

Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC)

The CWC offers financial assistance to towns, villages and counties within the West of Hudson NYC Watershed. They include Stormwater Retrofit grants to correct existing runoff and erosion problems resulting in deteriorated water quality; reimbursement for stormwater controls installed in conjunction with new construction; Planning and Assessment grants for community-wide evaluation of stormwater infrastructure; and Local Technical Assistance grants to create or update zoning laws, comprehensive plans, highway maintenance plans or other measures to enhance community and environmental quality. Loans are also available for installation of community wastewater system lateral pipes and decommissioning of septic systems that have been replaced by community systems or wastewater treatment plants. Finally, 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. For more information, call 845-586-1400; or go to www.cwconline.org.

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 towns:

The Watershed Forestry Program has developed a municipal training program for local officials (planning boards, town supervisors, etc.) who are interested in learning about the public benefits of private forest land, in addition to understanding the importance of a working forest landscape.

Catskill Center for Conservation & Development

Open Space Planning & Outreach

Catskill Center staff routinely offer presentations and provide information materials to

landowner groups and others about the use of conservation easements and other topics related to land conservation and natural resources. The Catskill Center works cooperatively with other land trusts operating in the region, and has periodically hosted Catskill Region Land Trust Roundtables to encourage effective communication and collaboration among the region's land trusts. The Catskill Center has also extended its GIS mapping resources and expertise to partner land trusts, to help them better visualize and plan conservation initiatives in their area of interest. The GIS resource is critical for planning conservation projects, and it is the primary mechanism The Catskill Center uses for visualizing and analyzing a variety of natural and human landscape features, as well as keeping track of all of the land conservation activity in the region.

The Catskill Center serves on the NYSDEC Region 3 and Region 4 Open Space Advisory Committees, providing policy and priority project recommendations for the New York State Open Space Plan, and often provides input on management plans for units of Catskill Forest Preserve and other public lands in the region. Participation in open space planning initiatives with other non-profit partners or government agencies is very important role for The Catskill Center, and we specialize in bringing a balanced perspective of resource protection and sustainable development.

General Technical Assistance

The Catskill Center is available to provide general technical assistance to any one of the over 150 units of local government (towns, villages, etc.) in the Catskills. We routinely provide help with grants-writing, general planning, land use and zoning issues, as well as assistance in evaluating development proposals. We also occasionally draft land use regulations and assist communities with comprehensive planning. Finally, through the dissemination of information, The Catskill Center facilitates coordinated planning efforts at the local and regional levels.