

**Town of Penfield and Monroe County Win Environmental Award for Linear Park
Erosion Control Project
Watershed, Summer '99**

The Town of Penfield and Monroe County have received the 1998 Environmental Project of the Year award from the American Public Works Association (APWA) for this region of New York State. The award was given for the stone wall built along Irondequoit Creek that protects the sand cliffs in Linear Park.

In 1998, C.P. Ward, Inc., under contract to Monroe County, placed a protective wall of boulders along the Creek at the bottom of the 100-foot-tall sand cliffs. This wall acts as a stabilizer and filter and prevents silt from the cliffs from contaminating the Creek and the Irondequoit Bay further downstream.

According to Monroe County Environmental Health Laboratory Administrator, Richard Burton, observations (to be followed by a detailed report) indicate improved water quality. Recent studies indicated that siltation from the Linear Park bluffs formerly accounted for more than 50% of the sediment polluting the environmentally sensitive Irondequoit Bay. Now that the protective rock has been installed, the problem is clearing up and a significant difference in the water quality is evident. Bob Jonas, Monroe County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) member and erosion control expert, assisted with the project from the beginning. He says, "It will provide

**"It will
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better
habitat..."**

much better habitat downstream in Irondequoit Creek, since the silt from this steep bank will no longer smother the spawning beds."

Candidates for the APWA award were judged competitively on their positive effect on the environment, their cost-efficiency and innovative solutions to problems threatening our natural resources.

The project was undertaken cooperatively by many different local, county, state and federal agencies working together. The Town of Penfield, the Monroe County WQCC, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation took the lead roles.

The project was funded by a \$50,000 grant from the New York State Clean Air/Clean Water Fund, a \$70,000 grant from the WQCC, and \$50,000 in cash and in-kind services from the Town of Penfield. The project, originally estimated to cost \$300,000, only cost \$170,000 because the rocks that were used did not have to be purchased. They were donated by subdivision developers within the Town of Penfield.

Linear Park and the erosion control project are on the south side of Route 441 between Old Penfield Road and Panorama Trail at Linear Park Drive.