

**WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to protect and improve the environment as a valuable resource and asset for the people and the Town of West Seneca. We strive to advise the Town Board and make recommendations that will promote a clean, healthy, and well protected environment supporting a sustainable society and economy. The committee shall also provide community outreach and education to achieve these goals.

<b>Environmental Issues for current action and long term planning purposes for the West Seneca Environmental Commission (WSEC)</b>					
<b>Priority Definitions:</b>	<b>1</b> = High priority is something that currently affects the quality of the environment in West Seneca, is something WSEC historically has been working on, or can be irreversible or have a strong potential for getting worse (such as stream erosion) and is cheaper or easier to remediate earlier than later (such as invasive species). <b>2</b> = Medium priority is something that can or may soon have an affect the quality of the environment in West Seneca, and resources (grants, etc.) are known to be available to address it. <b>3</b> = Low priority is something that needs to be better understood, and needs research and benchmarking to learn more about it and methods to address it. <b>M</b> = Actions have been implemented and is now in Maintenance status.				
<b>Category</b> Sub-categories	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Team Members</b>	<b>Status / Comments</b>
<b>Water Quality</b>					
Buffalo Niagara River - keeper	1		1. Assisting with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant for implementation of flood control methods along the Buffalo Creek. 2. Flood bench in Buffalo Creek.	Evelyn Hicks	Attended several meetings in 2023. Public hearings to be scheduled. In phase 2. Recommend a sub-committee. Town board support and public input.
Storm Water Coalition	3			Leane Schultz	

Pesticide / Herbicide Use	1		Community Outreach and Education	Bob Amadon	Scott discuss with town officials as far as town usage. Erie county dept. of env. and planning has information.
Limitations of Sanitary Sewers. Being overloaded and overflow into waterways.	3		Need more information from experts		Issues may not be in new subdivisions it is limitations of older infrastructure.
Storm Drain Medallions	1	Was a past major project for WSEC. A recent study (sampling) determined about 46% are now missing from where placed.	1. Purchase replacement medallions. Determine how and when to replace. 2. Idea: What can be done to have developers install these on storm drains in new developments? Update town codes for new subdivisions?		DEC marking requirements? Scott is expecting information from Brian Adams tomorrow. June commission mtg. agenda.
<b>Trees</b>					
Tree Inventory Grant	1	Grant awarded to the town in Dec. 2023.	1. WSEC is a partner with the town for the grant activities with focus on public outreach and education during grant implementation. 2. Delay caused by new DEC system and NYS Comptroller. 3. Project team to be formed and represented by commission members .	Tree Subcommittee (Thomas J. Mudd, Jr., Danielle Bagley, Ryan Taylor) include others as needed.	1. Formal letter of partnership provided to gran writer in June 2023 and included with grant application. 2. Pending contract to be signed by Town Supervisor with DEC May 2024. 3. TBD

Urban Forestry Management Plan	1	Subsequent to completion of tree inventory above. 2nd part of the grant.	See above.	Tree Subcommittee (Thomas J. Mudd, Jr., Danielle Bagley, Ryan Taylor) include others as needed.	
Tree City USA	2	Is this something the town board would support?			Includes tree inventory, tree sub-committee, tree ordinance
Invasive Species	3				Top 5 invasive species issues communicate to public. Brittany to send information. for future meeting.
Approved Tree List	M	M=maintenance	1. Tree Subcommittee has a proposed tree list. 2. Formal letter with tree list recommendations sent to the town board 3/21/2024.	Tree Subcommittee	1. Links to tree inventory grant, future grant opportunities. 2. On agenda of town board meeting on March 25, 2024. Was referred to town attorney for review. Town codes to be updated.
<b>Open Space / Green-Space</b>					
Town Parks	3	Plans for bio-diversity in town parks? No-mow, kept natural, etc.			

Open space / green / wild space within or adjacent to Subdivisions	3				Zoning issues. Do retention ponds, ect. go to town after development?
Town Open Space Plan	3				Town Comprehensive Plan, etc.
Community Gardens	1		Agenda topic for 6/10/24 WSEC mtg. Town resident input.		Have our own greenhouse or area for growing trees, etc.reach out to local schools also, on school property.
Hiking trails	3				
<b>Road Traffic</b>					
Bike Lanes	1	GObike and West Seneca Bikes	1, Interface with these organizations to identify priorities for WSEC. 2. Letter from Chris Holmes, founder of West Seneca Bikes, expressing concerns about bikeability in West Seneca received January 2023.	Danielle Bagley	1. On-going. Letter was sent to West Seneca Town Board in April 2023. emails and discussions occurred with Chris Holmes. Commission reviewed email chain during April 15, 2024 meeting. Still have concerns and questions. Feedback provided to town board liasion.
Bike Paths	3	GObike and West Seneca Bikes	Interface with these organizations to identify priorities for WSEC.	Danielle Bagley	Regional / town transportation plan? Move to next section.

Growth / Zoning Impacts					move to Other.
<b>Wildlife Concerns</b>					
Deer Overpopulation	M	Deer Task Force / Survey, Other Information	1. West Seneca Deer Management Plan published May 2022. 2. Town Board meeting 5/6/2024 presentation on Ecological Impacts of White-tailed deer by Zach Goodrich Head of Land Stewardship at Tiftt Nature Preserve Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.		1. What is plan for 2nd survey? Funding? Why was this given back to WSEC vs. Further TB actions. Plan not being followed. If TB needs WSEC to do something, reach put to WSEC. 2. Presentation copy provided. Bob Amadon attend the TB meeting. Will review at future WSEC meeting.
<b>Recycling</b>					
Hazardous Waste	3				WSEC mtg. in June. County / Town
Electronics Waste	3				County / Town
Composting	1	1. Farmer Pirates (Farmers Market) 2. NEST (Northeast South Towns) Solid Waste Management Board	1. Attending events in March and April 2024 to support the events and inform the public about the WSEC. 2. Attend NEST meetings and bring back information to the WSEC.	1. Bob Amadon, and others? 2. Barb Lipiew	1. Both events were attended by commission members as part of public outreach. Refer to commission meeting minutes. 2. On-going

<b>Climate Change Impact</b>					
Water Quality	?				
Forest / Trees	?				
Impacts from Extreme Weather Events	?				
Climate Smart Community	3	Refer to what East Aurora and Lancaster have done on this.		Barb Lipiew	
<b>Air Quality</b>					
Traffic congestion					
Industrial Pollution					
Pesticide / Herbicide Use					
<b>Noise Pollution</b>					
Highway Traffic					
Industrial Sources					
Noise Ordinances					
<b>Other</b>					
Survey Town Residents (voice of the customer)					
Rank and summarize Environmental issues important to them					
Effectiveness of the town's environmental policies					

Cluster Development zoning