

2.0 Project Partners and Project Accomplishments to Date

As described in the Introduction, the Broadstreet Hollow became the focus of interest for a voluntary stream management planning effort following the January 19, 1996 flood event. The flood initiated severe damage requiring emergency repair work to protect homes, property and bridges in the area immediately above the Timberlake Road bridge, in Management Unit 3. Subsequently, ongoing instability resulted in turbid conditions year round and a potentially dangerous condition. Because NYC DEP had deemed the Broadstreet Hollow a priority for voluntary management efforts to address turbidity, the City asked the Greene County SWCD to undertake a natural stream stability restoration demonstration project in this stream reach. The Ulster and Greene County SWCDs, the NYC DEP, and the US Army Corps of Engineers partnered together to accomplish this unprecedented restoration effort, which is described in detail in Volume I, Section 4.1.1, and in Volume II, MU3, Section 1.0.

At the same time, the NYC DEP partnered with the Ulster County SWCD to assess conditions of the entire main stem of the stream, and using this information, develop a plan for the long-term stewardship of the Broadstreet Hollow. The Ulster County SWCD recognized that to accomplish the broad set of goals and objectives described in the Introduction, that greater communication was needed among the landowners and agencies that live near, work near, or enjoy the stream. When planning around any shared resource, there are many different points of view, regulations, concerns and management practices.

The Ulster County SWCD established the Broadstreet Hollow Project Advisory Committee in November 2000, with the first meeting in early 2001. The membership of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) follows below. Each member of the PAC brings a unique set of experiences, a different perspective and history in the area. This diversity was essential to covering all management aspects of the Broadstreet Hollow, and also created a fertile ground for developing cooperation and setting common goals. The exchange of information in the Broadstreet Hollow PAC meetings and in meetings with local residents has provided the backbone for the creation of this Broadstreet Hollow Stream Management Plan. The PAC has met several times over the course of the project to review and discuss the information that has been collected, and to focus and redirect the work of the SWCD as needed to formulate this strategy.

After establishing the PAC, the UCSWCD in February, 2001, initiated a concentrated landowner outreach effort by mailing a Broadstreet Hollow Landowner Perception Survey about the stream. This survey was mailed to 68 landowners with 28 filled out and returned – a 40% return rate. The results of the survey supported the effort of the SWCD, DEP and the PAC in targeting further data collection and research to document stream conditions and specific landowner concerns. Half of those who responded live in the BSH valley full time, and half are summer residents or weekenders, with nearly half having lived in the Broadstreet Valley for more than 20 years. Over 80% of residents reported they enjoy walking along the stream or the stream view, and nearly 80% enjoy watching wildlife, as their favorite stream-related activities. Nearly 60% felt that the condition of the BSH stream is in fair or poor condition, needing more intensive management, and 61% said that fishing had deteriorated over time. Of primary concern about the stream were streambank erosion (over 80% concerned), flooding of property, washout of roads and bridges, and pollution from upstream (all over 50% concerned). Full survey results are reported in Volume I, Section 4.1.4.

Throughout the Project, the UCSWCD has been in close cooperation with local landowners, and in June 2001, a group of landowners began discussing the possibility of forming a Broadstreet Hollow Watershed Landowners Association, initially to formalize representation to the PAC, but also to plan for future organized efforts for their streamside community. The Landowners Association has been active in representing landowners on the PAC throughout the project, participating in riparian planting efforts at the demonstration project site in May, 2002, facilitating cleanup of streamside dumping areas in May, 2002, and co-sponsoring (with the Stony Clove Landowners Association) two workshops for BSH landowners: Streamside Gardening, in July, 2002, and a Landowner Association seminar taught by Robin Ulmer, in September, 2002.

As described above, detailed stream characteristics comprise the framework for the organization of the management plan, based on an intensive stream assessment field survey. To accomplish this effort, in 2001, the NYCDEP Stream Management Program trained SWCD District staff and a team of student interns from Ulster County Community College in stream surveying and assessment, and together with UCSWCD undertook an extensive assessment of the stability and condition of the stream corridor. These findings are reported in Volume II, Section 1.0, Broadstreet Hollow Stream Management Units.

Broadstreet Hollow Stakeholders

Many more groups than those who serve on the PAC have an interest in the BSH. The list below may be incomplete, but it was developed in 2000 during a planning session with PAC members from the BSH and other regional groups involved in development of similar plans throughout the Catskills. These local, state, regional and federal agencies and groups may be users of the stream or its watershed, decision makers who will find the management plan useful in doing their job, potential funders of future projects, or local residents.

Local:

Towns of Lexington and Shandaken: Planning & Zoning Boards, Highway Departments, and Code Enforcement Officers
Broadstreet Hollow Watershed Landowners Association
Stony Clove Rod and Gun Club
Ashokan-Pepacton and Catskill Mountain Chapters of Trout Unlimited
Phoenecia Fish and Game Association
Timberlake Camp

County:

Ulster and Greene County Planning Departments
Ulster County Department of Public Works
Greene County Highway Department
Greene County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Ulster and Greene County Soil and Water Conservation Districts
New York State Department of Transportation – the Ulster and Greene County Resident Engineers
Central Hudson -- Tree Trimming Foremen

State/Regional:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation: Regional Habitat Managers
and Regional Foresters and Forest Rangers

NYS Department of Health

Catskill Watershed Corporation

NYC Department of Environmental Protection

NYS Emergency Management Office (SEMO)

Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC)

Federal:

USEPA, Region 2

US ACOE

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Federal Emergency Management Agency

US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Table 1. Broadstreet Hollow Stream Management Plan Project Advisory Committee
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