

REPORT CARD

The Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern Report Card was created by the Eighteenmile Creek Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC). **The purpose of this Report Card is to give a brief overview of the health, improvements and current conditions of Eighteenmile Creek during 2006.** The Eighteenmile Creek Watershed includes – main branch of Eighteenmile Creek, Gulf Creek Tributary, East Branch of Eighteenmile Creek (Red Creek), and augmented flow from the NYS Erie Barge Canal.

Scientific data and research that was referenced during the development of this Report Card can be found at the Area of Concern website:

WWW.EIGHTEENMILERAP.COM

This Report Card offers six “indicators” related to the creek’s overall health. They are: 1) Water Quality; 2) Contamination; 3) Fish & Wildlife; 4) Public Access & Recreation; 5) Remedial Action Planning; and 6) Environmental Education & Public Involvement.

Each indicator has been further divided into several “sub-categories” to assess how specific concerns are being addressed. Each sub-category has been assigned a **letter grade** based upon past successes, current health and conditions, and trends over the past 10 years. The last column identifies action steps or immediate concerns to be addressed in order to meet restoration targets for the Area of Concern. This Report Card will be updated annually.



	CATEGORIES	GRADE	SUCCESSES & IMPROVEMENTS	CURRENT CONDITIONS	TREND	STEPS NEEDED FOR PROBLEM RESOLUTION
WATER QUALITY	Overall Water Quality in the Creek	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary sources impacting water quality have been identified as industrial facilities, municipal practices and contaminated sediments. Funding acquired to conduct a storm water outfall inventory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using NYS DEC standards, the AOC is classified as a Class B/C stream. Upstream of the AOC is Class D. A NYS DEC study indicated that no parameters exceeded water quality standards in the water column. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing contamination sources must be remediated. Measures must be taken to prevent future contamination occurrences. A dynamic water quality monitoring and protection program must be coordinated for the entire watershed. A trackdown of all possible sources must be implemented.
	Quality of Stormwater Entering the Creek	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Western New York Stormwater Coalition was established in 2003. The City of Lockport has made progress eliminating 20 of 32 Combined Sewer Overflows. Funding has been secured to implement several water quality related Best Management Practices on farms within the watershed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Runoff from a storm event could affect water quality in the creek. The City of Lockport is currently investigating their remaining 12 Combined Sewer Overflows to ascertain the percentage of flow during a rain event, if any. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine monitoring of stormwater discharges for physical and chemical parameters must be initiated. An overall assessment of the effects of stormwater and wastewater discharge on Eighteenmile Creek may need to be pursued.
CONTAMINATION	Contaminated Sediments in the Creek	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sediment investigation was completed downstream of the Flintkote plant site. Sampling was conducted in the creek and the Barge Canal to further assess the levels of PCBs and other contaminants present. A supplemental investigation of Flintkote, Upon Park, White Transportation, and United Paperboard is scheduled for 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sediments in the AOC exceed NYS standards for a variety of contaminants, including PCBs, lead, etc. Contaminated sediments behind the Burt Dam & remnants of the Newfane Dam, within the NYS Barge Canal, and in the area of the Flintkote Plant Site, affect the health of the AOC. A scope of work has been completed that aims to assess creek sediments from Stone Road to Burt Dam. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for a full scale sediment investigation, assessing sources of contamination, extent of contamination and options for removal must be secured. Utilize the USEPA’s Legacy Act to remediate the present contamination. Complete the supplemental investigation of the Flintkote site, Upon Park, United Paperboard, and White Transportation. Unknown sources of contamination need to be identified.
	Spills, Discharges & Leaching of Contaminants	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 site currently under a FUSRAP investigation. Several potential sources of contamination have been identified in the City of Lockport. A watershed based pollutant generator database has been developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 remaining sites still have the potential to negatively affect the AOC. Unknown Non-point source discharges have a negative impact on the creek. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of stormwater outfall mapping and sampling project. Complete the remediation of all Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites in the watershed. Establish an illicit discharge detection program for all priority outfalls..
FISH AND WILDLIFE	Restoration of Fish & Wildlife Habitat	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of funds secured for a wetland and in-stream habitat restoration project for the spring of 2007. Baseline habitat characterization completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing habitat influenced by restricted flow over the Burt Dam. Majority of habitat protected by steep banks in the AOC. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete phase II of habitat restoration project & define additional opportunities for specific restoration measures. Develop the protocol by which to monitor the success of the restoration. Protect existing critical in-stream and riparian habitat within the AOC.
	Fish & Wildlife Diversity & Populations	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100,000+ fish stocked by NYS DEC in 2006. Funding has been acquired for a fish & wildlife population assessment. Angler survey completed in 2006 by USACE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AOC is identified as a known location of the Blanding’s Turtle, a NYS threatened species and a federal species of concern. Various invasive plant species inhabit the AOC, but none occur in dominant numbers. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess results of fish and wildlife population study. An invasive species management plan based on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is required to address overall restoration of the AOC. Continue with creating and enhancing AOC habitat.
	Contaminant Levels in Fish & Wildlife	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding has been acquired for a fish contaminant study to be completed in 2007. Funding has been acquired for a fish tumor assessment to be completed in 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish consumption advisories exist for the AOC and the watershed above the Burt Dam. Contaminants in the sediments of the AOC are extremely bio-accumulative. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A study assessing contaminant levels in birds and wildlife is needed. A food web study assessing contaminant trends is required in the AOC. An assessment of bird/animal deformities in the AOC is needed. Upstream sources and contaminated sediments require remediation.
PUBLIC ACCESS & RECREATION	Public Access to the Creek & Adjacent Areas	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The funding for Phase II of the Habitat Restoration Project will increase angler access to the creek by creating a fisherman access wall. The creek is recognized as a great place to visit by canoeing and recreational groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of AOC is secluded by steep banks not accessible for recreation. The AOC is accessible for anglers, canoe launching, and general recreation activities. Olcott Harbor is accessible for fishing and recreation. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishermen’s Park can be enhanced with additional recreation access. Additional Fishing access points should be identified and enhanced downstream and upstream of Fisherman’s Park. Coordinate with the Greenway Commission to discuss options for the Eighteenmile Creek watershed.
	Aesthetics of the Creek & Adjacent Riparian Areas	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Soil & Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model has been developed to address non-point source pollution through proper land use planning. Improvements to Fisherman’s Park have included a conservation seeding over barren areas and a general clean-up of the AOC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various debris including, litter, logs, and other floatables are conveyed over the Burt Dam. A large majority of the flow in the creek originates from the City of Lockport Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Town of Newfane routinely polices a portion of the AOC for litter and other debris. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish annual AOC clean sweep days for Fishermen’s Park, properties adjacent to the creek and all public land in the watershed. Educate and encourage recreational users of the creek to “Pitch-In” and promote a healthy ecosystem. Work with landowners to preserve and enhance existing riparian areas adjacent to the creek. Continued storm water education and outreach to various communities in the watershed.
REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN	RAP Management	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District has secured funds to support 5 additional years of AOC oversight. Various grants are continually being applied for and acquired to progress initiatives of the RAP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAP is being included with ongoing watershed management planning. AOC Report Cards are being issued annually. A State of the Basin Report is being compiled for 2007. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual status reports for the RAP and occasional updates should be completed. Additional grants funds should be applied for and acquired, including the U.S. EPA Legacy Act.
	RAC Management	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Remedial Advisory Committee continues to assist in identifying and updating priorities for Remedial Action Plan implementation activities and advise with social and economic impacts of RAP implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAC is comprised of a diverse group of original members and representatives from newer interests. The RAC meets quarterly to discuss various initiatives of the RAP and to explore new opportunities in assisting with delisting the Area of Concern. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAC should implement written Rules, Guidelines & Participant Responsibilities. Develop de-listing criteria and targets for all impaired beneficial uses by December 31, 2008. Continued assessment of the Beneficial Use Impairments is paramount.
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	Public Awareness/Appreciation of the Creek	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An angler survey was completed in the AOC which assessed angler awareness of a fish consumption advisory and the economic value of the fishery. The 2005 Report Card reached the hands of 5000+ stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The creek is home to numerous tours and classes led by various entities, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Despite the high levels of PCBs and other contaminants found in fish flesh, 12,000 anglers use the creek annually. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased media attention regarding the state of our natural resources. An informational campaign should commence for the watershed and the AOC, especially during the planning stage of an overall Watershed Management Plan. Keep stakeholders informed about progress with the RAP and the AOC.
	Environmental Stewardship	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Marsh Monitoring Program attracted 50+ individuals interested in Eighteenmile Creek environmental stewardship. An AOC Clean Sweep is scheduled for 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a limited amount of participation from the public with regards to RAP/AOC planning. Town of Newfane hosts an annual Environmental Fair which educates children about water protection. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a stewardship campaign that engages stakeholders with activities including AOC Clean Sweep Days, education days and outreach events. Partner with sportsmen clubs and residents to promote stewardship.

TRENDS	GRADING
↑ Conditions Improving	A Excellent
↔ Conditions Unchanged	B Good
	C Fair
	D Poor
↓ Conditions Worsening	F Failure

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN (AOC) ?

In 1994, local, state and federal officials identified a section of Eighteenmile Creek as one of 43 "Areas of Concern" (AOC) in the Great Lakes Basin. Eighteenmile Creek received this designation because of poor water quality and contaminated sediments present throughout the watershed. Eighteenmile Creek's long history of use by major industries in the area, especially near the City of Lockport and Town of Newfane, has played a large role in the present condition of the creek.

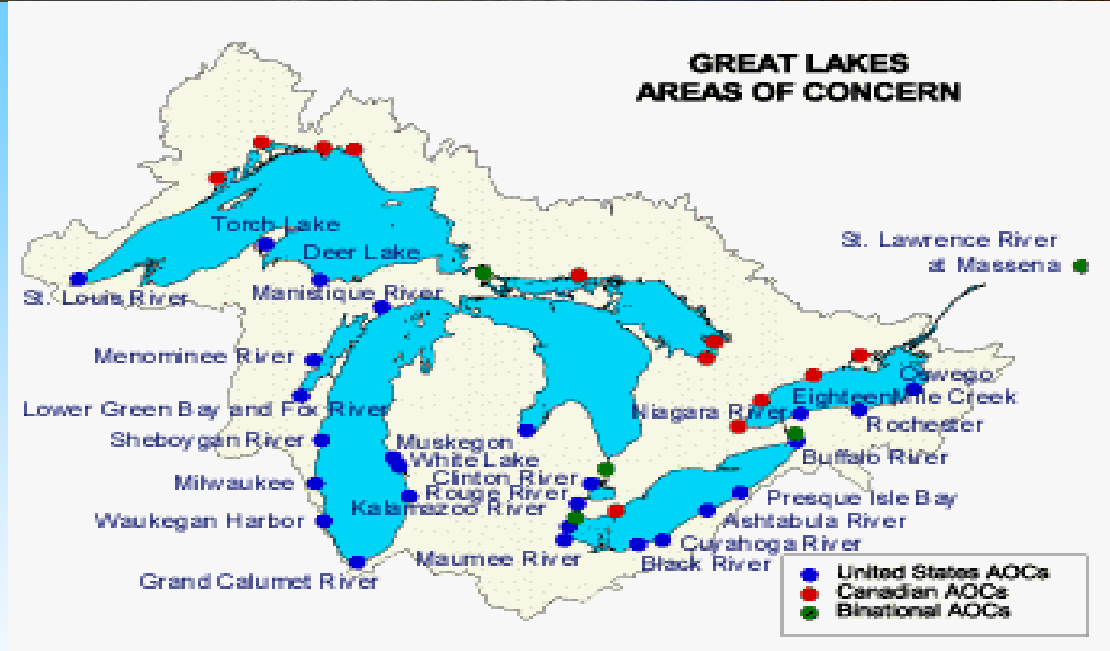
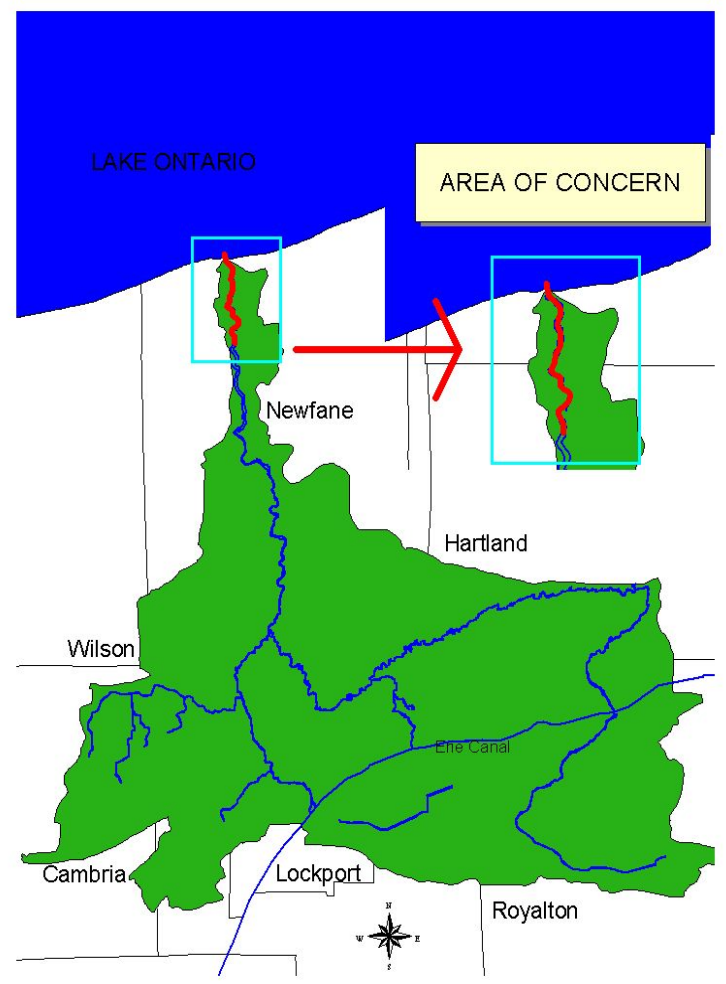
WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) ?

A RAP is an integrated, whole ecosystem approach to remediating impaired water bodies. The RAP first identifies use impairments, their causes, and contaminant sources, using existing studies and data. Next, existing cleanup and regulatory programs which apply to the water body are identified. A coordinated cleanup strategy is then developed to eliminate the use impairments. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation produced the Stage 1/2 RAP in 1997 in an effort to restore the integrity of the creek's ecosystem.

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) ?

The Eighteenmile Creek RAC is comprised of a group of local, state and federal stakeholders, representing industries, organizations and local communities with a vested interest in the health of Eighteenmile Creek. The RAC is responsible for implementing the RAP, monitoring restoration efforts, and assessing ongoing needs and conditions. After a brief hiatus, the RAC reconvened in 2005 and is currently making progress in moving the RAP forward.

**EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN
REPORT CARD
2006**



- EIGHTEENMILE CREEK BENEFICIAL USE IMPAIRMENTS**
- 1) Restrictions on Fish & Wildlife Consumption - Impaired
 - 2) Degredation of Benthic Populations - Impaired
 - 3) Restrictions on Dredging Activities - Impaired
 - 4) Bird/Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems - Likely
 - 5) Fish Tumors or Other Deformities - Unknown
 - 6) Degradation of Fish & Wildlife Populations - Unknown



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AOC
OR ITS REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN**

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This Report Card was produced by the Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District under a grant awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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