

# Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

## *Batavia Landfill Superfund Site, Batavia, New York*

### The Problem

Heavy metal sludges, oils and organic solvents were deposited at the 35-acre Batavia Landfill in western New York State from the 1960s until 1980. Inadequate disposal of drummed and undrummed industrial wastes resulted in chemicals entering the groundwater and migrating into wetlands. In 1983, the Environmental Protection Agency designated the landfill a Superfund site. Superfund is the federal government's program to clean up hazardous waste sites that pose a danger to public health or the environment.

### Injured Wildlife Resources

Contamination of wetlands and groundwater at and adjacent to the Batavia Landfill site reduced the quality of the wetland habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. The contamination of food and water in the wetlands resulted in the loss and impairment of habitat for plants and animals in the wetlands. Biological diversity was reduced because the impaired habitat supported fewer invertebrates, amphibians like leopard frogs and migratory birds – including songbirds like Savannah sparrow and indigo bunting – and other wildlife. In addition, site clean-up itself injured 3 acres of wetlands.

### Recovery Status

As a result of the information collected during the damage assessment, the Department of the Interior (DOI) was able to settle a claim for injuries to natural resources

### Highlights

- Enhanced 3 acres of wetland habitat injured during cleanup
- Created 3 acres of wetland habitat to be protected in perpetuity
- Total wetland restoration project cost: \$ 310,000
- Restoration monitoring will be completed in 2007



associated with the Batavia Landfill contamination. The settlement resulted in the creation of 3 acres of scrub-shrub emergent wetlands, and the restoration of 3 acres of existing wetland areas at the Site. As part of the 6-acre project, the site is being monitored for five growing seasons following creation of the wetlands in 2002. The final step of the restoration will be protection in perpetuity of the 3-acre created wetland through a conservation easement approved by the DOI.

### For more information, contact:

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