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AmeriCorps GIS & Conservation Technology Team

F.Y. 1996 4th Quarter Progress Report

East Aurora Field Office
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

**4th Quarter Progress Report,
Photos,
Sample Maps**

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
East Aurora, New York

AmeriCorps GIS & Conservation Technology Team

4th Quarter Progress Report

Photos and Sample Maps

Key to Photos

1. One of dozens of displays by AmeriCorps team members for area conferences and public meetings.
2. AmeriCorps member Scott Barnwell (center) with two team members from the Town of West Seneca's AmeriCorps Conservation Corps during a break in survey monument installation in the Town of West Seneca.
3. AmeriCorps member Lisa Matthies (right) points out digitized watershed boundary map during AmeriCorps Open House, August 12, 1996.
4. Finishing up installation of one of 144 survey monuments installed and mapped by AmeriCorps members in the Town of West Seneca. Monument plates reference AmeriCorps's involvement.
5. East Aurora Team members Scott Barnwell, Gayla Gross, Chris Castiglione, soil scientist Steve Carlisle, and members Lisa Matthies and Joe Ghosen (left to right) discuss soil mapping as preparation for their work to computerize soil maps.
6. AmeriCorps display at the Buffalo Museum and Science Center during the two month museum exhibit, "Our Weakening Web."
7. AmeriCorps member, Chris Castiglione (center), discusses the floodplain map he rectified and digitized for the Town of Amherst.
8. AmeriCorps member, Joe Ghosen (left), shows the first electronically produced map of apportionment boundaries for the City of Buffalo during August 12, 1996 AmeriCorps Open House.
9. AmeriCorps member, Gayla Gross, blows straw mulch onto newly revegetated streambank.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

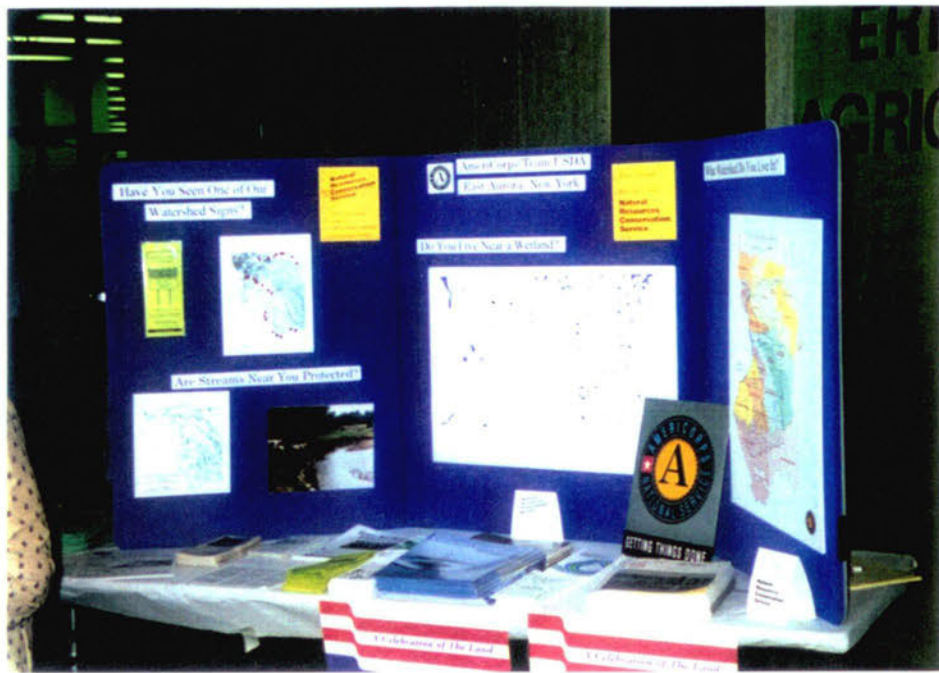
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[Photographs printed on pages]

3 pages



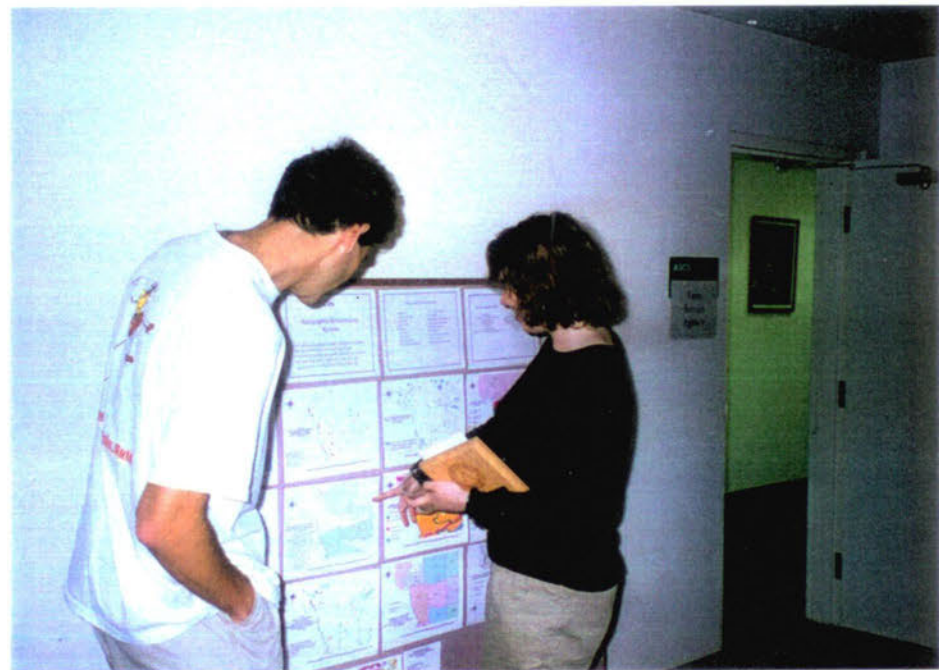
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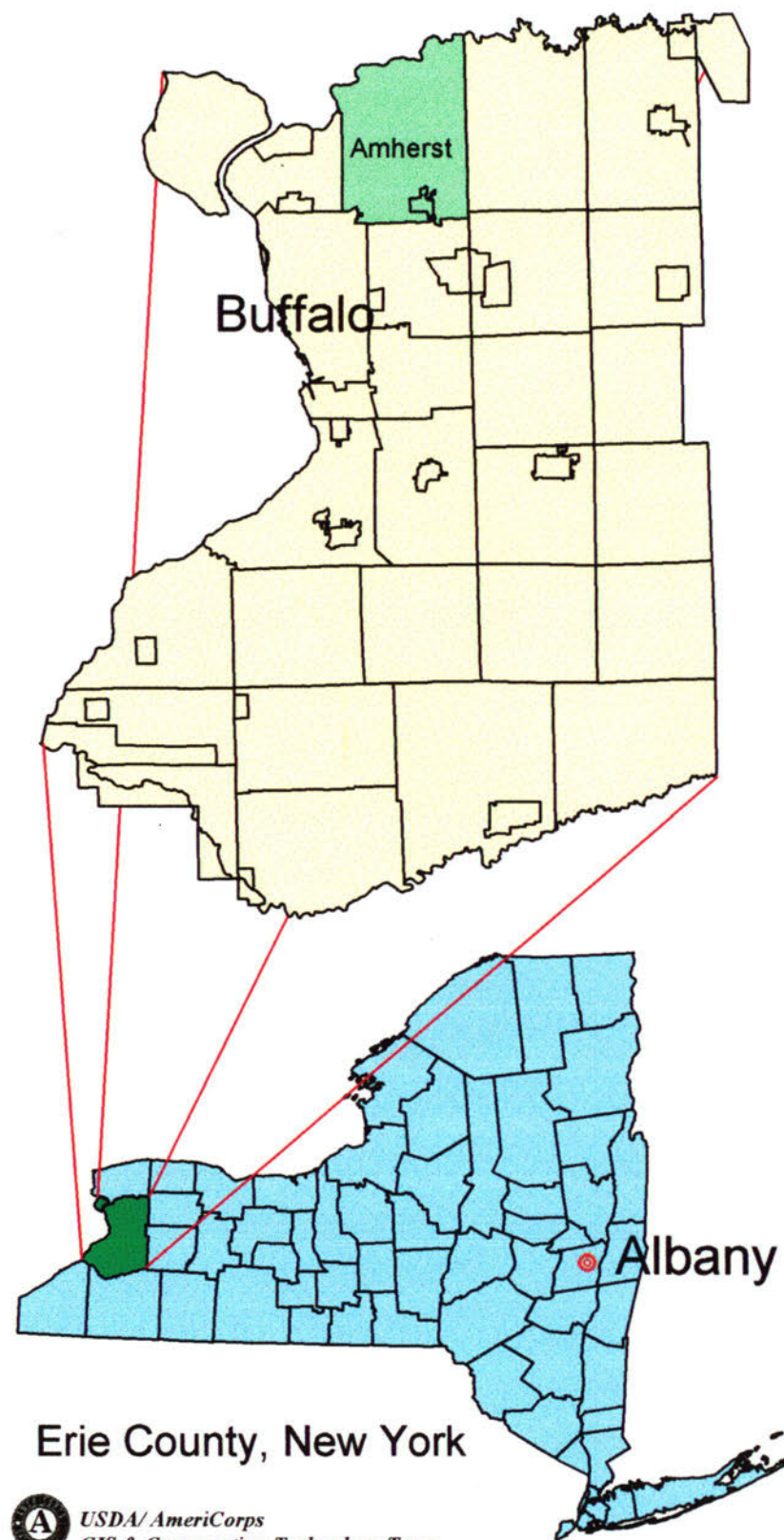
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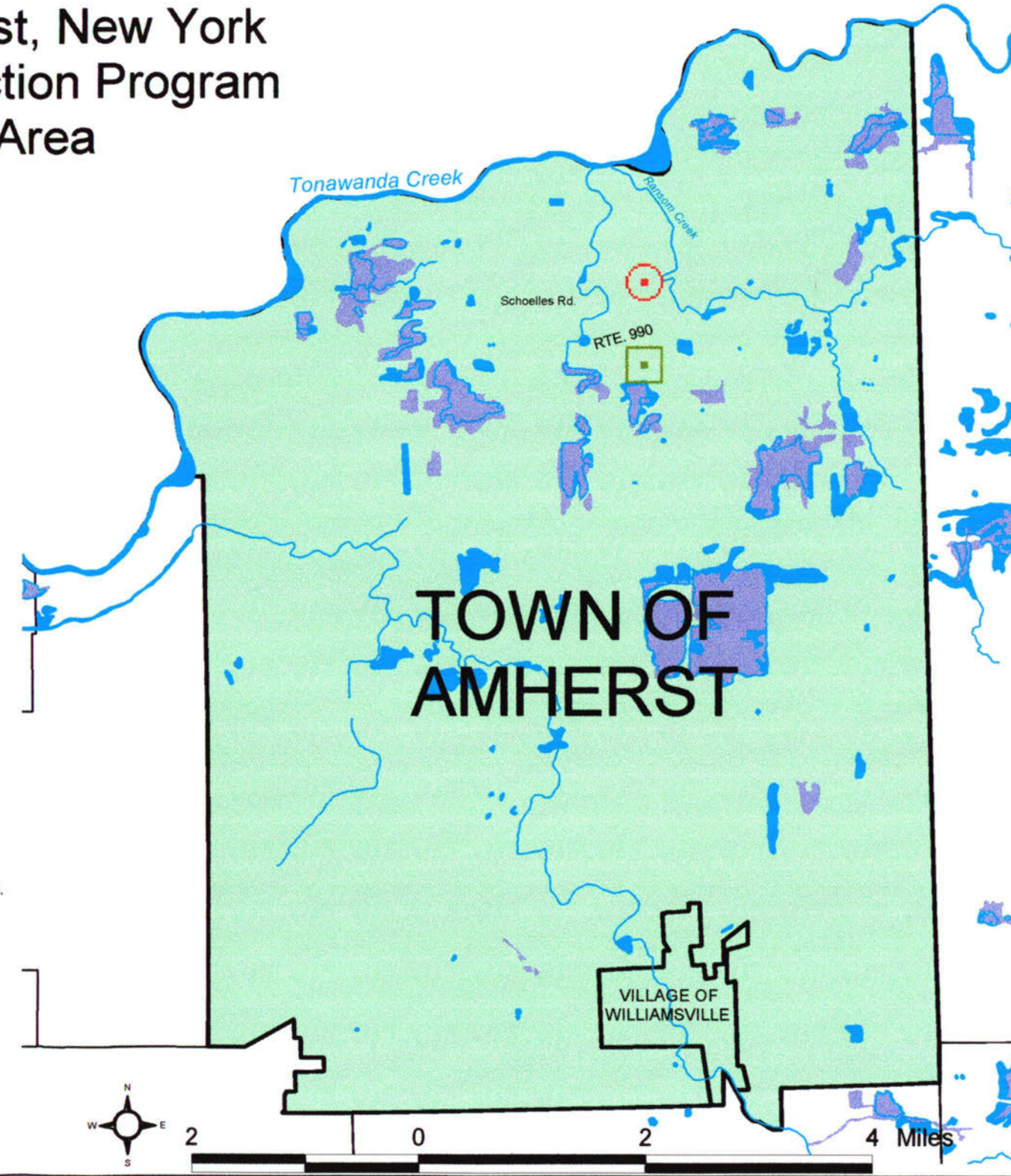
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amherst1.apr
September 10, 1996

Town of Amherst, New York Farmland Protection Program Project Area



- Target Conservation Easement Area
- Area of Farmland Loss
- Roads
- NYS Dept. of Environmental Cons. Freshwater Wetlands
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory



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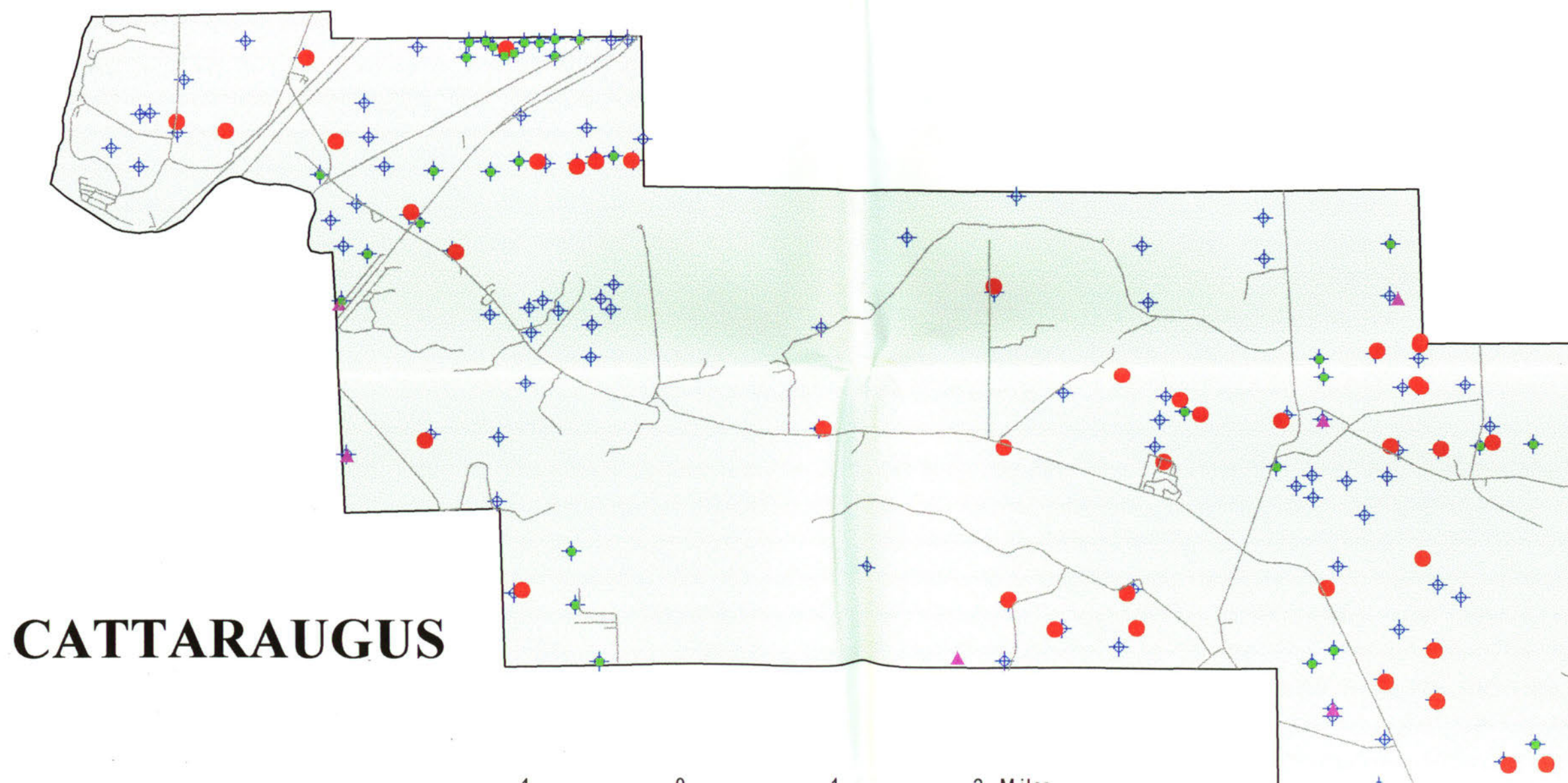
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SENECA NATION OF INDIANS
OIL & GAS WELL PROJECT
JULY 1996 STATUS

Document Title: _____

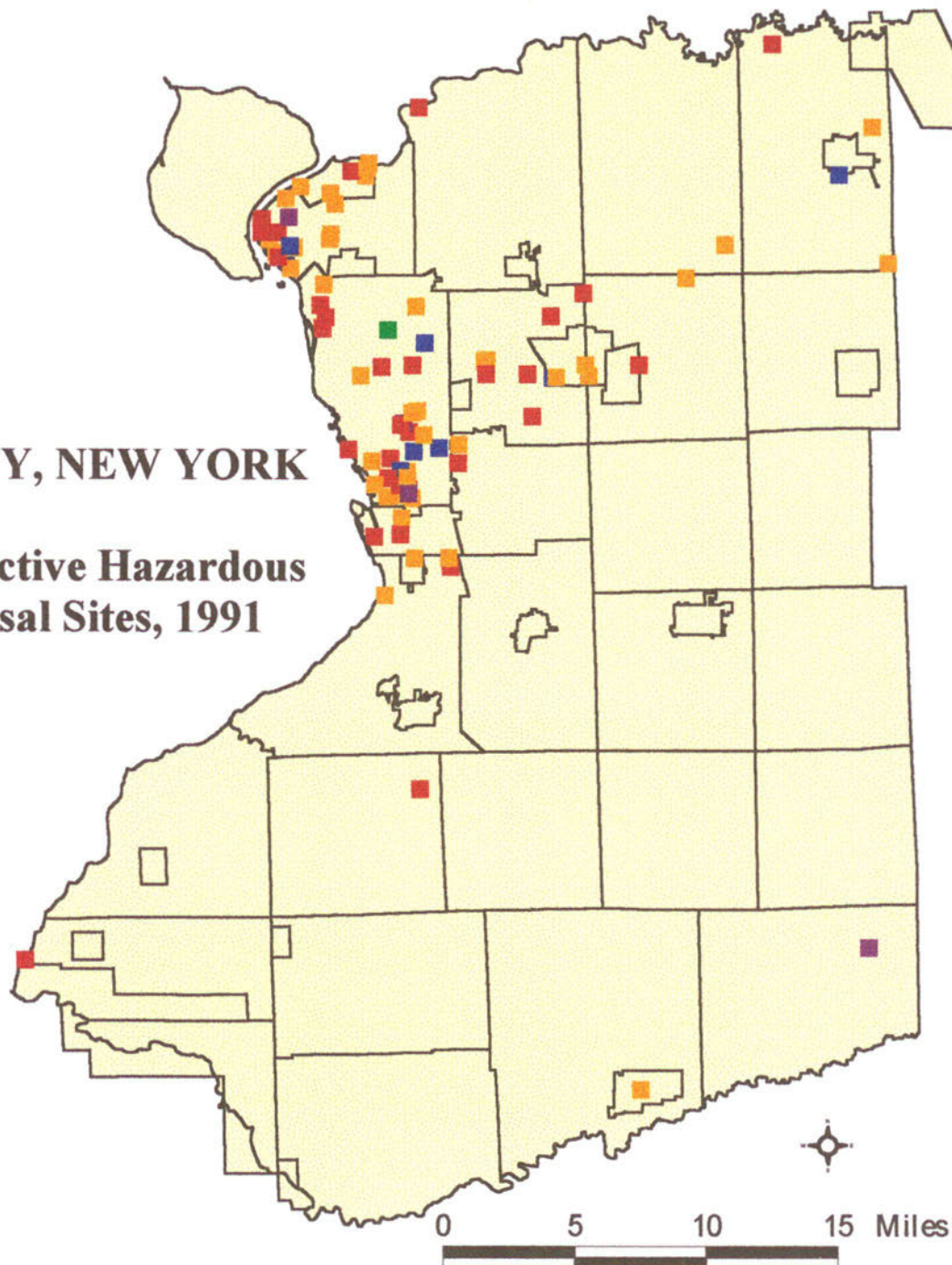


SENECA NATION OF OIL & GAS WELL P JULY 1996 STA



ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK

Registered Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites, 1991



Site Classification

-  2 (Significant Threat to Public Health- Action Required)
-  2a (Temporary classification given to sites that have inadequate and/or insufficient data for inclusion in any of the other classifications)
-  3 (Does not present a significant threat to the public health or the environment - action may be deferred)
-  4 (Site properly closed - requires continued management)
-  5 (Site properly closed, no evidence of present or potential adverse impact - no further action is required)



TOWN & VILLAGE OF ALDEN Erie County, New York

HYGROGRAPHY

 NYS Dept. of Environmental Cons.
Freshwater Wetlands

 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
National Wetlands Inventory

 1:24000 Waterways

 100-Year Floodplains
FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps

Watersheds

 Cayuga Creek

 Ransom Creek to Mouth



2

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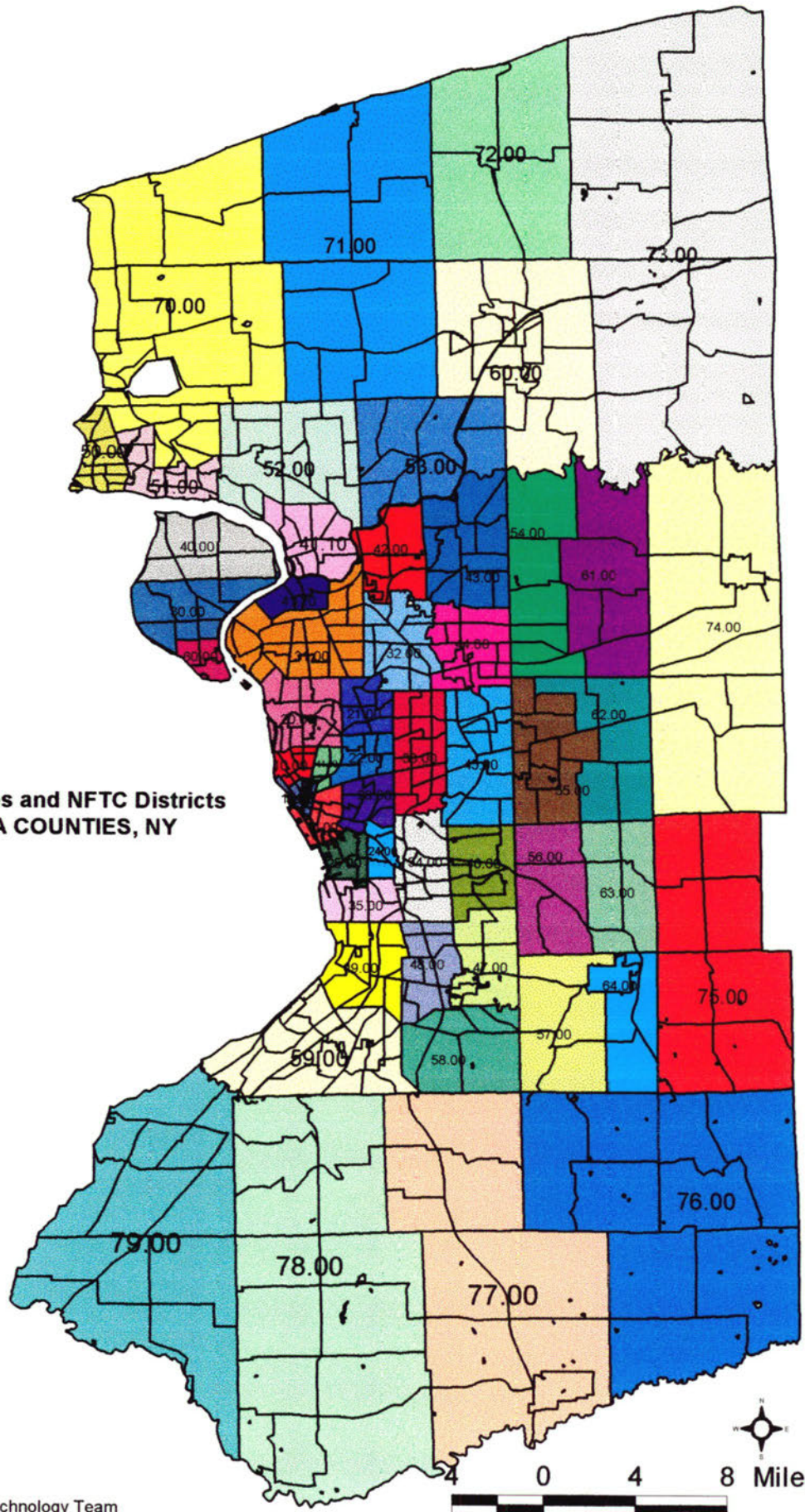
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4 Miles



USDA AmeriCorps
GIS & Conservation Technology Team

**Traffic Analysis Zones and NFTC Districts
ERIE & NIAGARA COUNTIES, NY**



USDA/AmeriCorps
GIS & Conservation Technology Team



**Staff Meeting Minutes,
Sample Correspondence,
Etc.**

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



AMERICORPS™/USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-8480
Fax (716) 652-8506



GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies
October 1, 1996

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Joel Berg
United States Department of Agriculture
Ag. Box 1301
Washington, D.C. 20251

Dear Joel:

Enclosed is the East Aurora *GIS and Conservation Technology Team's 4th Quarter Progress Report*. Even as the Team was winding down for the year (everyone but Lisa Matthies was done in August), Team members continued to digitize and print map after map at the request of local community officials, planners and conservation partners.

Probably the most exciting aspect of the project is that enough data has now been assembled and distributed so that we are seeing "AmeriCorps data" appear in planning and resource protection projects produced by consultants, other agencies, and municipal officials from all over Western New York. Not only did AmeriCorps members "get things done" but now their efforts are being magnified and multiplied by many others without even having to involve AmeriCorps in any direct way!

Next year's project theme will be "**Integrating Information and Action.**" Local project partners, sponsors, and I look forward to another productive, high impact year. We already have names of over 50 people who have heard about the project through the internet and local press. We hope to begin formal recruiting within the next few weeks (as soon as we get the clearance from headquarters).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John Whitney', written over the printed name and title.

John Whitney
District Conservationist

cc: Richard Swenson, State Conservationist, USDA NRCS, Syracuse
Robert Hartrick, Area Conservationist, USDA NRCS, Batavia

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AMERICORPS™



AND USDA NRCS DIGITAL MAP DATA 1996

**USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ERIE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EAST AURORA, NEW YORK**

AMERICORPS GIS PROJECTS
East Aurora, New York
Summer/Fall 1996



GIS Support for the Fish and Wildlife Division, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

AmeriCorps is converting *updated wetland surveys and boundary delineations* to an electronic format and compiling this information and related descriptive information on a GIS. The GIS, at the NYSDEC Region 9 office, will help staff members track the status of individual wetlands, and will be more convenient than the current paper filing system.

Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI)

AmeriCorps is using a global positioning system (GPS) unit to help SNI staff locate *gas and oil wells* on the Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Oil Spring Reservations. AmeriCorps created and maintains a well map and inventory that show search status and historical records. About 300 wells, developed between 1900 and the 1930s, must be found so they can be properly closed or redeveloped.

Erie County 1:24000 Waterways Project at Buffalo State College

AmeriCorps digitized the *waterways of Erie County* and is attributing the coverage with stream name, size (continuous or intermittent), and classification information. AmeriCorps uses this project to train Buffalo State College geography and geology students to use PCArcInfo GIS software.

United Way of Buffalo and Erie County

AmeriCorps trains United Way staff to use their ArcView GIS software. AmeriCorps and United Way use a GIS to analyze U.S. Census Bureau and other data, map the *accessibility and types of social services* in Buffalo and Erie County, and identify and address community social services needs. AmeriCorps has assisted with presentations to State and local government officials, citizen groups, and social services

agencies. Projects include mapping *fund-raising boundaries*, mapping *bicycle routes*, creating *databases of census data*, *area Scout groups* and *United Way affiliated agencies*, and mapping the *1996 Olympic Torch relay route* through Buffalo.

GIS Support for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Niagara and Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation Districts

AmeriCorps is helping Fish & Wildlife Service biologists and Soil & Water Conservation District staff use ARC/INFO GIS software to support an Atlantic salmon reintroduction project in Johnson and Jeddo Creeks. AmeriCorps is digitizing the *waterways and tax parcels* that lie within the creeks' watershed. Eventually all information related to this project will be in a GIS for modeling and data management.

Map Buffalo Project

AmeriCorps is completing detailed *field surveys of homes, buildings, and land in the lower west side of Buffalo*. This project involves approximately 400 parcels and supports the Lower West Side Development Corporation's plans to improve the neighborhood.

GIS Support at the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning

AmeriCorps uses the ARC/INFO work station at Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP). Projects include digitizing *election wards* and *transportation analysis zones* in Buffalo, and Erie County *legislative, assembly, congressional, and senatorial districts*.

Soil Map Recompile and Digitizing Projects

AmeriCorps is using LineTrace Plus software to edit recompiled and scanned *detailed soil and drainage maps* within the Tonawanda Creek watershed. This project supports the Niagara Frontier Wetlands Initiative. AmeriCorps will be using GRASS GIS software to digitize detailed recompiled soils maps in the Town of Eden.

Many projects and data sharing activities have been completed and more are planned to support local community planning, resource protection, public education and conservation efforts throughout Erie County and adjacent areas.

Additional projects include:

- Western New York Waterfall Survey
- Surficial and Bedrock Geology (from New York State Museum)
- Town of West Seneca Survey Monument Densification
- Wetland Reserve Program Sites
- Conservation Reserve Program Sites
- Seneca Nation of Indians Agricultural Tracts & Fields
- Buffalo Habitat for Humanity Project Sites
- USGS Stream Gauging Stations & Flow Records
- Cazenovia Creek Drainage Basin Unregulated Discharges
- Aerial Photography Computerized Indexing System
- Tax Parcels and Special District Mapping for City of Tonawanda, Towns of Holland, Wales, Sardinia, Collins and North Collins
- Watershed Boundaries of Western New York
- Strawberry Island Temporal Analysis, 1934-1995
- Buffalo River Bathymetry, 1988-1994
- Southern Tier Emergency Watershed Projection Assistance
- Town of Amherst Floodplains
- Town of Amherst Land Use
- Agricultural Census Records

For more information contact:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, New York 14052-2185

Phone (716) 652-8480

Fax (716) 652-8506

e-mail nrcsea@localnet.com

AMERICORPS
GETTING THINGS DONE



AMERICORPS™/USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-8480
Fax (716) 652-8506



GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

You Are Invited To An AmeriCorps - GIS & Conservation Technology Team - Open House

Date: Monday, August 12, 1996

Time: 3:30 - 6:30 pm

Place: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
&
Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District Office
50 Commerce Way

East Aurora, New York 14052

Phone: 652 - 8480

Fax: 652 - 8506

E-mail: nrcsea@localnet.com

RSVP: By August 9, 1996

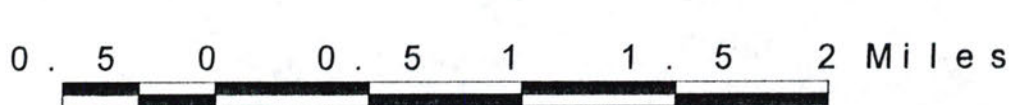
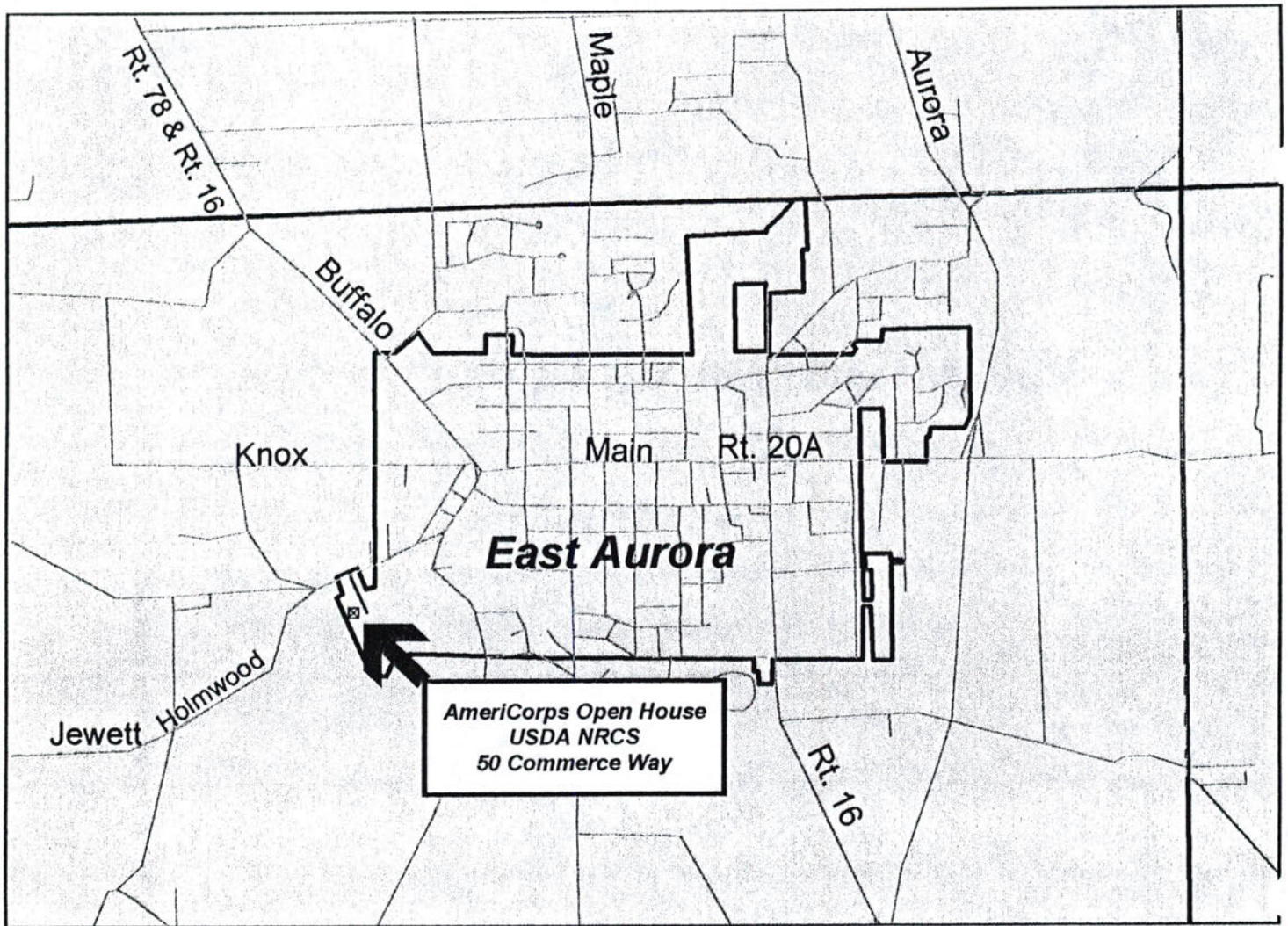
Refreshments will be served

**Please come and view the geographic information system data
developed and assembled over the last 10 months.**

**We will also discuss plans and community service needs for
next year's AmeriCorps Team.**

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!

(see reverse for directions)



Directions

from the North: Rt. 400 S. to Maple Street. Take Maple Street south into East Aurora. Right on Main Street (Rt. 20A), left on Commerce Way.

from the East: Rt. 20A west to East Aurora, left on Commerce Way.

from the South: (1) Rt. 219N to Rt. 20A. Take Rt. 20A east to East Aurora. Turn right on Commerce Way or (2) Rt. 16N to Main Street (Rt. 20A). Turn left on Main Street, left on Commerce Way.

from the West: Rt. 20A east to East Aurora, left on Commerce Way.

Minutes 7/2/96

Presiding: Scott

Minutes: Chris

Present: ALL except Lisa

Where We Are Going

July 18th - Seneca Nation of Indians - ArcView demo 1:00pm

July 19th - Scott is leaving for Senegal

August 4th - Scott returns

August 19th - University of Rochester ArcView demo

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- *Chris, Gayla, Jeff, and John attended the 1st Annual American Chestnut Foundation Festival. Three new American Chestnut trees were found and marked with the GPS unit. We also flagged out the transects for the survey.
 - *Installed ArcView 2.1 at the Eden Highway Dept.. Trained Janet in ArcView.
 - *All the Waterway digitizing is done and the editing is underway. The coverage is split into 4 coverages (NE,NW,SE,SW).
 - *Amherst floodplain project completed
 - *Continued to train Donna In ArcView
 - *Tiger data for the 8 WNY counties has been imported into our system and projected into UTM zone 17 units. They are located in the E:\gis\utm directory.
 - *4 areas were flagged on Cattaraugus Reservation where wells should have been.
 - *Two posters for the Erie County Farm Tour were created as requested by Cornell Cooperative Extension.
 - *Digitized two more NYSDEC wetland quads. There are a total of 9 maps done.
 - *Phase II of EWP sites is complete and the disk was sent to John Kick.
 - *Plotted a map of the Town of Amherst Floodplains.
 - *Johnson/Jeddo waterway- Streams are patched and the attributing has begun.
 - *4 more parcel maps were digitized for the Johnson/Jeddo Creek project.
 - *Provided data to the West Seneca Development Corp.
 - *City of Tonawanda parcel data was sent to City of Tonawanda Police Department.
 - *Watershed and Zipcode map was made for Dr. Adrian Z., Volunteer master gardener with the Cornell Cooperative Extension.
 - *Worked with several new EARTH TEAM members training them in a wide variety of tasks and environments.
 - **John and AmeriCorps received an award from the American Chestnut Foundation for the work we have done with the Foundation.
- AND MORE !!!!!

SNI Gas well project

Gayla went to Cattaraugus and flagged out four areas where wells should have been located.

SNI Eagle Nests

This project is permanently on hold.

1:24000 Waterway project

All of the digitizing is complete and the quads are patched together. It is separated into four different coverages. They are divided into a NE, NW, SE, and SW sections. So far, the attributing contains the name of the quad (so they can be separated by quad).

Also, we are putting in another attribute for now to distinguish the polygon coverage from the line coverage. Once this is done and the quads are patched, we can add additional attributes.

ET volunteers Vassilis and Ly are providing much needed assistance.

NYSDEC wetland delineations

Digitized two more quads. The grand total is up to 9 quads. We received two more quads from Mark Kandel and digitizing work continues.

United Way

Joe has imported more census data and the tiger data into their system. He has school district data including population, # of kids in school, # of graduates,.... Donna continues to receive training.

Two posters for the Erie County Farm Tour requested by the Cornell Cooperative Extension were made.

Map Buffalo

This is a survey project to assess the condition of homes and land in the lower west side area. Three of the five survey books have been completed. This makes it a total of 229 parcels surveyed for this project. It is being conducted through the United Way and the completed books have to be returned to Donna by 7/10.

Southern Tier Emergency Watershed Protection Sites

We received Phase II of the EWP sites. These have been transferred to the topo maps and digitized in GRASS. The site file has been sent to John Kick.

Town of Amherst

Nothing new with the NORTHSTAR PROJECT. This will involve digitizing wetlands and vegetative cover for a small area. We should concentrate on transferring some of the soil data up to Amherst for their use.

The floodplains are basically complete and work is being done on matching the floodway to this coverage.

DEP

Assembly district map is almost complete except for Squaw Island. Ward level work is being done at the DEP. In total we will have the Assembly, Congressional, and Senatorial districts completed.

We should obtain the neighborhood file and Community file from the City of Buffalo.

A Top priority is to start training people up there to use the software.

Still have problems getting coverages imported into their system.

TAZ zone work may start at the DEP soon.

Johnson/Jeddo Creek

They are digitizing parcels outside the Inteligis coverage, annotating road names, and making a parcel map grid overlay. Don't have the RPS data for the parcels.

We need to find out how to order information from RPS.

The waterway quads were patched together including the Erie Canal. Johnson, Jeddo, and Erie Canal have been labeled with name, class, standard, and type.

All the rest of the streams have been labeled with type (Permanent or Intermittent).

Soils - NFWI - DATA PROJECT

We still are in limbo about importing the drainage layers into our system through LTPlus. All the lines are successfully importing with a reduction factor of 2, but this may not be a good thing. Maybe we have a memory problem that is chopping off the top portion of the maps.

The show.sh problem still exists and we have to contact the people in Vermont.

STATSGO soils are now in ARC. Need to call Steve Indrich to find out if there is a database that can be attached to this data set.

WATERFALLS PROJECT

Made an Erie County waterfall map and sent it to Scott. He replied with a number of changes. It is about time to do one last edit and give him the data.

CENSUS DATA PROJECT

There has been a folder developed for the census data we have now for Erie county. We still will be adding new census data, so as we do this file will expand to reflect what info we have. This data is mappable.
data is in PC1 in C:\census - refer to the folder for field meanings.

STREAM BANK INSPECTION

Mark Kandel has dropped off two books for stream classification. These books contain the original maps which the small green book was copied from. The tributary labels are much clearer and easier to read.

HEADWATERS

The source of information was the COE, last year's AmeriCorps team transferred the locations onto our working map set. Diane Radon was the contact at COE. A repeat visit may be necessary if we can't find the data here.

Take CHECKPLOT of county to COE for closer examination and bring topos in case of changes.

Town of Eden Soils

Don Owens will be in on Wednesday, July 10th to look at our data. We may be able to digitize (parts of 4 quads) on the GRASS system.

Misc.

We have sent the City of Tonawanda parcel data to the City of Tonawanda Police Dept. in .dxf

The contact list has been updated and is back in the file - needs to be in e: drive.
West Seneca Development Corp picked up data (again)
Update the Project description list and the data list.

Volunteer Update

Allan -

Matt

Mike -

Mark -

Eric-

Becky - H.S. student will be available this summer.

Lorna - Landuse Town of Amherst

Marty - Landuse Town of Amherst

Ly- working Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Vassilis - working everyday, primarily at Buff. State

Mariah - new volunteer- will be in on Tues. July 9th.

Minutes 7/11/96

Presiding: Chris

Minutes: Lisa - I'm Baaaaaaaaaaack!

Present: ALL

Where We Are Going

July 18 (Thurs)- Seneca Nation of Indians - ArcView demo 1:00pm

August 12 or so- Erie County Fair ➡

August 12 (Mon.) - AmeriCorps Open House ➡

August 19 (Mon) - University of Rochester ArcView demo

Scott will be gone July 19- August 4

Gayla will be gone July 26-August 9

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- *Only 40 houses left on the MapBuffalo project

- *Election district maps were completed for the City of Buffalo

- *All the Waterway digitizing is done and the editing is underway.

- *Gayla flagged six more areas where wells should be located.

- *Continued to train Donna In ArcView

- *An updated data list was created

- *Set of Johnson/Jeddo working maps was created for USFWS

- *Digitized two more NYSDEC wetland quads. There are a total of 9 maps done.

- *Watershed and Zipcode map was sent to Dr. Adrian Z., Volunteer master gardener with the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

- *Worked with several new EARTH TEAM members training them in a wide variety of tasks and environments.

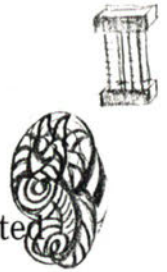
- **AND MORE !!!!!

SNI Gas well project

Gayla went to Cattaraugus and flagged out six areas where wells should have been located. A database containing GPS well locations and well descriptions is being made and will be linked to the original individual well files. On the Cattaraugus Reservation, approx. 30 more well need to be located (project is ~80% finished). Well hunting on the Allegheny reservation will be left for next year's Team.

SNI Eagle Nests

This project is permanently on hold.



1:24000 Waterway project

So far, the attributing contains the name of the quad (so they can be separated by quad) and the name of the watershed the waterway is in.

Ideally, the waterways should eventually exist in one complete coverage that we can easily distribute.

ET volunteers Vassilis and Ly are providing much needed assistance.

NYSDEC wetland delineations

Digitized one more quad. The grand total is up to 10 quads. Digitizing work continues.

United Way

Joe has imported more census data and the tiger data into their system.

Donna continues to receive training.

Joe aided Donna in creating a map of Food pantries in WNY and the zip code zones serviced by them .

We need to see if we can distribute United Way data so others can have access to it.

Map Buffalo

This is a survey project to assess the condition of homes and land in the lower west side area. It is being conducted through the United Way and the completed books have to be returned to Donna by 7/10.

Four of the five survey books have been completed. Only 1 1/2 blocks (about 40 houses) need to be surveyed.

Southern Tier Emergency Watershed Protection Sites

Our part in this project have been completed.

Town of Amherst

Nothing new with the NORTHSTAR PROJECT. This will involve digitizing wetlands and vegetative cover for a small area. We should concentrate on transferring some of the soil data up to Amherst for their use.

The floodplains are complete. The floodway needs to be matched to areas on three more maps to complete this coverage. Chris has committed to do this Tuesday.

DEP

In total we have the Assembly, Congressional, and Senatorial districts completed and a map has been plotted in ArcView. This map should be shown

to the Board of Elections to make sure its accurate. This data needs to get on the data list.

A final copy of the map should be given to GIS Resource Group.

We should obtain the neighborhood file and Community file from the City of Buffalo.

A Top priority is to start training people up there to use the software.

Still have problems getting coverages imported into their system.

TAZ zone work may start at the DEP soon.

Johnson/Jeddo Creek

Chris generously made a set of working maps for USFWS in ArcView showing the waterways and political boundaries even though AmeriCorps wasn't mentioned in the USFWS Atlantic Salmon newsletter.

Eight more maps need to be digitized outside the Inteligis coverage.

Don't have the RPS data for the parcels.

We need to find out how to order information from RPS.

The waterway quads were labelled and patched together including the Erie Canal.

The waterway data need to be imported at Inteligis to overlay with the parcels.

Soils - NFWI - DATA PROJECT

We still are in limbo about importing the drainage layers into our system through LTPlus. All the lines are successfully importing with a reduction factor of 2, but this may not be a good thing. Maybe we have a memory problem that is chopping off the top portion of the maps.

The show.sh problem still exists. John will contact the people in Vermont.

STATSGO soils are now in ARC. Need to call Steve Indrich to find out if there is a database that can be attached to this data set.

WATERFALLS PROJECT

Made an Erie County waterfall map and sent it to Scott. He replied with a number of changes. Chris is working on the last Niagara and Erie waterfall maps with Scott's changes.

CENSUS DATA PROJECT

This project will be on hold at UB for two weeks due to the absence of the data filled computer. We may be able to get some data from GIS Resource Group.

There has been a folder developed for the census data we have now for Erie county. We still will be adding new census data, so as we do this file will expand to reflect what info we have. This data is mappable.

data is in PC1 in C:\census - refer to the folder for field meanings.

STREAM CLASSIFICATIONS

Mark Kandel has dropped off two books for stream classification. These books contain the original maps which the small green book was copied from. The tributary labels are much clearer and easier to read.

The Wyoming County data seems to be missing.

HEADWATERS

No new progress.

The source of information was the COE, last year's AmeriCorps team transferred the locations onto our working map set. Diane Radon was the contact at COE. A repeat visit may be necessary if we can't find the data here.

Take CHECKPLOT of county to COE for closer examination and bring topos in case of changes.

Town of Eden Soils

Don Owens will be in on Wednesday, July 10th to look at our data. We may be able to digitize (parts of 4 quads) on the GRASS system.

More quality check work needs to be done on the recompiled

MISC

Take a look at the URP Report John wrote after the Washington Conference
The City of Tonawanda recently acquired ArcView and is ready for their parcel and RPS data.

The display for the Erie County Fair this year will be an interactive watershed model. We'll need have the display staffed.

West Seneca Development Corps picked up data (again) (again)

The data list was updated.

Metadata was updated.

Plans for the Open House need to get underway:

- Invitations made and sent to all our contacts, including ET Vols, WYNARC people, SNI, municipal contacts, NYS and Washington administration

- Press release sent

- Maps for display made

Volunteer Update

Allan -

Matt

Mike -

Mark -

Eric-

Becky - H.S. student will be available this summer.

Lorna - Landuse Town of Amherst

Marty - Landuse Town of Amherst

Ly- working Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Vassilis - working everyday, primarily at Buff State

file

Minutes 7/18/96

Presiding: Lisa
Minutes: Gayla
Present: ALL

Where We Are Going

July 18 (Thurs.)- Seneca Nation of Indians - ArcView demo 1:00pm
starting July 22 - Emergency Watershed Protection Sites Seeding & Mulching in Catt. Co.
July 23 - Cattaraugus Reservation
August 12 or so- Erie County Fair
August 12 (Mon.) - AmeriCorps Open House
August 19 (Mon.) - University of Rochester ArcView demo

Scott will be gone July 19- August 4
Gayla will be gone July 26-August 9

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed MapBuffalo project!
- Gayla flagged two more areas where wells should be located.
- Continued to train Donna In ArcView
- An updated digital data list was created
- Attributed one more NYSDEC wetland quad. There are a total of 10 maps done.
- Mailed about 400 invitations to August 12 AmeriCorps open house
- Converted Easy Extra mailing list into an Approach document. Began converting AmeriCorps contact list to an Approach document
- Put City of Tonawanda RPS data on PC#1. Mailed ArcView parcel and label data to City of Tonawanda Engineering Department
- Worked with several new EARTH TEAM members training them in a wide variety of tasks and environments.

AND MORE !!!!!

SNI Gas well project

Gayla went to Cattaraugus and flagged two more areas where wells should have been located. A database containing GPS well locations and field descriptions is being made to link to individual well files (i.e., cattwell.map, cattwell.gps, cattevid.well, cattwell.look). Only about 30 wells still need to be located on the Cattaraugus Reservation and the project is ~80% finished. The PLUGR has to go to Syracuse & Ft. Worth early next week for updating. It is promised back here by August 19. Well hunting on the Allegany reservation will be left for next year's team.

SNI Eagle Nests

This project is permanently on hold.

1:24000 Waterway project

Lost about two weeks' worth of work due to CLEAN default tolerance problem. Need to specify fuzzy tolerance of .002 and dangle length of 0. The quads must all be rejoined again and re-attributed. The original digitized quads are still here. Vassilis will be working at Buff State until he has to leave the country on August 4. ET volunteers Vassilis and Ly continue to provide much needed assistance.

NYSDEC wetland delineations

Attributed the Orchard Park quadrangle. The grand total is up to 10 digitized quads. Digitizing work continues on the Lancaster quad.

United Way

Joe produced a map of Galleria Mall showing employee contribution participation at the anchor stores. He produced several maps of our existing coverages for display and presentation purposes - they look FANTASTIC.

We need to see if we can distribute United Way data so others can have access to it.

Map Buffalo

Turned in all of the survey books last Friday. Scott talked to Pat Lauerman at Lower West Side Development Corporation about potential GIS application of the data. They are creating a database now. City of Buffalo is a partner in the project. We could possibly get parcel data from Dave DiSalvo.

Southern Tier Emergency Watershed Protection Sites

Seeding, fertilizing, and mulching begins Monday in Cattaraugus County. We need to rotate in and out of the project. Don Wild is the coordinator. **Chris** will call Don to find out what how we will be helping him.

Town of Amherst

No progress this week. Amherst got a new (less expensive) flood insurance rate due to their (i.e. Chris's) commitment to flood data mapping. **Chris** will find out how many dollars were saved. Soil data is still needed for the NORTHSTAR PROJECT.

DEP

Lisa & Scott worked on Cazenovia Creek water quality project. They got a tape from Graham Hayes (ECWA) of parcel data in the watershed. Turns out it was the wrong watershed boundary. Having trouble getting the correct data from Graham. Still working on transferring our data to DEP.

A final copy of the Assembly, Congressional, and Senatorial districts map has been given to GIS Resource Group. **Scott** will drop a map copy off at the Board of Elections today.

We should obtain the neighborhood file and Community file from the City of Buffalo.

A top priority is to start training people up there to use the software.

Scott got digital TIGER '94 and TAZ zone data from the NFTC, however, NFTA needs a TAZ district coverage.

Johnson/Jeddo Creek

Lisa & Gayla went to USFWS, visited Dieter and Sandra, and dropped of the maps that Chris *so generously* made. USFWS is working to obtain the Niagara Mohawk digital parcel data. They will plot release and sampling locations on USGS quads for us to digitize. **Lisa** will contact them to get these locations. Eight more maps need to be digitized outside the Inteligis coverage. Don't have the RPS data for the parcels.

We need to find out how to order information from RPS.

The waterway data need to be imported at Inteligis to overlay with the parcels.

Soils - NFWI - DATA PROJECT

We still are in limbo about importing the drainage layers into our system through LTPlus. All the lines are successfully importing with a reduction factor of 2, but this is not a good thing. Maybe we have a memory problem that is chopping off the top portion of the maps. Magda is trying to find out the problem via LTPlus support people.

The GRASS 4.1 show.sh problem still exists. The Vermont people returned our call. They remember having problems when they got GRASS 4.1, but couldn't find the alleged "correction diskette" that Ft. Collins sent out three years ago. They will go through their old notes. Expect a call from either Ray Godfrey or Reed Simms. Ray Godfrey's phone # is (802) 951-6796 ext 239. Jill Schuyler (Ft. Collins) also suggested calling a person in Hawaii who may be able to help. John Kick can't help due to natural resources inventory commitments.

On 7/30 IRIS (nee CLEARS) people will be here to ground-truth the SE corner of the Clarence quad. Renee Jacobson (soil scientist) will start back to work next week. The NFWI has been expanded to include a 1-year full-time position for public outreach, land conservancy acquisitions, and wetland easements.

STATSGO soils are now in ARC. Need to call Steve Indrich to find out if there is a database that can be attached to this data set.

WATERFALLS PROJECT

Done and done. Chris made waterfall maps of the eight western New York counties with as many of Scott Ensminger's comments as could be accommodated. The maps and a disk of waterfall coordinates database files were shipped to S.E. on Monday or Tuesday. Any changes that S.E. wants will only be made if he commits to coming down here and spending time with us.

CENSUS DATA PROJECT

No progress.

STREAM CLASSIFICATIONS

The Wyoming County data is in the Cattaraugus Creek Drainage Basin book. See page 77.

HEADWATERS

No new progress.

The source of information was the COE, last year's AmeriCorps team transferred the locations onto our working map set. Diane Radon was the contact at COE. A repeat visit may be necessary if we can't find the data here. Take CHECKPLOT of county to COE for closer examination and bring topos in case of changes.

Town of Eden Soils

Don Owens took the soil maps back for corrections.

MISC

Take a look at the URP Report John wrote after the Washington Conference

The display for the Erie County Fair this year will be an interactive watershed model. We'll need have the display staffed.

The digital data list was updated - first draft.

Food plans for the Open House need to get underway. Invitations were sent out to press, town leaders, and WNYARC mailing lists, earth team volunteers, and AmeriCorps project partners.

Scott has the disks for the metadata SOPs. He wants to set up a database for all metadata. If anything, convert the *.SAM files to *.TXT, and put in data directories.

It is important to write SOPs for all of our projects so next year's team can step in easily. We need to consolidate the data directories in a way that makes sense.

Our projected end dates - Scott, aka "Scooter" = 8/13 or 8/14
 Lisa, aka "Spleenbuster" = 9/30
 Joe, aka "Joey Joe Joe" = ?
 Chris, aka "Chris" = ?
 Gayla, aka "GG" = 8/23

Volunteer Update

Allan -

Matt - Weds. & Fri., generally

Mike - On vacation next week

Mark -

Eric- got a job and moved away

Becky - H.S. student in a few days a week.

Lorna - Land Use Town of Amherst

Marty - Land Use Town of Amherst

Ly- working Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Vassilis - working everyday, primarily at Buff State

Minutes 7/25/96

Presiding: Gayla

Minutes: Chris

Present: All except Scott & Joe

Where We Are Going

July 27 Gayla's Wedding

August 12 - ? Erie County Fair

August 12 AmeriCorps Open House

August 19 University of Rochester ArcView Demo

Scott will be gone until August 4

Gayla will be gone until August 9

Chris will be gone on July 30

Accomplishments:

- Gayla flagged one more area and located one more gas well
- Continued to train Donna
- Digitizing of Wetland delineations still going on.
- Foodbank map for United Way
- Sign made for United Way
- Seeding, Fertilizing, and mulching of 7 EWP sites has been completed in Cattaraugus County.
- TIGER '94 data has been imported - Streets are addressable and Streams have labels
- Sent American Chestnut Tree maps to Glen Gelinus and Herb Darling.
- Press release was in the Buffalo News for our Open House.
- Training Spencer is improving his ArcView skills

SNI Gas Well project

Gayla went down to Cattaraugus Reservation on July 23 to locate more wells. She has flagged one more area where there is evidence of a well. Also, with the help of Rhino she has successfully marked another well with the GPS unit. A database containing GPS readings and field descriptions is being made to link to individual well files (i.e. cattwell.map, cattwell.gps, cattevid.well, cattwell.look). Only about 28 wells still need to be located on the Cattaraugus Res. and the project is ~80% complete. We will be without the PLUGR for the next couple of weeks. It is promised back to us on August 19. Next year's team will continue on Allegany Reservation.

1:24000 Waterway project

Still in the process of "CLEANING" up our little tolerance problem. Fuzzy tol should be set to .002 and dangle length to 0. The quads need to be mapjoined and attributed again. The original digitized quads are still here. Vassilis will be working at Buff State until he has to leave the country on August 4. Ly, along with Vassilis, have provided much needed assistance.

NYSDEC Wetland Delineations

Digitizing is continuing on the Lancaster quadrangle folder.

United Way

We have noticed an Erie County Foodbank map and some signs that were made for the United Way. We need to get inside Joe's head and find out what coverages and databases have been developed for the United Way. We also need to get some of this data into our office. If it is a problem for the United Way (with private information) the data can be listed under our Permission Required section of our datalist.

Map Buffalo

The grunt work of entering the database is underway by the United Way. We are hoping to get involved in a GIS portion of the project. Someone had called this past week and Jeff gave them Joe name to contact.

Southern Tier Emergency Watershed Protection Sites

The seeding, fertilizing, and mulching has begun in Cattaraugus County. Chris and Gayla were down there on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. We have completed 7 sites so far. According to Don Wild, we were working too fast and they don't have any sites ready for us to seed on Thursday. We will be going down there again next week to finish some more sites.

Town of Amherst

There was no progress this week due to other commitments. Chris still has to find out how many dollars were saved. Also, soil data is still needed for the NORTHSTAR PROJECT.

DEP

Lisa has been there Monday and Wednesday working on the parcel lines within the Cazenovia creek watershed. She finally got the correct data from Graham and is merging that with the AmeriCorps data. She is joining the town parcel coverages into one coverage. The tedious part is almost complete. Spencer is happy and learning the system.

Scott has dropped off a copy of the district maps to the Board of Elections.

The TIGER '94 data has been imported but there is no sign of the so-called TAZ zones. We'll have to find these through the Census Bureau.

Johnson/Jeddo Creek

USFWS is working to obtain the NiMo digital parcel data. Parcel maps outside of the Inteligis coverage still need to be digitized. Lisa spoke with Sandra and she is trying to find the maps from Tom that have the release sites on them.

We don't have the RPS data for the parcels. We need to find out how to order that info.

Lisa will be going up to Inteligis on Friday and will take the waterway coverage of Johnson and Jeddo creeks.

Soils - NFWI - data project

We are still in limbo about importing the drainage layers into our system.

The GRASS 4.1 problem still exists. Nobody seems to have the 'correction file' that we need.

We are using software that nobody has supported for three years. We received a call from Reed

Simms and he was unable to help us because he is using a SUN workstation. The problem is that we need the correction for GRASS4.1 run on an AT+T System 5 operating system. Well, I guess we'll keep our fingers crossed for a solution sometime in the near future.

On Monday afternoon and all day Tuesday, IRIS people will be here to ground truth the SE corner of Clarence quad. Renee Jacobson will start back to work this week. The NFWI has been expanded to include a 1-year full-time position for public outreach, land conservancy acquisitions, and wetland easements.

Need to call Steve Indrich to find out if there is a database that can be attached to the STATSGO soil data.

Waterfall Project

DONE!! Steve Ensminger called this week but Chris could not get a hold of him. We wonder what he wants. We should ship up his green binder and send it back to him.

Census Data Project

no progress

Stream Classification

We should send back the books and maps to Mark Kandel the next time he comes to our office. We have copies of the streams that we need.

Headwaters

The source of info was the COE, Diane Radon was our contact. A repeat visit may be necessary if we can't find the data here. Take a CHECKPLOT of county to COE for closer examination and bring the topos in case of changes.

Town of Eden Soils

Don Owens still has the soil maps and they are making corrections.

MISC:

Sent an American Chestnut tree map to Herb Darling and Glen Gelinus.

Another draft of the digital data list is floating around for edits.

Food plans for our open house need to get underway.

Our press release was in the paper with a little bit of additional info by the newspaper. If you didn't know we make \$7500 for the 1700 hours of work.

Start writing SOP's for next years AmeriCorps and Lisa. We need to get some of that information out of our heads and on to some paper.

Olivar Mohar called regarding town of Sardinia parcel data in DXF format. We can not give him the RPS attributes unless they were in an annotation form. He is sending us disks for the rest of the line work for the other towns.

There is going to be a sign up sheet for the display at the EC Fair. This is open to AmeriCorps, interns, and Earth Team Volunteers (or anyone else who wants to do it).



NRCS in New York: This Week

The Galleries, 441 S. Salina St., Suite 354, Syracuse, NY 13202
Phone: 315/477-6504, FAX: 315/477-6550

Relying on trust, empowerment and teamwork at all levels to accomplish the agency mission.

August 8, 1996

Earth Team Volunteer. Welcome to Kristen Steward our newest Earth Team member who will be working in the Bath Field Office. Kristen will be volunteering 2 days per week inputting FOCS data and doing map work for farm plans.

Contact: Lauri Eipp, Volunteer Coordinator

AmeriCorps™ Open House. The AmeriCorps GIS and Conservation Technology Team in the East Aurora Field Office is holding an Open House on Monday, August 12th from 3:00 to 6:30 PM. Please call at (716) 652-8480 if you are planning to attend. The AmeriCorps Team will demonstrate GRASS, ArcView and Arc/Info software along with available GIS data. The team will also collect project ideas for next year's team.

Contact: John Whitney DC, nrcsea@localnet.com

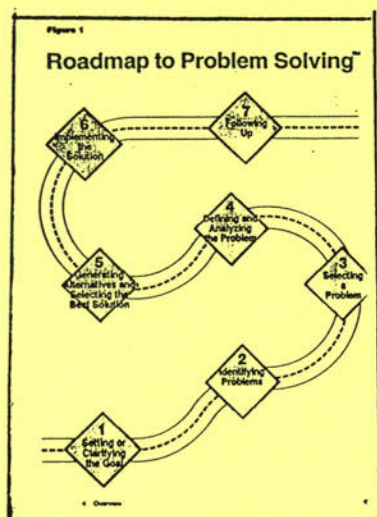
Wetland Reserve Program. A goal of September 30, 1996 has been established for completing the 10 contracts under the 1994 sign-up and 45 contracts still remaining on the 1995 sign-ups. The WRP team is working diligently to meet the established deadline. No news yet on when the 1997 sign-up will be held.

Contact: Steve Machovec, RPSL

1996 Savings Bond Campaign. Education savings. When used to finance higher education, U.S. Savings Bonds may provide tax savings..

Contact: Jeri Fowler

Total Quality Management (continued). - Once your team sponsor has charged you with a goal, the next approach is to use the seven step process in Roadmap to Problem Solving™.



1. Setting or Clarifying the Goal
2. Identifying Problems
3. Selecting a Problem
4. Defining and Analyzing the Problem
5. Generating Alternatives and Selecting the Best Solution
6. Implementing the Solution
7. Following Up

Soil Quality Information Sheets on WWW. Soil Quality Information Sheets are now available on the World Wide Web. The URL is:

<http://www.statlab.iastate.edu/survey/SQI/sqiinfo.html>

These 8 information sheets were prepared by the National Soil Survey Center in cooperation with the Soil Quality Institute, NRCS, USDA, and the National Soil Tilth Laboratory, ARS, USDA. Topics range from an Introduction to Soil Quality, to indicators for Soil Quality Evaluation, and Resource Concerns. The Soil Quality Information sheets can be useful to NRCS as an introduction to soil quality for employees, districts, Ag consultants, producers and others.

Contact: Steve Indrick, Asst. State Soil Scientist

The Adirondack Waterfest, sponsored jointly by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Greater Adirondack Resource Conservation and Development Council was intended to increase public awareness of the importance of clean water using hands-on demonstrations and activities. Thirty exhibits and 15 speakers covered subjects including well drilling, municipal water systems and waterless toilet, fly-tying, trout fishing, stream conservation, waterfowl hunting and conservation, outdoor recreation, aquatic weed control, reptiles and amphibians of New York, and the use of aquatic insects as water quality indicators in streams. Despite heavy rains some 1,000 people attended. Most of the work was done by Laura Flanagan, Del Cook, Janice Reynolds, Marc Usher from RC&D, and several volunteers including Betty Olexo, SWCD Director.

Best Wishes goes out to Darrel Dominick, Deputy STC. Darrel will be the new State Conservationist in Maine starting August 18, 1996. An informal farewell lunch will be held at the State Office on Tuesday, August 13.

Calendar:

Aug 10-11	2nd Annual Environmental Fair at Seneca Park Zoo, Monroe County, Rochester, NY
Aug 14	Pastured Poultry Twilight Tour, 6:30 p.m., Nature's Way Farm, Cortland, SoCNY RC&D
Aug 14	Area 4, Defensive Driving Course, Ballston Spa, NY
Aug 14	SO Meeting, Syracuse, NY
Aug 26-30	Farm Bill Training, Nashville, TN
Aug 27	Civil Rights Committee Meeting, SO at 10:00 am., Syracuse, NY
Sep 25	QST Meeting, SO, Syracuse, NY
Sep 26	QMT Meeting, SO, Syracuse, NY

Deliver or FAX short items (1 paragraph, 5 to 6 lines (maximum) to Jean Krebs by each Wednesday afternoon. We welcome your ideas and comments.

USDA prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at 202/720-2791. To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call 202/720-7327 (voice) or 202/720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

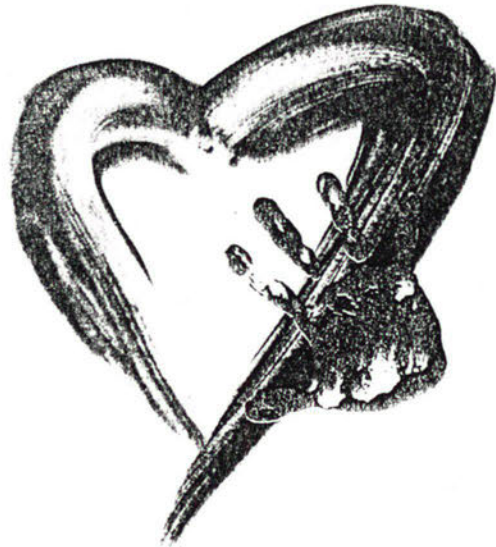
7/2

GAYLA:

THANKS VERY MUCH FOR
SAVING THIS INFO FOR US
IN ARCVIEW 2.1 FORMAT.
I BELIEVE THAT ONCE
WE'RE UP TO SPEED ON THE
SOFTWARE, IT WILL TRULY
BE BENEFICIAL TO SEVERAL
DEPARTMENTS HERE IN THE CITY

BEST REGARDS,

Joan Z.



*Reaching those who need help.
Touching us all.*

Mission Statement

*To work in partnership with others to build
a stronger community by developing resources
that effectively meet human service needs
through prevention and intervention programs.*



United Way
of Buffalo & Erie County

Dear AmeriCorps Team- 7.30.96

Just a quick note to say thank
you for all your help. Your
cooperation has been greatly
appreciated - from hunting
down Joe on the phone to gather-
ing data. Our setup and map
creation would not have happened
so smoothly.

With little time left, I just wanted
everyone to know that I'm very
grateful for all of your assistance.

Sincerely,
Donna



County of Erie

DENNIS T. GORSKI
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RICHARD M. TOBE
COMMISSIONER

SEP 27 1996

September 19, 1996

AMERICOPRS/USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, New York 14052

Re: GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM Assistance to Erie County
Department of Environment and Planning (ECDEP)

Dear AMERICORPS Team Members:

The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (ECDEP) has benefited from the association between ECDEP and the AMERICORPS "GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM" over the 1995-96 year. In particular the assistance from "TEAM" members Scott Barnwell, Michael Gengemi, Joseph Ghosen and Lisa Matthies to this office during this time has been of considerable benefit to our Buffalo River Upper Watershed project e.g. the Cazenovia Creek Watershed Management Program.

Mr. Barnwell and Mr. Gengemi were of assistance in developing detailed soils information for use in the Cazenovia Creek project; Mr. Ghosen and Ms. Matthies were of assistance in combining a 17,000+ parcel base geographic information (GIS) file (from the Erie County Water Authority) with the AMERICORPS parcel information from the Town of Wales, Holland and Sardinia (that Mr. Barnwell provided to us), for the Cazenovia Creek Watershed. Mr. Ghosen also provided a very detailed hydrographic GIS file for the Cazenovia Creek and all its tributaries. Additional GIS files were provided to us for use in this project, including the location of erosion protection measures along Cazenovia Creek, generalized soils information and watershed boundaries for Erie County that have been checked by USGS and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

We hope to continue this mutual association of benefit in the 1996-1997 work plan that is now being drafted. The GIS expertise of the AMERICORPS staff has been and will continue to be an asset that we hope to utilize in the future. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Tobe", written over a horizontal line.

RICHARD M. TOBE
Commissioner

RMT:es

cc: ✓ John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA, NRCS
Spencer Schofield, ECDEP
Dale Morris, ECDEP

sps667

GLSIN

*Great Lakes Student Information Node
East Aurora, New York*



John Whitney
Soil and Water Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052

Dear John,

Thanks for spending the time to show me the resources available for GIS and for offering your assistance once again.

I finally have a clear picture of how to integrate GIS into our Great Lakes program. My next step will be to design some definite projects for students to work on. I also want to think about the maps that would help with some of the units we teach.

The Great Lakes Student Summit is happening next May and I would really like to have some student GIS projects to show.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Newton". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John E. Newton

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources
Conservation Service
(formerly the Soil Conservation Service)

50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, New York 14052-2185
(716) 652-8480
(716) 652-8506 fax
nrcsea@localnet.com e-mail

Date: August 19, 1996

To: Rich Lee & Donna Barilec, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County

From: John Whitney, District Conservationist

Subject: AmeriCorps 1996-1997

Please accept my sincere appreciation for all you have done to help this year's AmeriCorps team further its community assistance goals. Having frequent, easy access to United Way equipment, particularly the laptop computer and large format plotter, has been tremendously beneficial not just for United Way projects but for many of our other community GIS efforts.

It looks like the East Aurora USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office has been approved to host another AmeriCorps team starting this October. I hope United Way will be interested in remaining a community GIS partner through another AmeriCorps term. Based on this year's successes and the many GIS project underway or on the horizon, I am prepared to again place AmeriCorps members (and Earth Team volunteers) with United Way on a part-time basis (approximately 12-16 hours/week) for the 1996-97 term of service.

Given the increased level of understanding and GIS capability United Way staff is demonstrating along with the need to develop a trained (and experienced!) corps of GIS professionals in Buffalo and Western New York, I would suggest the following activities for next year's United Way/AmeriCorps partnership:

TASK AREAS

1. Training 2 United Way professionals and 10 United Way and/or Earth Team volunteers in ArcView 2.1/3.0. The outcome will be measured by the successful completion of an AmeriCorps team developed intermediate mastery exam/practicum by March 1997.
2. Training of 15 neighborhood organizations in "basic community mapping" - a six hour workshop series to be taught jointly by AmeriCorps and United Way staff. Outcome of this activity will be measured by the satisfactory completion of a series of practical GIS exercises at the end of the training sessions by April 1997.
3. Mapping of demographic, physical resource, and human service capacities in 10 "United Neighborhoods" areas by December 1997.
4. United Way project mapping in:
 - Northwest and North Buffalo
 - East Bailey/Western Cheektowaga
 - Buffalo General Hospital Service Area
 - Town of Orchard Park
 - Town of Amherst

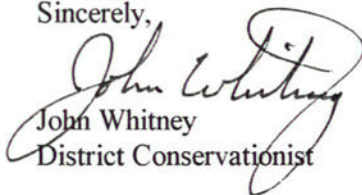
AmeriCorps members will concentrate on these priorities and avoid activities like posters and signs, campaign items, United Way publicity, etc.

When you get a chance, please respond to this note. The United Way component of our community service workplan needs to reflect AmeriCorps and USDA missions and goals as well as your needs, of course with emphasis on meeting critical *community* needs.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future to finalize plans for the coming year. We also hope United Way will be able to support our recruiting efforts which we hope to begin in late August and early September. We may also want to discuss some of the financial implications of this workplan to be sure that adequate resources are available.

Thanks again for a very successful and positive partnership.

Sincerely,



John Whitney
District Conservationist

cc: Robert Hartrick, Area Conservationist



AMERICORPS™ / USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-8480
Fax (716) 652-8506



GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Mark Kandel, Senior Wildlife Biologist
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Fish and Wildlife
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203-2999

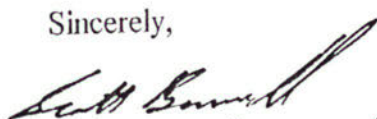
Dear Mark:

Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really appreciated your help in accessing NYSDEC materials that will let us improve our collective geographic information. We especially appreciated the stream classification documentation, and we hope the digital wetland delineation data will one day help make Division staff's collective jobs a little easier.

We hope you and DEC will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

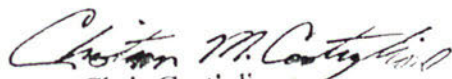
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS



AMERICORPS™/USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-8480
Fax (716) 652-8506



GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Mr. Jerry Galkiewicz
Town of Amherst
5583 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

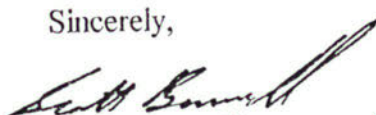
Dear Mr. Galkiewicz:

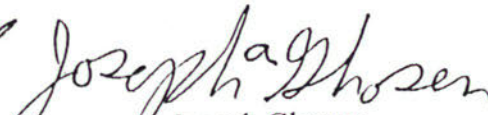
Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really appreciated your willingness to let us use the town's computer services room to digitize Amherst floodplain data. We hope the data are valuable for you and the Town.

We hope you will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

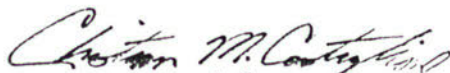
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and the Town of Amherst.

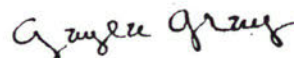
Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS



AMERICORPS™ / USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-8480
Fax (716) 652-8506



GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Ms. Jody Clark
Seneca Nation of Indians
Department of Maps & Boundaries
P.O.B. 231
Salamanca, New York 14779

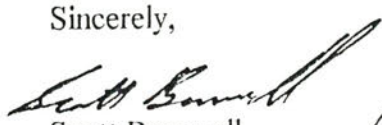
Dear Jody:

Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really appreciated your willingness to include us in improving and increasing the amount of GIS data available to the Seneca Nation.

We hope you will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

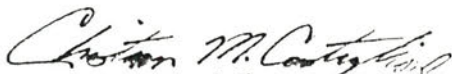
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and the Nation.

Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS



AMERICORPS™ / USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
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GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Mr. Leif Twoguns
Gas & Utilities Department
1508 Route 438
Irving, New York 14081

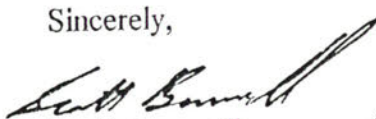
Dear Leif:

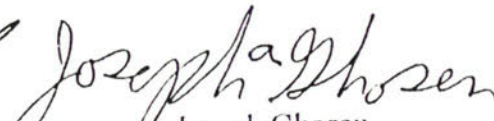
Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really appreciated your willingness to include us in field mapping the abandoned gas well locations, which improves and increases the amount of GIS data available to the Seneca Nation.

We hope you will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

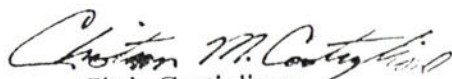
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and the Nation.

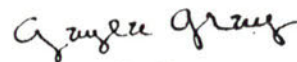
Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS



AMERICORPS™/USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
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GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Mr. Gary Bommer
Town of West Seneca
Engineering Department
1250 Union Road
West Seneca, New York 14224

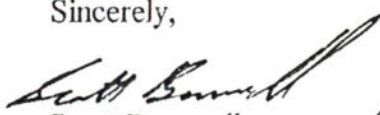
Dear Mr. Bommer:

Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really appreciated your willingness to include us on the monument densification project even though we were a brand new team with little community service experience. Your project gave us the opportunity to learn how to use the GPS unit and help with construction-related tasks.

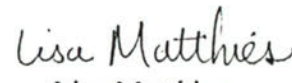
We hope you will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

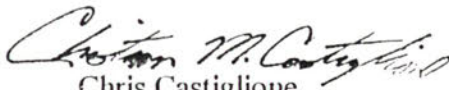
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and the Town of West Seneca.

Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS



AMERICORPS™/USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
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GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Peggy Harper, Senior Marketing Representative
ESRI
100 Conifer Hill Drive, Suite 305
Danvers, MA 01923

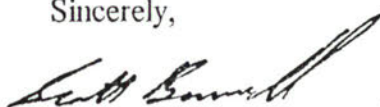
Dear Ms. Harper:

Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really appreciated your help in securing ESRI's donation of pc ARC/INFO and ArcView software, without which we would not have been able to perform much of our community service.

Next's year's team will likely get to take advantage of ArcView 3.0 which you indicated would likely be available soon. If you have any specific project ideas or recommendations, please contact John Whitney.

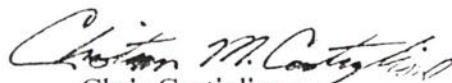
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and ESRI.

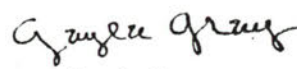
Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS



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Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
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GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Richard Tobe, Commissioner
Erie County Dept. of Environment & Planning
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

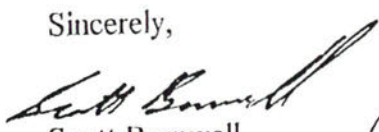
Dear Mr. Tobe:

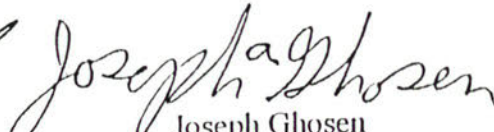
Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really appreciated your generosity in letting us use the DEP ARC/INFO equipment for our various projects. We think our presence at the DEP increased staff awareness and knowledge of GIS technology and its application.

We hope you will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

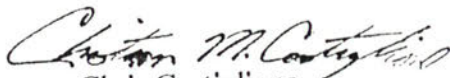
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and the DEP.

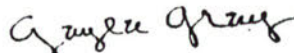
Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS
Dale Morris, DEP
Spencer Schofield, DEP



AMERICORPS™ / USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-8480
Fax (716) 652-8506



GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Graham Hayes
GIS Resources Group
Roccroft Campus
21 South Grove Street, Suite 130
East Aurora, New York 14052-2398

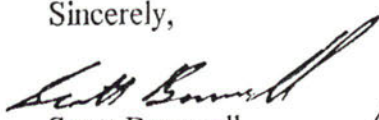
Dear Graham:

Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really appreciated your invaluable technical help and the use of the projector for our presentations.

We expect next year's team will continue helping WYNARC mailings as they continue their work with local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney if you have any ideas or suggestions for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

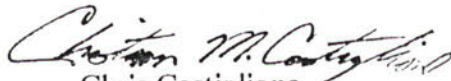
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year.

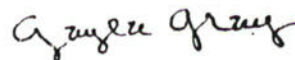
Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS
Tom Murdoch, GIS Resource Group



AMERICORPS™/USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
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Fax (716) 652-8506



GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Richard Tobe, Commissioner
Erie County Dept. of Environment & Planning
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

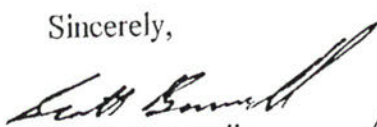
Dear Mr. Tobe:

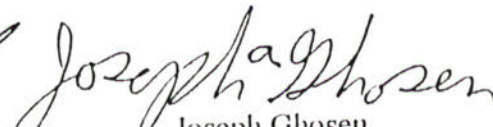
Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really appreciated your generosity in letting us use the DEP ARC/INFO equipment for our various projects. We think our presence at the DEP increased staff awareness and knowledge of GIS technology and its application.

We hope you will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

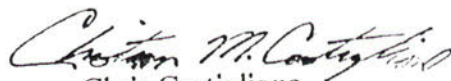
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and the DEP.

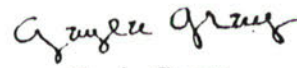
Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS
Dale Morris, DEP
Spencer Schofield, DEP



AMERICORPS™/USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-8480
Fax (716) 652-8506



GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Dr. Raymond Waxmonsky, Chairman
Department of Geography & Planning
1300 Elmwood Avenue
The Classroom Building, 2nd Floor
Buffalo, NY 14222

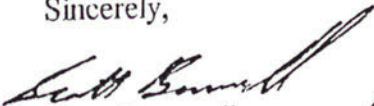
Dear Dr. Waxmonsky:

Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really appreciated your willingness to let us use the Geography lab to digitize waterways of Erie County while training graduate and undergraduate Buffalo State students and other volunteers. The project is nearly complete and we expect to have the first phase done by the end of September.

We hope you will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

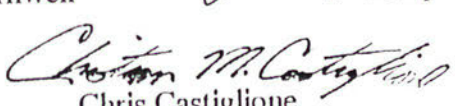
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and Buffalo State College.

Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS



AMERICORPS™/USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
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John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

September 3, 1996

Mr. Michael Courneen
Inteligis Corporation
1868 Niagara Falls Boulevard
Tonawanda, New York 14150-6495

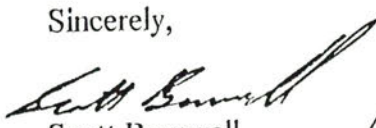
Dear Mike:

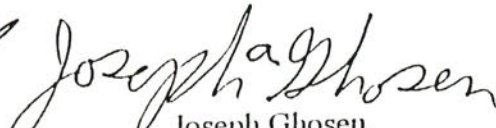
Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really appreciated your expert assistance in ARC/INFO. Having access to Inteligis' equipment for digitizing parcels and making check plots of our various projects was tremendously valuable.

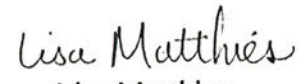
We hope you will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

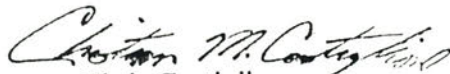
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and Inteligis.

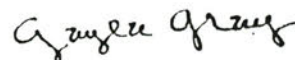
Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS
John Ennis, Inteligis Corporation
Jason Clough, Inteligis Corporation



AMERICORPS™/USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-8480
Fax (716) 652-8506



John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

September 3, 1996

Mr. Mike Prince
Niagara SWCD
4487 Lake Avenue
Room 6
Lockport, New York 14094-1139

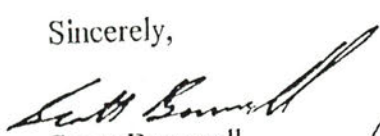
Dear Mike:

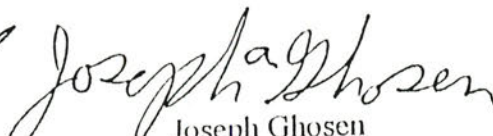
Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really enjoyed working with you on the Atlantic salmon reintroduction project. *We're ready to turn the electronic data over to you any time you and your equipment are ready.*

We hope you will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

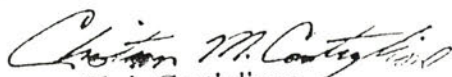
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and the USFWS.

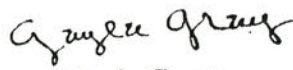
Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross



AMERICORPS™/USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
50 Commerce Way
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-8480
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GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
Joseph Ghosen
Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Mr. Rich Lee
United Way of Buffalo and Erie County
742 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209

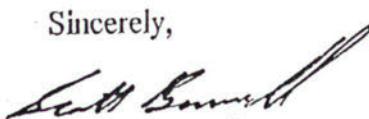
Dear Rich:

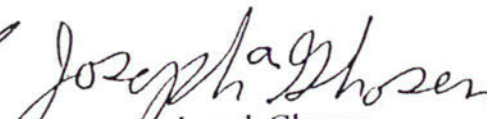
Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We appreciated your enthusiasm, creativity, and the opportunities you gave us to combine data and produce maps that show area social services and community needs. We are sincerely thankful for your generosity in the use of the United Way ArcView equipment, especially the accessibility of the laptop computer for training and presentations, and the use of United Way's plotter for many mapping projects.

We hope you will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

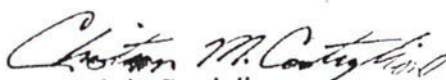
Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and The United Way.

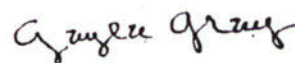
Sincerely,


Scott Barnwell


Joseph Ghosen


Lisa Matthies


Chris Castiglione


Gayla Gross

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS
Donna Barilec, The United Way of Buffalo and Erie County



AMERICORPS™/USDA
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GIS and CONSERVATION TEAM

Scott Barnwell
Chris Castiglione
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Gayla Gross
Lisa Matthies

John R. Whitney
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

September 3, 1996

Mr. Dave Reckahn
Orleans SWCD
446 West Avenue
Albion, New York 14411-1589

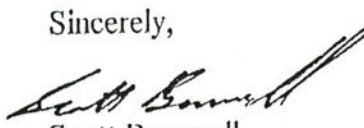
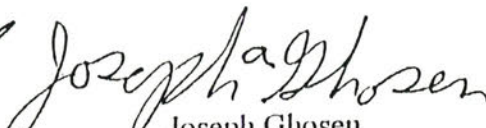
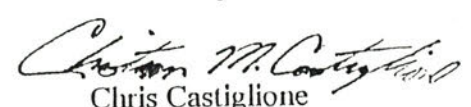
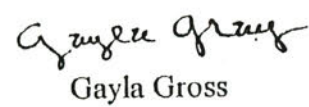
Dear Dave:

Our 1995-1996 AmeriCorps activity is quickly coming to an end and we are extending thanks to all of our project partners for a productive and diverse year of community service. We really enjoyed working with you on the Atlantic salmon reintroduction project. *We're ready to turn the electronic data over to you any time you and your equipment are ready.*

We hope you will consider remaining a project partner with next year's team, which will continue to assist local communities with geographic information system and conservation technology. Sometime in the next few weeks, you may want to contact John Whitney to discuss priorities and projects for next year's team. This will be very helpful as the 1996-1997 work plan is being drafted.

Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year. We hope our efforts were truly beneficial for you and the USFWS.

Sincerely,

 Scott Barnwell	 Joseph Ghosen	 Lisa Matthies
 Chris Castiglione	 Gayla Gross	

cc: John Whitney, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS

BRIEFLY

East Aurora School Board schedules special meeting

The East Aurora School Board will hold a special meeting at 7 a.m. Tuesday to continue discussing the process for selecting a new superintendent with Lionel Meno, superintendent of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

The School Board last week accepted the resignation of Superintendent Robert Fort, who has served for nine years. Fort is leaving Jan. 3 because, he said, he feels the district should have a superintendent who will be on the job for the next five years and he wanted to leave before then.

AmeriCorps team sets East Aurora open house

The second team of AmeriCorps members assigned to the East Aurora unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Services will hold an open house from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Aug. 12 at its office at 50 Commerce Way, East Aurora.

The open house will display the techniques the five members have been using in developing computerized maps of Erie and Niagara counties under the direction of District Conservationist John R. Whitney.

The maps are useful to local government officials, planners, developers and realtors.

The AmeriCorps members

— Scott Barnwell of the Town of Boston, Chris Castiglione of Depew, Joseph Ghosen of Buffalo, Gayla Gross of Hamburg and Lisa Matthies of Alden — began working last October and spent 1,700 hours in exchange for up to \$7,500 in pay and a \$4,725 educational allowance.

Although Congress has yet to approve a third year of AmeriCorps, the expectations are that it will.

Senior Services taking 'budget club' applications

Hamburg's Senior Services Department will accept applications for the August "budget club" program through Aug. 8.

There is no age nor income requirement to join the budget club, and any South Towns family may apply.

Through volume buying, the program offers households \$25 worth of quality protein and other food items to prepare nutritious meals for an outlay of \$15 in cash, check or food stamps. August's items include split chicken breasts, beef sausage, ground turkey, vegetables, spaghetti and hot dogs.

Registration is at the Hamburg Senior Services Department, 4150 Sowles Road, Building "H." Bags can be picked up at the Southtowns Christian Center, 2095 Lake View Road, Lakeview, in late August.

For further information call the Senior Services Department.