RURAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) ROADBANK/STREAMBANK CONSTRUCTION

Project Description: A major nonpoint source pollutant recognized in the late 1800s but not addressed until the early 1990s is lake sediment deposition. Nonpoint source pollutants are difficult to identify and quantify except under extreme conditions, which usually makes sediment pollution from erosion very visible. Nonpoint sources are typically unpredictable and dispersed. The majority of sediment pollution to enter Onondaga Lake comes from the Onondaga Creek subwatershed. This is a result of high concentrations of fine sand and silt in the creek. The streambank erosion reduces shoreline accessibility for contact recreation (i.e., fishing). The eroded sand and silt create discolored water conditions known as turbidity that decreases the capacity of channels, lakes, and reservoirs.

Through a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers grant to Onondaga County, the County is executing the project in partnership with the Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District (OCSWCD). This project entails the implementation of roadbank and streambank construction projects as part of the Rural Nonpoint Source Pollution Best Management Practices (BMP) project. Construction of remediation projects within the Onondaga Creek watershed is intended to reduce erosion of soil into Onondaga Creek and its tributaries, ultimately resulting in improved water quality in these streams and Onondaga Lake.

Location: The project sites fall within the Onondaga Creek sub-watershed of the Onondaga Lake watershed.

Project Sponsor: Onondaga County serves as the non-Federal sponsor of this Onondaga Lake Partnership project, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers serves as the Federal sponsor.

Current Status: Project status is as follows:

- A construction solicitation was issued and contract awarded in the Summer of 2004.
- Within the available 2004 construction season, restoration of 6 streambank reaches was completed.
- OCSWCD is working with the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) to provide plant materials and plantings at the sites.
- For the second construction season, it is anticipated that the contractor will begin construction on the remaining 11 streambank reaches as soon as weather and site conditions allow (mid-May 2005). SUNY-ESF will begin planting vegetation at several sites in the Spring of 2005.

Before Construction.

After Construction – New stream channel, streambank shaped and graded, and all areas seeded and Futura Matted or mulched.