

## **Franklin County SWCD**

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The mission of the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote wise management of our natural resources through a wide variety of quality conservation and educational programs to the landowners, land-users and municipalities of Franklin County.

Franklin County is located in the northeast quadrant of New York State and is the Northeast boundary of the St Lawrence River Watershed. It borders on the Province of Quebec on the north, Clinton County on the east, Essex and Hamilton Counties on the south, and St. Lawrence County on the west. It is the fourth largest county in New York, with approximately 1,087,500 acres. In the northern third of the county, agriculture is the dominant land use and in the southern two-thirds, the Adirondack Mountains are predominantly woodland. The county is broken up by two different geographical areas. The agricultural land is relatively flat and ranges from ancient beach front to lake laid sediments and plains, while the southern Adirondacks are mostly glacial outwash and tills. Eighty percent of the county drains to the northwest and the St. Lawrence River, while twenty percent in the southeast drains to Lake Champlain. There are five major watersheds that drain to the St. Lawrence: Salmon, Trout, Chateaugay, Raquette and St. Regis. There are hundreds of ponds and lakes and thousands of miles of rivers and streams throughout Franklin County. A substantial number of these water bodies have some form of dwelling on them, ranging from a small camp to hundreds of summer cottages along their shores. Almost all of these water bodies have been affected by some form of degradation from non-point sources of pollution - some from development, some from acid rain, and some from natural occurrences. Municipal water supplies serve residents in the Villages of Malone, Tupper Lake, Chateaugay and Burke, the Hamlets of Bangor, Brainardsville and St. Regis Falls, and the territory of Akwesasne. These are mostly surface water sources which are very susceptible to non-point pollution problems. Approximately forty-five percent of households in the county are on municipal waste water treatment systems. The remaining population is served by individual wells and on-site waste disposal systems.

### **County Priorities**

- 1. Invasive species**
- 2. Drinking water protection**
- 3. Agricultural Environmental Issues**
- 4. On-site sewage disposal (alternatives, proper installation, pump-outs)**
- 5. Urban surface runoff (storm water)**
- 6. Stream bank and road bank erosion**
- 7. Proper waste disposal (pesticides, toxics, etc.)**
- 8. Point and non-point pollution identification, remediation and prevention**
- 9. Land Use Management**
- 10. Evaluation of Priority Waterbodies List (PWL)**

### **Priority Projects:**

- **Invasive Species Control and Remediation, \$250,000**
  - **Japanese Knotweed identification and removal \$50,000**

- **Purple Loosestrife identification and control, \$25,000**
  - **Emerald Ash Borer monitoring and planning, \$10,000**
- **Completion of the Salmon River Watershed Management Plan, \$25,000**
- **Development of the Chateaugay Watershed Management Plan, \$50,000**
- **Implementation of Best Management Practices for Agricultural Operations**
  - **Milk House Waste in the Salmon River Watershed, \$20,000**
  - **Manure Storage for multiple farmsteads in the Salmon River Watershed, \$600,000**
  - **Silage Leachate Management Systems in the Chateaugay River Watershed, \$400,000**
  - **Manure Storage and Barnyard in the Chateaugay River Watershed, \$250,000**
- **Economic Improvement with Recreational trails development and Tourism \$200,000**
- **Hydroseeding and BMP implementation for roads and ditches, \$100,000**
- **Purchase of a No-Till Grain Drill for soil health, \$35,000**
- **Soil Health workshops and BMP implementation, \$100,000**
- **Education and Outreach including but not limited to Soil Health workshops \$50,000**
- **Dredging feasibility studies in Mt. View and Indian Lakes \$200,000**