

Catskill Watershed Corporation

Septic and Stream Corridor programs

In an effort to protect water quality, the Catskill Watershed Corporation helps homeowners pay for repairs to or replacement of non-functioning or failed residential septic systems. Your one-or two-family residence or home-business combination must use less than 1,000 gallons of water per day, and be located within the New York City Watershed in Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Sullivan or Ulster Counties. Your septic system must be within a specified distance of a watercourse, reservoir or reservoir stem. This distance is expanded periodically; contact the CWC to determine if you are eligible for assistance. Permanent Watershed residents are reimbursed 100 percent of eligible costs of repairing or replacing their home's failed system. Non-primary residents are reimbursed 60 percent of eligible costs.

To extend the life of your septic system and avoid expensive repairs, homeowners are encouraged to have their systems pumped out and inspected every three to five years. The CWC reimburses Watershed residents 50% of the cost of a maintenance inspection and pump out conducted by a licensed septic hauler.

The CWC Stream Corridor Protection Program provides funding for projects which mitigate or correct an existing situation in a village, hamlet, or population center that presents an imminent and substantial danger to persons or property.

CWC and NYCDEP staff will select projects through evaluation of grant proposals and consider threat to persons and/or property, size of population center affected, the benefit to water quality, analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the project, and the project's consistency with recommendations set forth in a relevant Stream Management Plan

For more information on these programs, call 845-586-1400, or go to www.cwconline.org

Stormwater help

Property owners building or expanding structures or adding impervious surfaces may be required to add stormwater controls. The CWC can reimburse all or some of the eligible costs of such installations. For more information on these programs, call 845-586-1400, or go to www.cwconline.org

Loans

Any for-profit business or corporation or non-profit organization planning a project which is deemed a Qualified Economic Development Project (one which encourages the twin goals of Watershed protection and job creation/retention), is eligible to apply for a low-interest loan from the Catskill Watershed Corp. Eligible expenses include land or building purchase, land improvements, facility renovation, purchase and installation of

equipment or furnishings, lease hold improvements, pollution prevention improvements, inventory or other capital improvement needs. Loans are also available for repair or replacement of commercial septic systems. For more information, call the CWC at 845-586-1400; or go to www.cwconline.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County encourages stewardship of the Upper Esopus Creek Watershed by supporting community education and collaboration. Since 2005, Extension has been coordinating the development of a Draft Upper Esopus Creek Management Plan with landowners, citizen groups, and government agencies. Using the wealth of information in the Plan, Extension can help you identify flood protection or habitat enhancement options for your property. Attend our upcoming workshops and lectures, get involved as a volunteer, come to community meetings, or drop by our Phoenicia Plaza Satellite Office, open Tuesday and Thursday, 10am - 4pm or by appointment (845-340-3990). Visit our website: www.esopuscreek.org.

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Agroforestry Resource Center

Because good stewardship is vital to the sustainability of our forested rural landscape the ARC provides numerous programs and workshops to assist private forest owners with their land. We recognize that the wise use of forests is crucial to the health and well being of the rural communities where they occur and influence neighboring regions that also benefit from the assets of forested lands. These assets include a source of clean drinking water, scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, and income derived from timber use in wood products as well as the role agroforestry or forest farming contributes. The ARC conducts many programs for forest landowners to assist them in making wise land use decisions. Topics include the importance of forest management, the cultivation of ginseng and mushrooms, land conservation and easements, maple syrup production, forest pests, and pruning and grafting workshops.

The Siuslaw Watershed Model Forest

One of the goals of the 142 acre Siuslaw Watershed Model Forest is to raise the knowledge level of landowners, foresters and loggers regarding long-term forest management, including the importance of using Best Management Practices when harvesting timber. While still in its early phase the Siuslaw Watershed Model Forest will host many of the education activities using locally based research on the impacts of various forest management practices on water quality. It will offer an opportunity to demonstrate how the balance between a working landscape and water quality can be maintained while providing a practical means of studying and monitoring the effects of forest management on ecosystem functions and water quality. In addition the Siuslaw Watershed Model Forest currently provides the opportunity to learn about Agroforestry practices, or forest farming. Agroforestry is inclusive of sustainable woodlot management as well as the use of forest land for the production of crops such as ginseng, mushrooms, and other high-value products. Finally the Siuslaw Watershed Model Forest

offers the chance to simply explore and enjoy beautiful mixed deciduous woodlands, pine plantations, meadows, ponds and streams with a panoramic view of the majestic northern Catskills in the background.

Watershed Forestry Program

General overview:

The Watershed Forestry Program is a partnership that supports well-managed working forests as a beneficial land use for water quality protection and rural economic viability. Forests cover more than 75% of the watershed land area, and a majority of this forest land is privately managed by thousands of individual landowners. As implemented by the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) using core funds provided by New York City DEP and matching grants from the USDA Forest Service, the Watershed Forestry Program promotes good forest stewardship practices among watershed landowners and the wood products industry through a combination of cost-sharing incentives, professional training, technical assistance, and education programs targeting upstate and downstate audiences. The underlying premise is that a healthy watershed forest provides multiple benefits – safe, clean drinking water for downstate consumers, a viable rural economy for upstate communities, and protected open space which benefits everyone.

For landowners:

WAC offers a range of programs and services to assist private forest landowners with becoming good land stewards. First, WAC provides funding to watershed landowners having at least 10 acres of forest land to support their development of written long-term forest management plans with assistance from trained professional foresters. WAC also provides limited funding assistance to support the implementation of forest management plans, with a focus on timber stand improvements, tree planting, riparian improvements, wildlife improvements, and invasive species control projects. Throughout the year, WAC also collaborates with several local partners to conduct a range of educational programs targeting forest landowners. These programs include workshops, conferences, property site visits, model forest field days, and various publications.