediation Program. Both programs stabilized priority roadside erosion sites throughout the watershed by implementing best management practices (BMPs) including ditch cleaning, hydroseeding, rolled erosion products, toe stabilization, woody plant installation, and check dam/sediment basin installation. Projects were completed by SWCD and highway department employees.

This report details Phase II, and the 41 road bank sites that were stabilized in Hamilton, Essex, Saratoga, and Warren counties. Through best management practices including hydroseeding, stone lining, regrading slopes, culvert replacements, the installation of sediment basins, check dams, and woody vegetation, toe stabilization, and rock lining ditches, sediment loading into the Upper Hudson River Watershed and its tributaries was reduced. Additionally, SWCD staff surveyed over 400 miles of roads across the four counties and identified 519 new sites of erosion. Funding for this assessment was provided by the New York State DEC. Report by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

SWCD employees assessed over 400 miles of roadways for erosion throughout the Upper Hudson River Watershed, and documented 519 sites of roadside erosion.



UPPER HUDSON RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

Upper Hudson River Watershed Roadside Erosion Report

- Roadside Erosion Sites
- Counties
- Upper Hudson Watershed

0 6.25 12.5 25 37.5 50 Miles

N W E S

ID #103023	Town: Minerva	County: Essex	
Road Name	Minerva Lake Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.25 - 0.50
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	35	BMP Implemented	Improved roadside stabilization and the addition of a drainage culvert
Level of Erosion	High		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #105057	Town: Newcomb	County: Essex	
Road Name	Pine Tree Road	Bank Slope	Moderate
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	5	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	High		
Before Photo		After Photo	
		N/A	

ID #105059	Town: Newcomb	County: Essex	
Road Name	Woody's Road	Bank Slope	Moderate
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	40	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	
		N/A	

ID #105058	Town: Newcomb	County: Essex	
Road Name	Goodnow Flow Road	Bank Slope	Moderate
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Gravel
% of Vegetation	10	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	
		N/A	

ID #107137	Town: Schroon	County: Essex	
Road Name	Adirondack Road	Bank Slope	Low
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	0	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	
		N/A	

ID #107139	Town: Schroon	County: Essex	
Road Name	Adirondack Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	1.0 +
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	10	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	
		N/A	

ID #107140	Town: Schroon	County: Essex	
Road Name	Adirondack Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	1.0 +
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	10	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	
		N/A	

New Site	Town: Minerva	County: Essex
Road Name	John Brannon Road	
Justification	This project arose due to storms and priority issues. This project assisted with improving a road-stream crossing that was overtopping and eroding during large storm events. BMPs installed were a culvert.	

New Site	Town: Minerva	County: Essex
Road Name	Donnelly Road	
Justification	This project arose due to storms and priority issues. This project addressed continued flooding and sediment runoff. A drainage culvert was installed.	

New Site	Town: Minerva	County: Essex
Road Name	Gouchie Road	
Justification	This project arose due to storms and priority issues. It addressed sediment runoff and erosion from a storm event. BMPs included drainage culverts, ditch and roadway stabilization	

New Site	Town: North Hudson	County: Essex
Road Name	Dump Road and Route 9	
Justification	This project arose due to storms and priority issues. This project addressed continued drainage issues at the end of Dump Road. Flooding and runoff from this area contributed to severe runoff and erosion of the hill behind the North Hudson Town Hall and Fire Department, resulting in sediment runoff toward the nearby Schroon River. BMPs included subsurface drainage, hydroseeding	

New Site	Town: Newcomb	County: Essex
Road Name	Sanford Lane	
Justification	This project arose due to storms and priority issues. This addressed flooding and sediment runoff. BMPs included subsurface drainage, soil stabilization, vegetated swales	

ID #309003	Town: Benson	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	Gilmantown Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	County	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	20	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding, stone lining, and regrading slopes
Level of Erosion	High		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #309005	Town: Wells	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	West River Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	20	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #309006	Town: Wells	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	West River Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	20	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #309007	Town: Wells	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	West River Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	5	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Low		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #302002	Town: Benson	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	Benson Road	Bank Slope	Moderate
Jurisdiction	County	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	75	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Low		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #302003	Town: Benson	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	Benson Road	Bank Slope	Moderate
Jurisdiction	County	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	20	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Low		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #302004	Town: Benson	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	Benson Road	Bank Slope	Moderate
Jurisdiction	County	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	25	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Low		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #304004	Town: Indian Lake	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	Chamberland Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	10	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #306004	Town: Lake Pleasant	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	Dugway Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	10	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	High		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #306002	Town: Lake Pleasant	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	Fish Mountain Road	Bank Slope	Moderate
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	20	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Low		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #306003	Town: Lake Pleasant	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	Tamarack Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	20	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #306005	Town: Lake Pleasant	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	Old Military Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	0	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #306006	Town: Lake Pleasant	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	Perkins Clearing Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	10	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	High		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #306007	Town: Lake Pleasant	County: Hamilton	
Road Name	Perkins Clearing Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	10	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #507025	Town: Day	County: Saratoga	
Road Name	Snow Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	Yes	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	60	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	
		N/A	

ID #507026	Town: Day	County: Saratoga	
Road Name	Snow Road	Bank Slope	Moderate
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	5	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	
		N/A	

ID #508006	Town: Edinburg	County: Saratoga	
Road Name	Sand Lake Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.50 - 0.75
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	20	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #508007	Town: Edinburg	County: Saratoga	
Road Name	Sand Lake Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	30	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Low		
Before Photo		After Photo	

ID #507012	Town: Day	County: Saratoga	
Road Name	Hadley Hill Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.25 - 0.50
Direct Connection to Water	Yes	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	20	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding
Level of Erosion	Moderate		

Before Photo

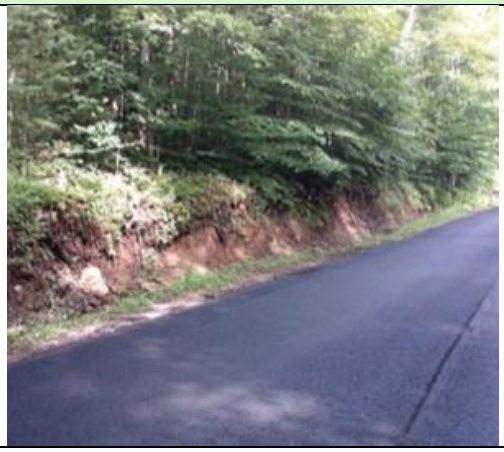
After Photo

New Site	Town: Edinburg	County: Saratoga
Road Name	Shields Road	
Justification	In the spring of 2023 massive thunderstorms moved through northern Saratoga County and devastated the small town of Edinburg washing out roads and causing massive erosion. As a result, one mile of Shield Rd was completely washed out leaving residents stranded and depositing many tons of sediment in the Sacandaga Reservoir. The Town of Edinburg Highway Department, along with the Saratoga SWCD worked to stabilize and rebuild what used to be Shields road. During that reconstruction 640 feet of culverts were replaced and almost a mile of lined waterway was installed to stabilize the roadside. While not part of the original list of erosion assessments this was by far the largest contributor of sediment to the Sacandaga reservoir during the grant period and needed to be addressed properly.	

ID #611134	Town: Thurman	County: Warren	
Road Name	Bowen Hill Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	Yes	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	5	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding, regrading slopes, check dam installation, rock lining ditches
Level of Erosion	High		

Before Photo	After Photo

ID #611135	Town: Thurman	County: Warren	
Road Name	Bowen Hill Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	Yes	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	10	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding, regrading slopes, check dam installation, rock lining ditches
Level of Erosion	High		

Before Photo	After Photo
	

ID #611136	Town: Thurman	County: Warren	
Road Name	Bowen Hill Road	Bank Slope	Steep
Jurisdiction	Town	Area of Erosion (acres)	0.1 - 0.25
Direct Connection to Water	No	Soil Type	Sand
% of Vegetation	10	BMP Implemented	Hydroseeding, regrading slopes, check dam installation, rock lining ditches
Level of Erosion	High		

Before Photo	After Photo

New Site	Town: Thurman	County: Warren
Road Name	Frost Street	
Justification	This area became a priority due to the steep slope and roadside erosion that flows to a large wetland a tributary of Patterson Brook. It would also flood and erode Glen Athol Road (Warren County road). The Thurman Highway Department was repairing the roadside multiple times throughout the year, and it needed a stabilization. BMPs included hydroseeding, regarding slopes, and check dam installation.	

New Site	Town: Bolton	County: Warren
Road Name	County Route 11	
Justification	December 18, 2023 Rainstorm, State of Emergency Issued for Warren County: Roadside and road major washout. BMPs included hydroseeding, regrading slopes, culvert replacement, toe and bank stabilization, and rock lining ditches.	

New Site	Town: Lake Luzerne County: Warren
Road Name	County Route 32 (Call Street)
Justification	December 18, 2023 Rainstorm, State of Emergency Issued for Warren County: Roadside, road and culvert major washout. BMPs included hydroseeding, regrading slopes, culvert replacement, toe and bank stabilization, and rock lining ditches.
After Photos	

New Site	Town: Lake Luzerne County: Warren
Road Name	Luzerne Northwoods Association
Justification	Pinewoods Road has been an ongoing roadside erosion issue where stormwater runoff from the road was also eroding a beach area directly to Forest Lake. This site continued to become more severe with the heavy rain events, making it a priority.. BMPs included stone lining.

New Site	Town: Horicon County: Warren
Road Name	Horicon Schroon River Canoe Access
Justification	This is a Warren County road to a cartop canoe launch. This project was planned with the Upper Hudson grant, but we partnered with NYSDEC who ended up paying for all the materials from a separate funding source for fishing access locations. The road to the canoe launch caused extensive erosion directly to the Schroon River. BMPs included hydroseeding, stone lining, toe and bank stabilization, and woody vegetation installation.

New Site	Town: Chester County: Warren
Road Name	Hardscrabble Road
Justification	The road was collapsing into the culvert/stream and became a high priority erosion issue.. BMPs included regrading slopes, culvert replacement, and toe and bank stabilization.