

Annsville Creek / Peekskill Hollow Brook

Fact: The Annsville Creek/Peekskill Hollow Brook system is the main water conduit for the City of Peekskill Water Filtration Plant, has a Westchester County Waste Water Plant at its mouth and has an excellent Brown trout fishery which is stocked annually every Spring by the NYS DEC. Also potentially a breeding ground for Terrapin turtle.

Accomplishment: Growing interest in forming an Annsville Creek / Peekskill Hollow Brook Watch Group.

Opportunity: Getting a Watch Group off the ground.

Challenge: Public Awareness of such a vital watershed resource that encompasses much of Putnam County and the NW corner of Westchester County.



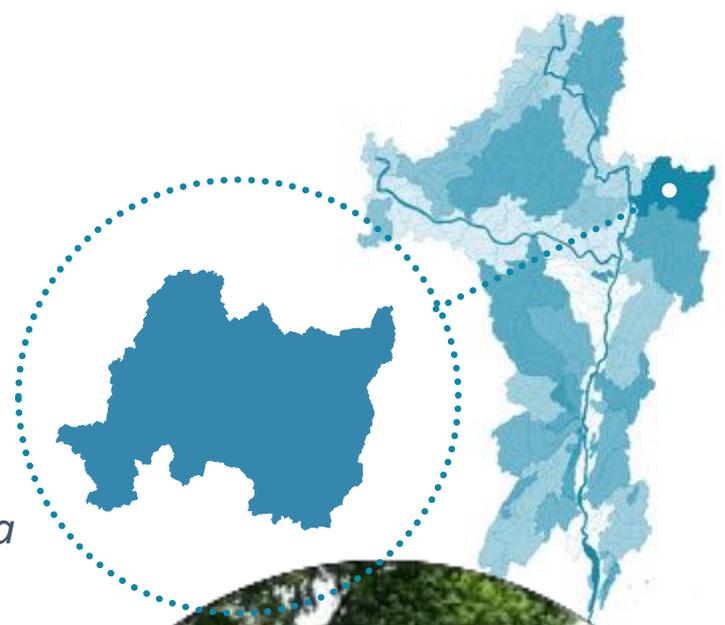
Battenkill Conservancy

Fact: Our watershed straddles Vermont & New York. Its key waterway, the Battenkill, turns north before it resumes east - flowing into the Hudson.

Accomplishment: The launch of our grassroots *"Adopt a Stream"* program in which over a dozen small streams' water quality were monitored throughout the watershed by community volunteers.

Opportunity: The State's focus on source water protection and available funding to protect larger land parcels.

Challenge: Farm, municipal, and homeowner practices that are not compatible with stream bank protection and reducing runoff into streams and rivers.



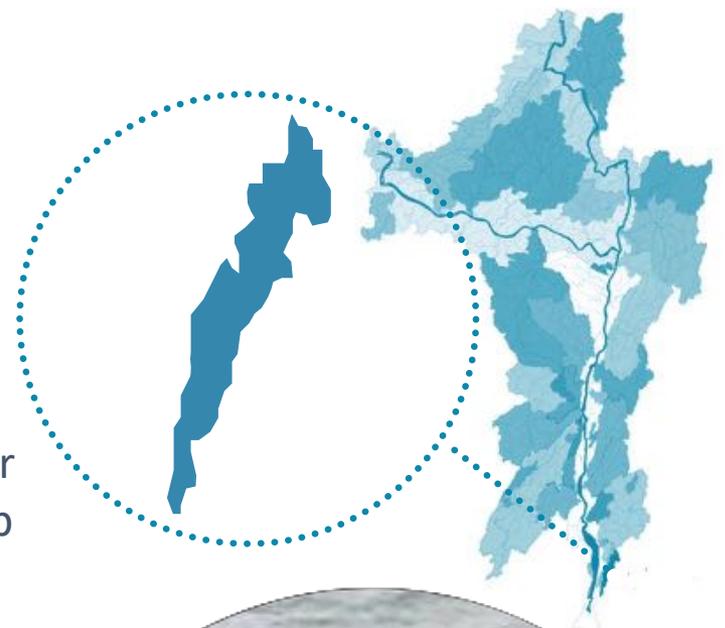
Bronx River Alliance

Fact: The Bronx River is 24 miles long, has over 35 different fish species, and is NYC's only freshwater river!

Accomplishment: Over 7,000 people use the Bronx River each year as a classroom, for scientific study, and to help restore our watershed.

Opportunity: With the move into River House, our new state-of-the-art green building in Starlight Park, we have the opportunity to enhance programming, increase community participation, and improve our visibility at the river's edge.

Challenge: Building coalitions across the watershed and integrating across boundaries to grow our advocacy for the community.



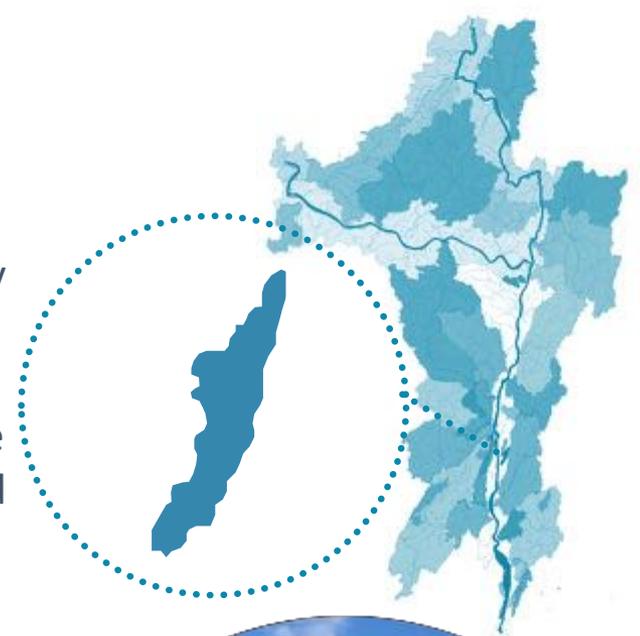
Casperkill Watershed

Fact: The Watershed is located entirely within the Town and City of Poughkeepsie and is the saltiest stream in Dutchess County.

Accomplishment: This past September, thanks to an SCA service project, restoration of the floodplain within the Vassar Farm and Ecological Preserve resulted in the planting of 280 trees and the removal of invasive shrubs along the stream.

Opportunity: Long term monitoring of water quality of the creek on the Vassar Farm and Ecological preserve is beginning this year along with the implementation of Green Stormwater Infrastructure standards that will help to institutionalize responsible stormwater management on campus.

Challenge: Invasive species are persistent throughout the watershed - specifically porcelain berry and oriental bittersweet. These species kill mature trees, which are so important to the health of the stream.



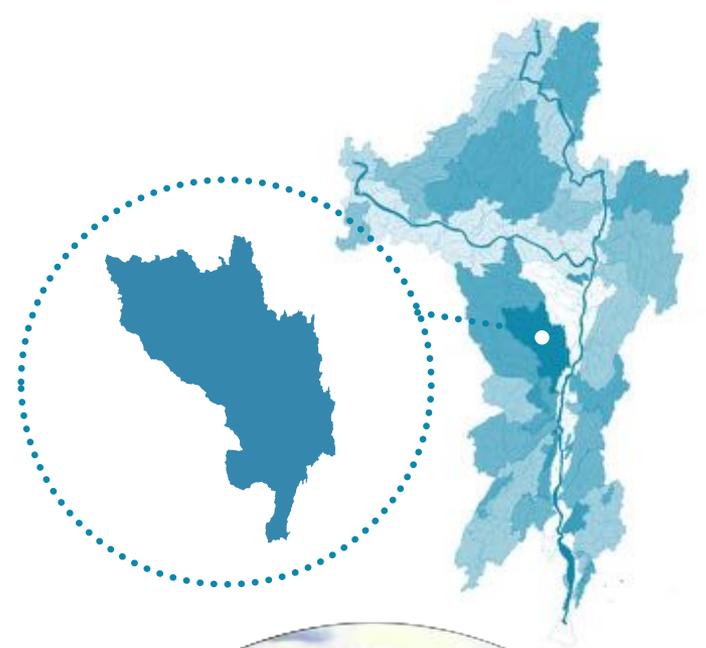
Catskill Creek Watershed

Fact: The Catskill Creek Watershed is comprised of a 416 square mile drainage basin that connects the headwaters of the Catskill Creek in the northern Catskill Mountains. It meanders through Schoharie, Greene, Albany, and Ulster Counties on its way to the Hudson River at Catskill Point.

Accomplishment: Reconvened and expanded the advisory committee to help with input gathering and development of a protection plan.

Opportunity: To get guidelines in place to protect a relatively healthy and pristine watershed. This effort is being organized by Cornell Cooperative extension assisted by River Haggie Outdoors and funded in part by a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program.

Challenge: The Catskill Creek Watershed is very large and rural. A significant portion of the watershed has aging septic system infrastructure. A challenge will to better understand if and how this impacts water quality.



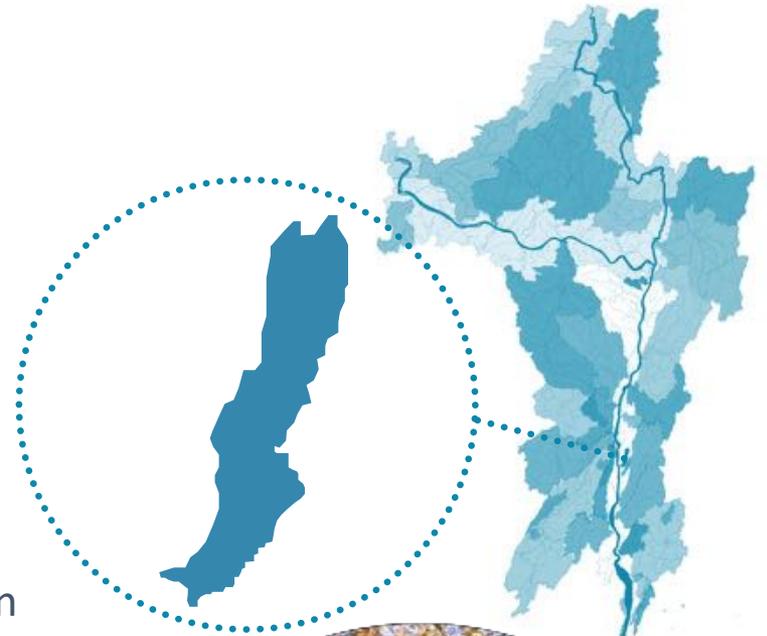
Fall Kill Trail

Fact: Most of the water quality issues in the Fall Kill are not due to urban runoff, but come from poor maintenance of septic systems in the suburbs.

Accomplishment: Completed more than 15 initial, community-based design, build, volunteer, and education projects as part of the first phase of a collective impact strategy with more than 30 partner organizations.

Opportunity: Implement plans to improve two existing parks and complete design of new public open spaces that support diverse and inclusive community programming.

Challenge: Generating inclusive relationships, dialogue, and support with diverse local communities.



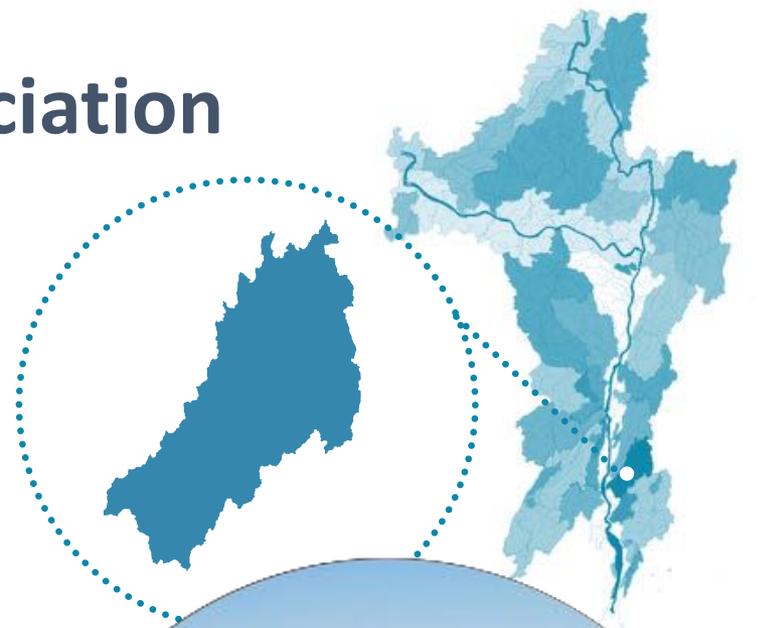
Fishkill Creek Watershed Association

Fact: The watershed extends through portions Dutchess and Putnam Counties, as well as a total of 14 municipalities.

Accomplishment: During 2018 we reached out to several of the communities within the watershed and hope to become more active during 2019 with aspirations for growth in participation.

Opportunity: We are planning to attain inland waterway designation for the Fishkill Creek from New York State.

Challenge: To maintain an intact organization that will enable stewardship activities to proceed.



**FISHKILL CREEK
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**
of Dutchess and Putnam Counties

Friends of the Great Swamp

Fact: We are a watershed of two rivers---the East Branch Croton flowing south and the Swamp River flowing north. Both are "headwaters" streams and drinking water sources for larger rivers.

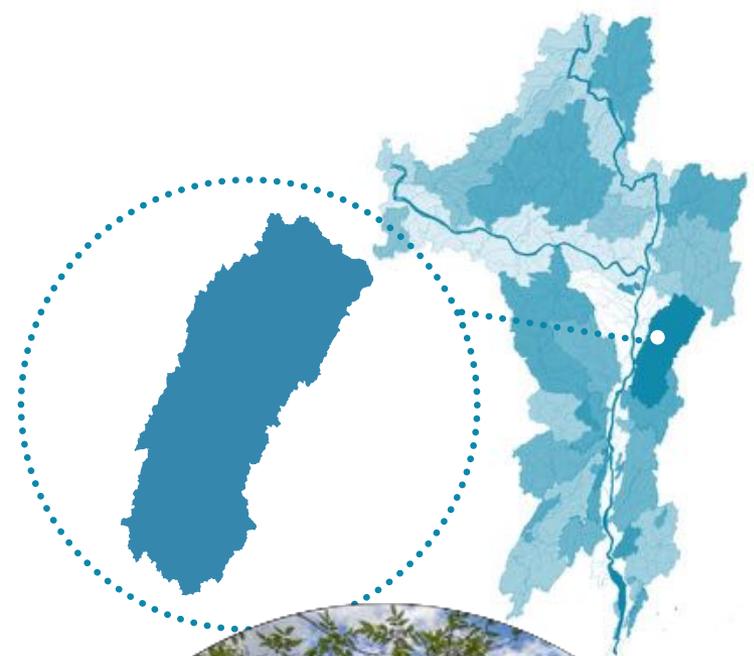
Accomplishment: We acquired a 194-acre parcel of marsh and other wetlands including over 600 feet of frontage along the Swamp River with monies from a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant.

Opportunity: Education of local officials and others regarding keeping waters clear of pollution and some of the toxic effects surrounding warming water bodies.

Challenge: Developers are ramping up again!



Greater Stockport Creek Watershed Alliance



Fact: Adorned by stately oaks and hickory trees, the landscape includes the presence of Columbia White Sulphur Springs, reported to have medicinal qualities, and “having as cool and sweet water as is to be found.” (History of Columbia County, Franklin Ellis)

Accomplishment: The search to revitalize the Greater Stockport Creek Watershed Alliance has persevered.

Opportunity: Seeking collaboration with a local nonprofit organization to partner on project re-engagement and expansion.

Challenge: How to harmonize conservation and development in a sizable watershed with such diverse municipalities.



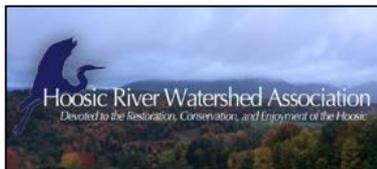
Hoosic River Watershed Association

Fact: Water quality is HooRWA's top priority! We want to restore the Hoosic to the fishable/swimmable conditions of pre-industrial times.

Accomplishment: For over 10 years, HooRWA has monitored macroinvertebrates as an indicator of river health at 11 sites along the river .

Opportunity: HooRWA's E. coli sampling on the Green River (a main tributary to the Hoosic) in Williamstown will support its delisting as an impaired river by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Challenge: In partnership with the Rensselaer Land Trust and Rensselaer County, converting the former Thompson Mill site in Valley Falls to a riverside park.



John Burroughs Black Creek Trail

Fact: The color of the Black Creek comes from the tannic acid in the hemlock bark and needles. Due to invasive species and climate change, these trees are dying and the creek will likely lose its namesake color.

Accomplishment: Completed the design of an integrated signage and wayfinding system for a trail that will link more than 1,400 acres of conserved land owned by two non-profits, a town, and a state agency.

Opportunity: Install new entrance signs as well as formalize parking lots and wayfinding signage.

Challenge: Funding remains a significant hurdle to completing the trail and access improvements.



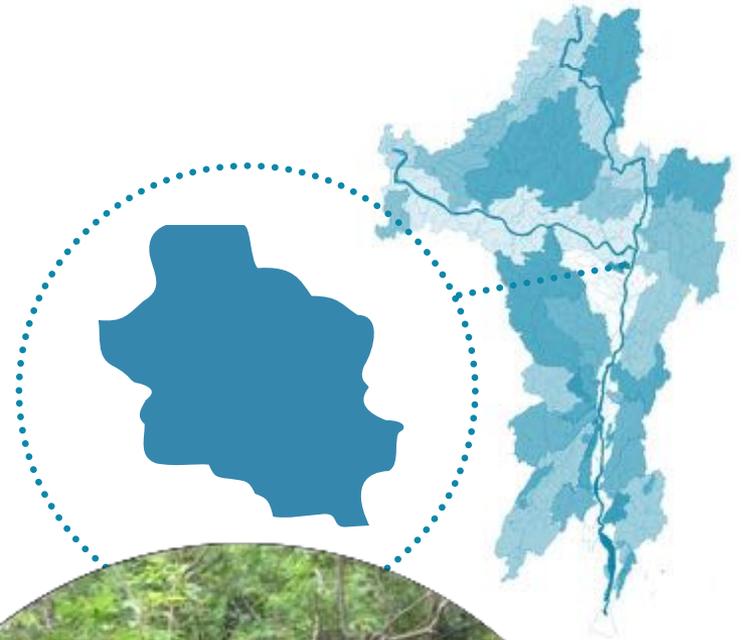
Kromma Kill Watershed

Fact: A U.S. presidential gravesite (Chester A. Arthur) and one of the first Hudson River trading post sites (Schulyer Flatts National Historic Landmark) are located in the watershed.

Accomplishment: A green infrastructure feasibility and opportunity study is underway.

Opportunity: Continuing monitoring of flooding and water quality throughout the watershed.

Challenge: Increased frequency and magnitude of flooding.



Lower Esopus Watershed Community

Fact: The 60-mile creek begins in the highest peaks of the Catskill Mountains, contains the first NYC west of the Hudson Reservoir, continues past active agriculture lands and historic vibrant communities to the tidal marinas and the critical freshwater tidal flats on the Hudson Estuary.

Accomplishment: Actively participating with the legal process for responsible release protocol from the NYC Ashokan Reservoir.

Opportunity: Have been building stronger collaboration between local governments, regional and county agencies to solve water quality issues effectively. Stream Management Plan will happen paid for with NYCDEP penalty money.

Challenge: Prioritize and create policy and programs for reducing the main sources of nutrient loading, impacts on water quality of this large basin.



Mohawk Watershed Alliance

Fact: The Mohawk River is the Hudson River's largest tributary.

Accomplishment: A new five-year Action Agenda for the watershed prioritizes water quality, habitat, and flooding resiliency improvements.

Opportunity: A huge watershed with interests in water quality, flooding, dam safety, and ecosystem health

Challenge: A major ice jam formed in 2018 that was 24 km long.



Monhegan Brook Watershed

Fact: The Brook is piped underground for 0.78 miles, or 12% of its 6.7 mile length.

Accomplishment: On the ground projects such as installation of stream signs, participating in Trees for Tribes, and hosting a Riverkeeper Sweep in Middletown.

Opportunity: Finalizing the watershed plan that is underway and getting buy-in from key stakeholders.

Challenge: Determining sources of phosphorus that have led the Brook to be listed as Impaired on the Priority Waterbodies List.



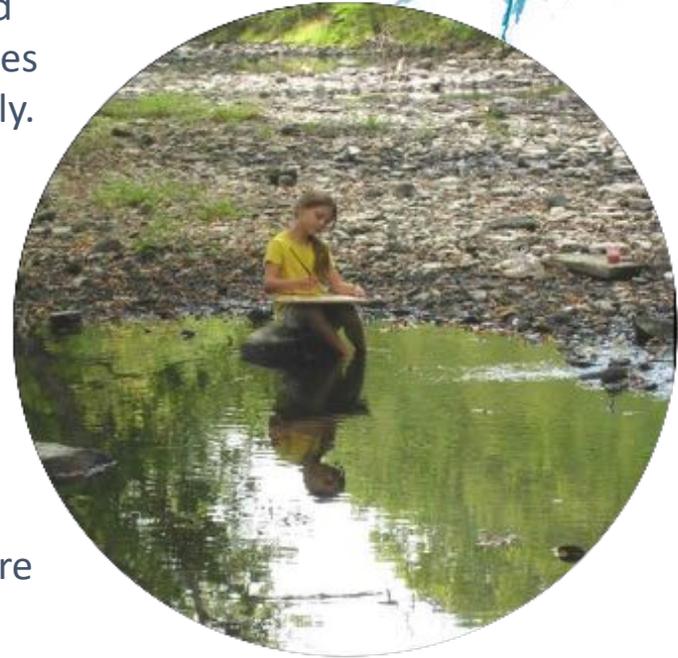
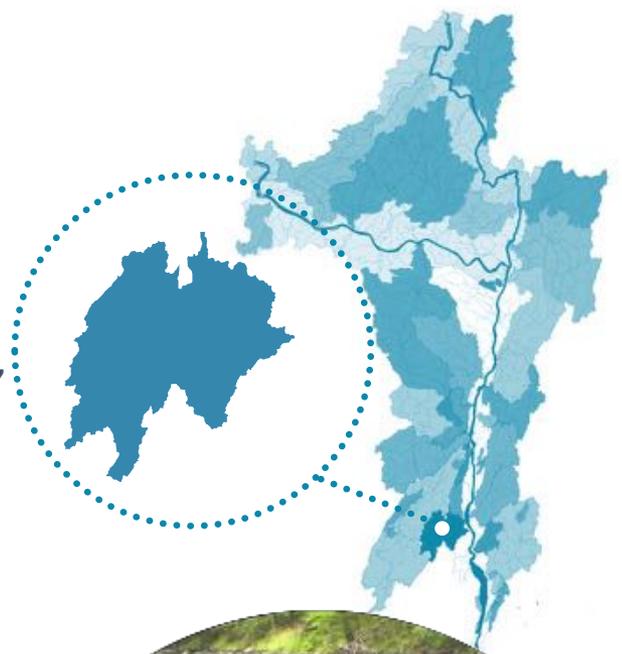
Moodna Creek Watershed Intermunicipal Council

Fact: A group led by Patrick MacGregorie, a Scot, founded the first known European settlement in what is today Orange County at the mouth of the Moodna Creek in 1685 (then named Waoraneck Creek), and the original farmhouse built there has been preserved and restored in recent years.

Accomplishment: Granted funds for lake monitoring work by a Monroe-Woodbury High School AP environmental science class, and they found very good water quality and relatively few invasive species in Walton Lake in Monroe, part of the Village of Chester water supply.

Opportunity: Will complete and install several educational kiosks at locations in the watershed in partnership with municipalities and nonprofit organizations, including the Town of Woodbury and Black Rock Forest.

Challenge: One major challenge is raising awareness about the importance of protecting in-stream flow for fish, recreation and stream ecology in the Woodbury Creek, and other tributaries that are being used for water supply and other purposes.



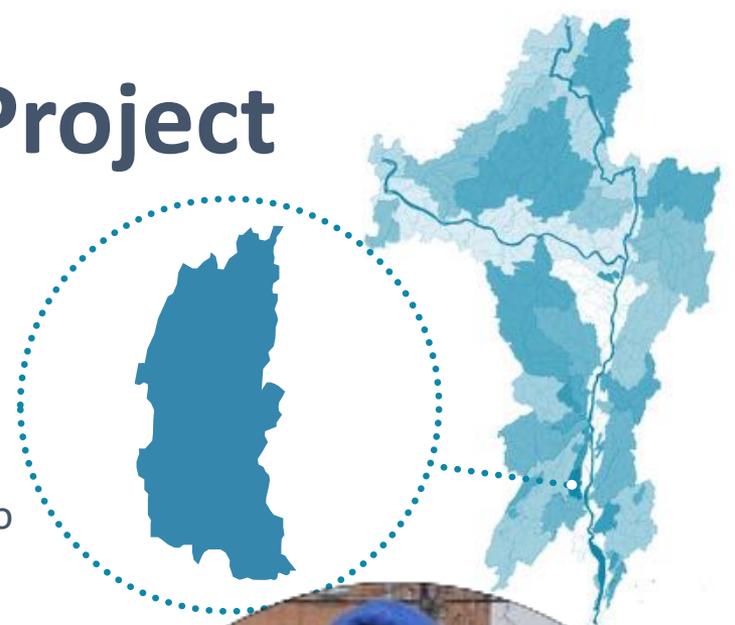
Newburgh Clean Water Project

Fact: The Quassaick Creek Watershed is home to Washington Lake, the City of Newburgh's drinking water source for 30K people...up until 2016 when it was discovered the lake was contaminated with PFAS chemicals that have been leaching from Stewart Air National Guard Base for nearly 3 decades.

Accomplishment: We partnered with The Restorative Center to offer a series of social & environmental justice circles and facilitated meetings between the NYDOH and local community groups to improve accessibility to blood testing and health resources. We've also conducted watershed tours and social media campaigns to promote advocacy.

Opportunity: We're planning community outreach events with other grassroots organizations, as well as regional and national partners, to advocate for comprehensive health monitoring, hold polluters accountable and protect and restore our watershed now and for future generations.

Challenge: Our watershed is currently outside of our jurisdiction and overdeveloped. We need to build intermunicipal alliances.



Patroon Creek Watershed Alliance

Fact: The creek was named after the patroon of Rensselaerswyck.

Accomplishment: Students and faculty from Siena College completed a study examining the feasibility and environmental benefits of implementing green infrastructure throughout the Patroon Creek Watershed.

Opportunity: A river restoration project is planned for the Creek as well as reinstallation of a USGS gaging station; both will provide exciting research opportunities for Siena students and faculty.

Challenge: Despite significant improvements over the last 30 years, water quality in the Patroon Creek is greatly impacted by bacteria contamination.



Pocantico River Watershed Alliance

Fact: The Pocantico River begins in New Castle and runs for nine miles through Westchester, draining into the Hudson at Sleepy Hollow. The watershed includes Rockefeller State Park, Philipsburg Manor Estate, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, and Stone Barns.

Accomplishment: This year the PRWA successfully held community meetings, including the Non Toxic Lawn Care Program in February, as well as rolling out a survey project to determine stakeholder perceptions within the watershed.

Opportunity: In 2019 we plan to develop a website to share Pocantico River data and news with our community.

Challenge: A significant challenge for the PRWA is to raise awareness and engagement within our community.



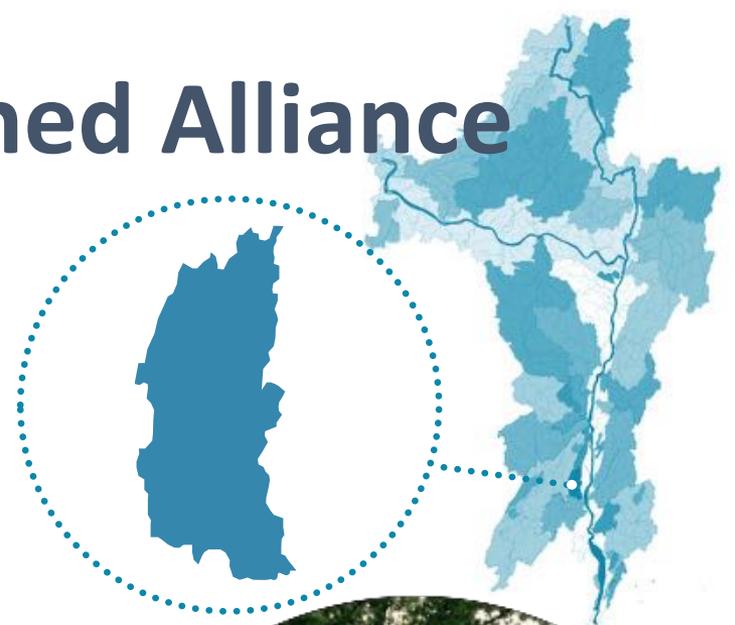
Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance

Fact: Our Patton Brook sub-watershed has been a drinking water source for over 100 years but is still seemingly unknown as such by the DEC and DOH as it has a class C designation, thereby allowing for the Town of Newburgh to develop over it, destroying it as viable drinking water.

Accomplishment: QCWA has linked up with Mount Saint Mary College as a meeting location and assisted the college with watershed conservation classes.

Opportunity: Expand our outreach to the local community and develop stronger relationships with watershed municipalities.

Challenge: Restructure QCWA to assure long-term leadership succession.



Roe Jan Watershed Community



Fact: The Roe Jan was named for Roeliff Jansen, a Scandinavian immigrant to the Hudson Valley, who was said to trade with the local Native Americans on the banks of the kill. Roeliff was but half of a power-couple of that era. His wife Anneke Jans survived him, and owned a 62-acre farm in what is now Manhattan.

Accomplishment: We have incorporated with a strong Board of Directors.

Opportunity: Leverage energy, contacts, and knowledge of the new board to move forward.

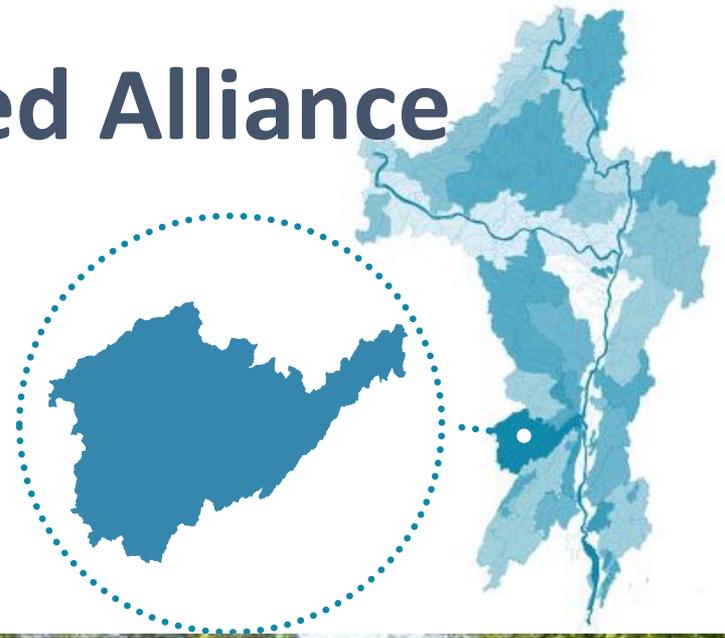
Challenge: The Roe Jan's 55-mile length and 230-square mile-watershed mean RJWC participants are geographically separated and reside in disparate communities.



**ROE JAN WATERSHED
COMMUNITY**

Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance

Fact: The Rondout Creek Watershed covers tidal, lower non-tidal and upper Rondout Watershed communities that include Towns of Neversink, Wawarsing, Rochester, Marbletown, Rosendale, Esopus and Ulster; Village of Ellenville and the City of Kingston.



Accomplishment: RCWA is newly formed in 2018!

Opportunity: RCWA looks forward to organizing a Riparian Buffer project in the spring of 2019.

Challenge: The RCWA is challenged in finding membership in each community of the identified watershed. Do you live in any of these communities? you do - please join us!



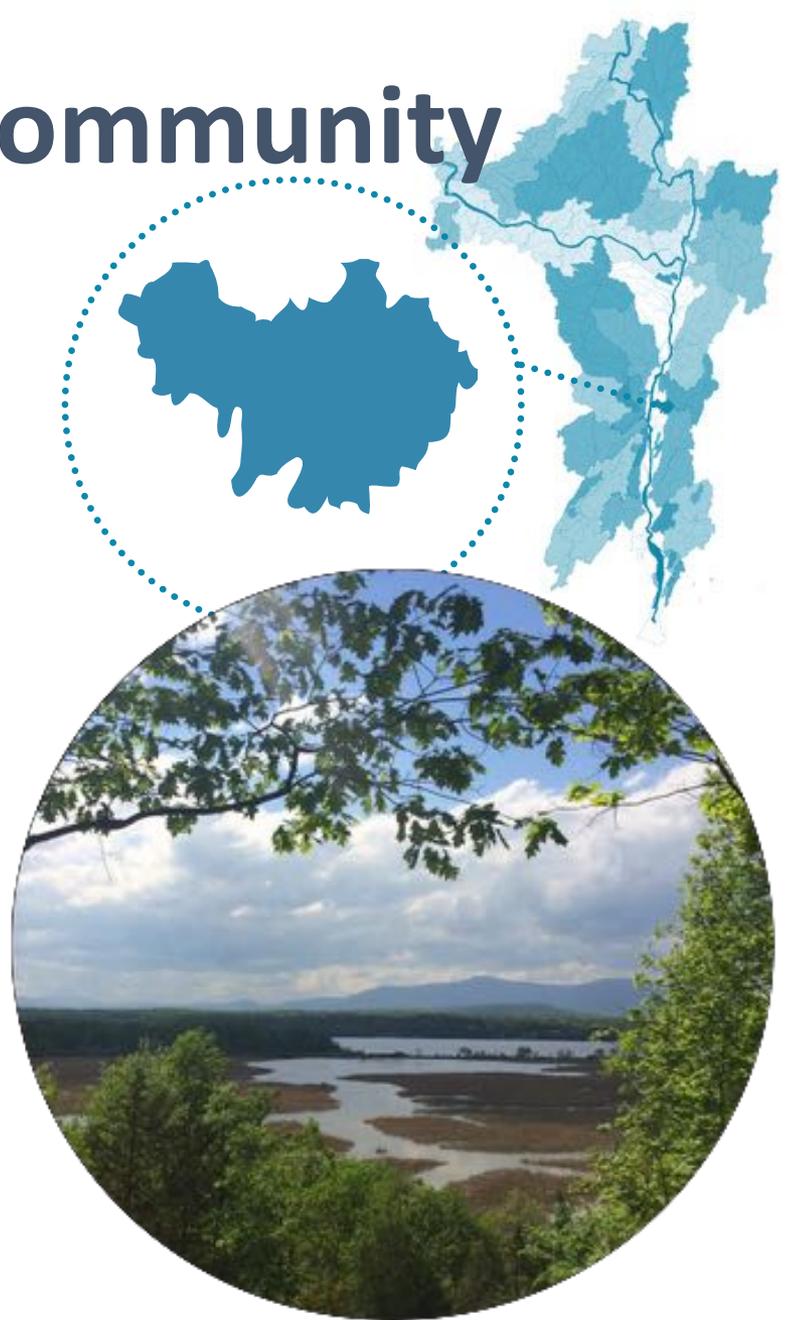
Saw Kill Watershed Community

Fact: The Saw Kill watershed includes the 1,722-acre Tivoli Bays Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Accomplishment: A full year of monthly water quality monitoring program at 14 sites and the completion of the State of the Saw Kill report.

Opportunity: Helping the town of Red Hook move forward with the Riverkeeper Source Water Scorecard recommendations.

Challenge: Funding water testing for the monitoring project.



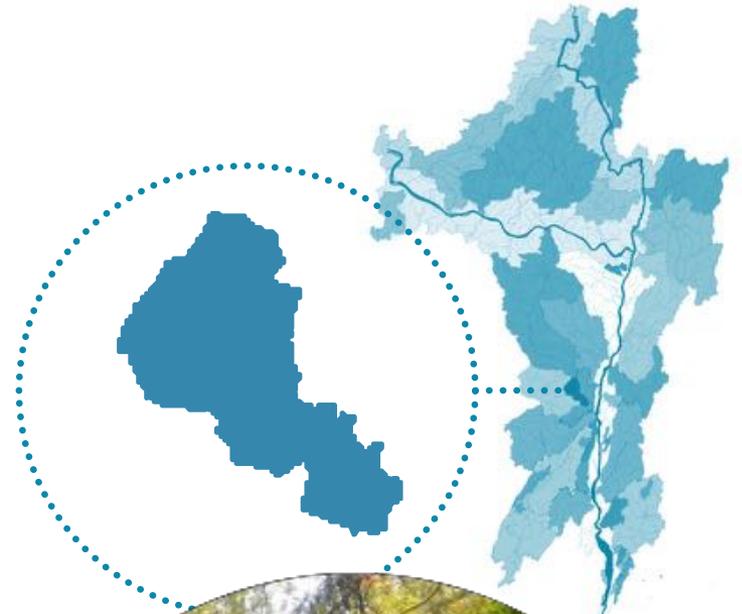
Sawkill Watershed

Fact: The Sawkill Watershed is a sub-basin of the Lower Esopus Watershed in the Towns of Woodstock, Hurley, Kingston, and Ulster, covering nearly 27,000 acres over 42 square miles.

Accomplishment: In 2018 the Woodstock Land Conservancy reconvened a Sawkill Creek/Watershed stakeholder group and applied for a DEC grant to update assessments of the Sawkill and identify future projects to insure water quality.

Opportunity: Receive NYS Inland Waterways Designation.

Challenge: Assuring grant support to undertake a Sawkill Watershed and Protection Plan.



Saw Mill Brook Watershed Alliance

Fact: Part of the Walkkill River Watershed, the Saw Mill Brook runs through the center of SUNY New Paltz, creating a chain of artificial ponds on campus.

Accomplishment: We organized ourselves! Our first meeting was in July, with eight people attending.

Opportunity: We are planning to sample at six sites for about 100 water chemistry parameters to learn the state of the Brook.

Challenge: The same as any community group: finding more dedicated volunteers, a high learning curve, and difficulty with follow up.



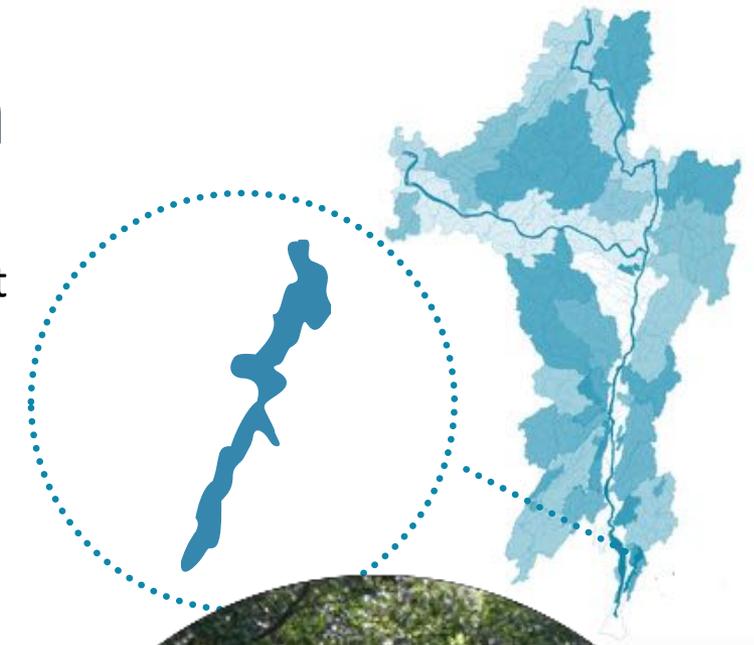
Saw Mill River Coalition

Fact: The Saw Mill River is in FACT a river and not just a parkway!

Accomplishment: An active community science water quality testing program, habitat restoration and vine cutting work, daylighting projects in Yonkers.

Opportunity: Westchester County Board of Legislators has recently reconvened the Saw Mill River Advisory Board which provides much needed municipal coordination.

Challenge: The Saw Mill watershed is extremely developed and the river has been altered time and again throughout the years making any significant restoration seem like a daunting task.



Shawangunk Kill Watershed Alliance

Fact: There are 11 dams on our kill and it's slowly being drained for Middletown's water supply.

Accomplishment: We both began drafting a strategic plan and the Hoot Owl Restaurant is now offering a free beer to any SKWA member who does their homework.

Opportunity: We have two new members and a strategic plan under development that will energize and focus us.

Challenge: A lack of follow-through on assignments devised at meetings.



shawangunk kill
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Sing Sing Kill

Hudson Valley Arts and Science

Fact: The Sing Sing Kill has nine different species of fish despite most people viewing this little stream as something of a dead drainage ditch.

Accomplishment: We have converged on a design for a deeper water pier for the Village of Ossining after two years of conflict between various stakeholders and more than 35 different designs.

Opportunity: We will measure *Entero* and *E. coli* at 15-minute intervals over six hours from 4-10 a.m. to test the hypothesis that untreated sewage enters the water when people wake, do their business, and head to work.

Challenge: Cash flow to fund the projects since DEC grants work on reimbursement basis.



Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance

Fact: The New York portion of our watershed is entirely within the Town of Orangetown.

Accomplishment: We completed our new website with the help of a grant from Orange & Rockland Counties.

Opportunity: Our group continues to seek answers on our water quality issues.

Challenge: New York Home Rule.



Tracing the Tannery Brook

Fact: The Tannery Brook was dammed by Dutch colonists in 1661 to power a grist mill that supported Kingston's early economic development.

Accomplishment: A participatory installation to "daylight" the Tannery Brook by tracing its image on the surface of a parking lot, adding life, and celebrating its rich history.

Opportunity: Sharing information about buried streams and their history, and helping others trace their local forgotten waterways.

Challenge: Since so much of the Tannery Brook is fragmented and buried, some question whether it is actually still a stream. (It is!)



Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition

Fact: It was one of the last major watersheds in New York State to get an organized watershed coalition working on water quality and other natural resource issues

Accomplishment: Completed implementation of our first round of water quality improvement projects

Opportunity: Funding large scale water quality improvement projects

Challenge: Working more in concert with the Lower Hudson Watershed to address regional priority issues

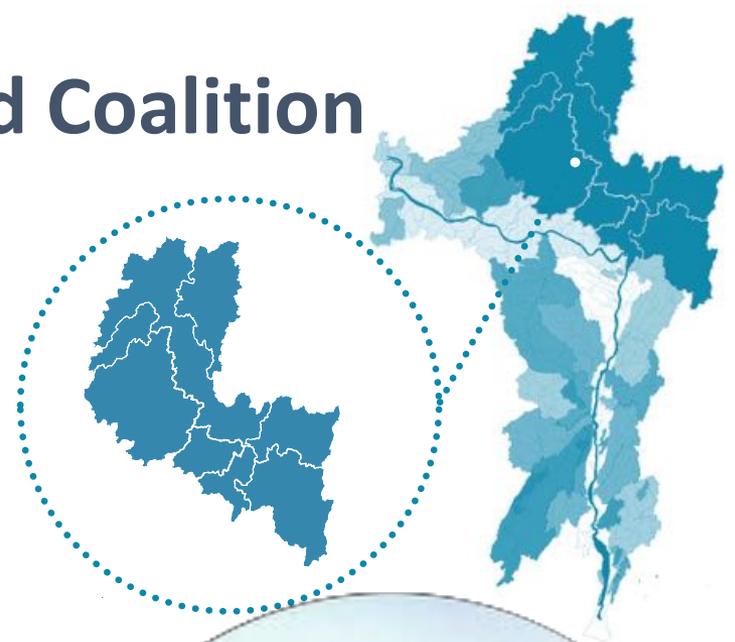


Photo by Gary Van Leuven



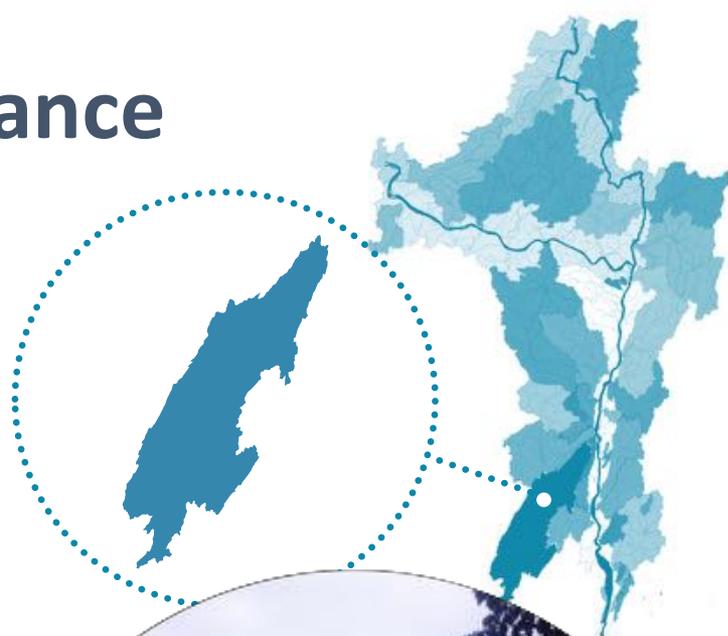
Wallkill River Watershed Alliance

Fact: The Lenape name for the river is Twischsawkin, “The Land of Many Plums.”

Accomplishment: We held our 4th Annual Wallkill River Summit, and our 2nd Annual Wallkill River Festival, educating hundreds about the river and its watershed.

Opportunity: In 2019, we expect to see the results of two years of DEC sampling of the river, and hope to see a long awaited DEC fisheries survey as well.

Challenge: Recruitment of new organizer, while trying to retain and inspire the veterans we have.



wallkill river
watershed alliance
we fight dirty
www.wallkillalliance.org