

DELAWARE COUNTY STREAM CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
TWO-YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR THE EAST BRANCH DELAWARE RIVER
(PEPACTON RESERVOIR BASIN)



Floodplain enhancement at Vly Creek and Emory Brook in Fleischmanns

May 2014 - April 2016

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Introduction:

A comprehensive Stream Corridor Management Plan (SCMP) for the East Branch Delaware River (EBDR) was completed in December 2007 by the Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District (DCSWCD) Stream Corridor Management Program, New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP), and Delaware County Planning Department (DCPD). In this Action Plan, DCSWCD and NYCDEP continue with the implementation phase of the local Stream Corridor Management Plan's (SCMP) 19 recommendations. This Two-Year Action Plan for the East Branch Delaware River outlines certain action items that are pertinent to the implementation of the SCMP recommendations and the overall program development.

Throughout the development of the East Branch Delaware SCMP, a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) was formed to represent the interests of local officials, residents, businesses, and agencies living and working in the NYC watershed. The PAC assisted in the development of the SCMP recommendations and is now working collaboratively to guide the Stream Corridor Management Program in the implementation of the SCMP recommendations. The PAC provides review and comment on program development and projects to the SCMP and the DCSWCD board. The PAC is further broken down into four sub-committees: Fisheries and Recreation, Education and Outreach, Highway Infrastructure, and Floodplain Management. These sub-committee contribute their expertise to the relevant recommendations of the SCMP.

Summary of Program Status:

In response to Tropical Storms Irene and Lee, DCSWCD, DCPD and DEP have committed resources aiding EBDR communities to recover from the flood and build greater resiliency to future flood events. This is evident in the action items of this plan, in particular its support for flood hazard mitigation planning, flood recovery projects under the Emergency Watershed Protection program, floodplain mapping and continuation of flood response training. Additionally, the program has begun to implement the Local Flood Hazard Analysis (LFA), a component of the overall Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Program.

Delaware Watershed Stream Management Implementation Grant

The Delaware Watershed Stream Management Implementation Grant Program is available to fund construction projects and programs within the NYC water supply watersheds for the implementation of the recommendations and the SCMP for municipalities that have adopted the Stream Corridor Management Plan and signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Delaware County Soil

and Water Conservation District. This program is the Delaware basin version of the FAD required Stream Management Implementation grant Program (SMIP).

Stream Corridor Management Program (SCMPr)

Stream Corridor Management Program shall consist of all partnering agencies, such as the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District, New York City Department of Environmental Protection and Delaware County Planning Department.

Catskill Stream Buffer Initiative (CSBI) Funding

Catskill Stream Buffer Initiative (CSBI) will work with local streamside landowners to provide assistance to enhance and maintain riparian buffers. Technical assistance from staff members can include; landowner consultation, landowner riparian operation and maintenance plans, and vegetative plantings to establish riparian buffers.

Demonstration Project Funds

Demonstration projects provide significant opportunities to design, build, and monitor cutting-edge stream management techniques. These projects make use of fluvial geomorphic principles and may involve complete reconstruction.

Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP) Funds

Provide assistance for the implementation of Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP) in areas that are currently not eligible under the Program's guidelines.

Local Flood Analysis Funds

Provide assistance for communities to define specific flood hazards and options for mitigating those hazards. Once potential projects are identified through the analysis, work with communities to secure funding for and implement the mitigation projects.

Recommendation 1: Scientifically-Based Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention

The SCMPr should work cooperatively with the NYCDEP and the Project Advisory Committee to improve immediate post-flood emergency intervention capabilities by demonstrating and training contractors and local municipalities in scientifically-based stream principles, procedures and methods.

Action Items:

1. Provide 4-hour update of Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention training to contractors, local municipalities, and agencies.
 - May 2014 – December 2016 Workshop, SCMPr Staff, NYC DEP Project Managers
2. Continue to provide technical assistance to municipalities with emergency stream intervention measures during flood recovery.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff

Recommendation 2: Provide Technical Assistance To Local Highway Departments

The SCMPr, in cooperation with the Delaware County Department of Public Works (DCDPW) and the NYCDEP, should enhance communication with local highway departments. These efforts should be developed and implemented in cooperation with the PAC and the DCPD, and utilize Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) program funds for stormwater retrofits and other practices as appropriate.

Action Items:

1. Provide technical assistance and support on the Medium Hydraulic Structure Study SMIP contract to evaluate watershed culverts for hydraulic capacity and prioritize them for upgrade through the SMIP Grant Program.
 - May 2014 – October 2015 DCDPW, SCMPr Staff
2. Provide technical assistance and educational support to municipalities for sizing and the design of routine culvert replacements.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff, DCDPW
3. Enable municipalities to apply for funding through the grants program for infrastructure projects causing stream instability and/or water quality issues.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff, DCDPW
4. Attend regular meetings of Municipal Highway Superintendents and keep them up to date on status of SWCD projects, training opportunities and flood recovery efforts.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Project Coordinator

5. **Advise and assist EBDR communities and the DCPD with updates to the local Highway Management Plans to address best management practices as they relate to roadway and stormwater infrastructure improvements.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff, DCPD, DCDPW and EBDR communities**

6. **Provide technical assistance to EBDR community highway departments and DCDPW by reviewing potential stream crossings including ;large culverts and bridges.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff, DCDPW and EBDR communities**

7. **Continue to support best management practices for construction of stream crossings through the SMIP Grant Program by allowing the acquisition of necessary equipment (i.e. dewatering pumps, hydro-seeder, etc.)**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff, DCPD, DCDPW and PAC**

Recommendation 3: Implement the Streamside Assistance Program (renamed Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative)

The SCMP_r should implement the Streamside Assistance Program as defined in the 2007 Filtration Avoidance Determination. This effort should be developed and implemented in cooperation with the PAC.

Action Items:

1. Continue the implementation of the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) through the DCSWCD Stream Corridor Management Program Contract funded by NYC DEP.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMP_r Staff, NYC DEP CSBI Coordinator
2. Continue to update and enhance the protocol for prioritizing the implementation of the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative.
 - May 2014 – April 2014 SCMP_r Coordinator, DCSWCD CSBI Coordinator, NYC DEP CSBI Coordinator
3. Development of a minimum of 5 Riparian Corridor Management Plans (RCMP) per year (between the EBDR and WBDR).
 - June 2014 – June 2016 DCSWCD CSBI Coordinator, DCSWCD SCMP_r Staff,
4. Implement a minimum of 3 Riparian Corridor Management Plans per year by means of contractual planting services. Implement 1 demonstration or educational riparian Corridor Management Plan per year by means of volunteer plantings or landowner plantings.
 - June 2014 – June 2016 DCSWCD CSBI Coordinator
5. Education and outreach for CSBI shall be accomplished by facilitating at least one riparian workshop for landowners

per year. Education and outreach shall also be accomplished by active participation at relevant local events, direct mailings, web site usage, and local media.

- June 2014 – June 2016 DCSWCD CSBI Coordinator
6. Secure landowner license and maintenance agreements for long-term access by DCSWCD and NYCDEP to facilitate ongoing maintenance and monitoring.
 - June 2014 – June 2016 DCSWCD CSBI Coordinator
 7. Develop planting plans as requested for applicable Stream Program projects in coordination with Stream Program staff.
 - June 2014 – June 2016 DCSWCD SCMP Staff and DCSWCD CSBI Coordinator
 8. Develop and implement a monitoring program for riparian buffer projects to identify project success and effectiveness.
 - June 2014 – June 2016 DCSWCD CSBI Coordinator, NYC DEP CSBI Coordinator
 9. Develop local resources to maintain availability of native vegetation planting stock as needed.
 - June 2014 – June 2016 DCSWCD CSBI Coordinator

Recommendation 4: Continue with and Enhance Education and Outreach Efforts

The SCMPr should coordinate with the NYCDEP and the PAC to better inform and educate all stakeholders regarding stream stewardship, the importance of floodplain function, stream processes, and the importance of streamside vegetation. Education and outreach efforts should be developed and implemented in cooperation with the PAC, with cooperation from the Catskill Watershed Corporation's (CWC) Education Program.

Action Items:

1. Fund and implement education and outreach activities identified and prioritized by the Project Advisory Committee Education and Outreach sub-committee.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 PAC, SCMPr Staff
2. Continue to educate municipalities and communities on the importance of floodplain function and the benefits of preserving floodplains, and opportunities for improving flood protection and reducing flood damages through participation in East Branch Delaware Flood Commission, the Map Steering Committees supporting the refinement and use of flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) and other State/Federal programs.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD Staff, SCMPr Staff, NYSDEC
3. Work with EBDR area schools and BOCES programs to educate students and promote awareness of stream process, floodplain preservation and streamside vegetation. Develop and promote a stream awareness program that can be used in EBDR area schools and with you the groups.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff, DCPD staff, NYCDEP, CWC, BOCES and EBDR area schools

4. **Provide training and outreach to area real estate agents and bankers about the importance of preserving floodplains and the required disclosures of floodplain development permitting requirements.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMP Staff, DCPD staff and NYCDEP**

Recommendation 5: Provide Annual Floodplain Development Permit Training for Municipal Officials

The SCMPr, in cooperation with the NYSDEC, NYCDEP, DCPD and PAC should work toward providing annual Floodplain Development Permit training for local municipal officials.

Action Items:

1. Provide opportunity for annual floodplain development permit training for local municipal officials.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 PAC, SCMPr Staff, NYC DEP, NYS DEC
2. Development opportunity for Municipal Officials to obtain credits for participating in educational activities.
 - May 2014 - April 2016 DCPD, SCMPr Staff
3. Support training of Floodplain Administrators (Code Officers), Planners and Stream Managers in various aspects of floodplain management through State and Federal programs to enable them to achieve and maintain Certification as Floodplain Managers through the Association of State Floodplain Managers.
 - May 2014 –April 2016 DEC, FEMA, ASFM, NYSAFSM

Recommendation 6: Enhance Local Land Use Laws and Ordinances

The SCMP_r, in cooperation with the DCPD, NYCDEP, PAC and other interested stakeholders, should work toward including a stream management component in local Comprehensive Plans, local laws and local management practices as may be appropriate.

Action Items:

1. **Provide assistance to local municipalities in development of stream components in local comprehensive plans, local laws and local management practices.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 PAC, DCPD, SCMP_r Staff, NYC DEP**
2. **Provide technical assistance to local municipalities to enhance local laws and local management practices.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 PAC, DCPD, SCMP_r Staff, NYC DEP**
3. **Continue to provide technical review assistance to local planning and town boards when working on projects that include streams, culverts or floodplain infringements.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, SCMP_r Staff**

Recommendation 7: Adopt Principles of Stream Stewardship at the Municipal Level

Local legislative boards should incorporate principles of stream stewardship into the creation and/or revision of their town or village comprehensive plans and local land use regulations.

Action Items:

1. Adoption completed for the following:

Towns:

Andes, Bovina, Halcott, Hamden, Hardenburg, Middletown, Roxbury

Villages:

Margaretville, Fleischmanns

2. Promote and secure adoption and extension of MOUs within EBDR communities

- May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, SCMPr Staff

3. Encourage municipalities to continue to develop good stream stewardship in their local comprehensive plans and land use regulations.

- May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, SCMPr Staff, NYC DEP

4. Encourage municipalities to continue to participate in the PAC and Sub-committees.

- May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff, NYC DEP, DCPD

Recommendation 8: Streamline Stream Work Permitting

The Stream Corridor Management Program (SCMPr) proposes that the permitting process for stream work be simplified and streamlined. It is proposed that an interagency working group composed of representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District (DCSWCD), New York City Department of Environmental Protection, neighboring Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Delaware County Department of Public Works (DCDPW) and local community leaders identify ways to delegate, simplify and streamline the permitting process for the benefit of all agencies and stakeholders.

Action Items:

1. **Work in cooperation with NYSDEC, US Army Corps of Engineers, NYC DEP, and DCDPW to enhance the authority thresholds of the DCSWCD General Permit as delegated by the NYSDEC for approved stream management practices within the County.**
 - **2014 – 2016 SCMPr Staff, NYCDEP RRE and SMP staff, US Corps of Engineers, DCDPW**

Recommendation 9: Selective Stream Gravel Management

The SCMP, NYCDEP, and the Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs should work with the NYSDEC and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify and fund an independent stream scientist or engineer to create a guidance document with recommendations on how, when and where to scientifically manage problematic gravel deposits within the East Branch Delaware River system. Such a document might require a study. In this interim, the Delaware County SCMP Draft Stream Maintenance Protocol would be employed.

Action Items:

- **Scientifically study a sub watershed in the East Branch Basin to develop regional sediment discharge rating curve that can be used for**
 - **Characterizing the current sediment transport conditions and evaluate the sediment transport capacity of the system.**
 - **Develop dimensionless sediment discharge rating curves for use throughout the region.**
- **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMP Staff, NYCDEP**
- **Develop and implement an education and outreach program to teach municipal leaders and community members about the specific stream processes involved in the mobilization and transport of gravel and debris.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMP Staff**

- **Encourage one or two municipalities to apply for grant funding through the SCMPr to scientifically study stream reaches with identified gravel deposition issues for potential case studies to be used in Item 1.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff**

- **Design and implement two demonstration projects that utilize the existing gravel management protocol developed by the SCMPr.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff**

- **Develop a Delaware County protocol for municipalities to manage woody debris in stream systems.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 DCSWCD SCMPr Coordinator, NYC DEP Project Manager, DCDPW**

- **Undertake a periodic review of the gravel maintenance protocol developed by the SCMPr.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff, NYC DEP Staff**

Recommendation 10: Provide Assistance to Community Watershed Groups/Associations and Government Entities

The SCMP, working with the PAC and NYCDEP, should provide technical assistance and general direction to community watershed groups/associations and government entities that are actively engaged in grassroots stream stewardship/management activities.

Action Items:

1. Provide technical assistance and general direction to community watershed groups/association and government entities.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, SCMP staff, NYC DEP

2. Provide technical assistance and support to East Branch Delaware River Flood Commission.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMP staff, NYC DEP, DCPD

Recommendation 11: Participation with the Delaware County Action Plan (DCAP)

The Stream Corridor Management Program will continue to work closely with all DCAP participants to integrate the East Branch Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan and its recommendations into all relevant components of the Delaware County Action Plan.

Action Items:

1. **Attend regular meetings of DCAP and advocate for inclusion of Stream Corridor Management Plan and its recommendations into all relevant components of the Delaware County Action Plan.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD Director, DCSWCD Executive Director, SCMPr Coordinator**

Recommendation 12: Debris Management

The SCMPr should cooperate with the Project Advisory Committee, Delaware County Solid Waste Coordinator and NYCDEP to develop a protocol for inventorying floodplain debris and assist municipalities and communities with developing appropriate action plans for debris management.

Action Items:

1. Develop a Delaware County protocol for municipalities to manage woody debris in stream systems.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 DCSWCD SCMPr Coordinator, NYC DEP Project Manager, DCDPW
2. Design and implement two demonstration projects that utilize the woody debris protocol developed by the SCMPr.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff
3. Undertake a periodic review of the woody debris protocol developed by the SCMPr.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff, NYC DEP Staff

Recommendation 13: Prioritization of Identified Stream Intervention Projects

The SCMP, working with the PAC and NYCDEP, should prioritize potential restoration reaches, including the type and level of intervention needed.

Action Items:

1. Design and implement approved grant projects and programs within the East Branch of the Delaware River.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMP Staff
 - Projects:
 - i. Little Dingle Hill Stream Stabilization
 - ii. Holiday Brook Stream Stabilization
 - iii. Gulf Road Stream Stabilization
 - iv. Briggs Road Stream Stabilization
 - Programs:
 - i. Ballentine Park Master Plan
 - ii. Fleischmanns Local Flood Analysis
 - iii. Middletown Local Flood Analysis
2. Design and construct the following restoration projects:
 - May 2014 - April 2016 SCMP Staff
 - i. Floodplain Restoration Project on the Vly Creek at Mill Street in Fleischmanns (EWP Site 4)

Recommendation 14: Enhancement of East Branch Watershed Fisheries

The SCMP, in cooperation with the NYSDEC, the NYCDEP, and the PAC, should provide support to local grass-roots efforts, watershed associations, and fisheries organizations to enhance existing fisheries in the East Branch Delaware River watershed.

Action Items:

1. Provide technical assistance and general direction to local grass-roots efforts, watershed associations and fisheries organizations to enhance existing fisheries.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, SCMP staff, NYC DEP
2. Continue to work with the East Branch Recreation and Fisheries in the development and implementation of the recreation management plan.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, SCMP staff, NYC DEP
3. Encourage groups to work with municipalities to apply for funding through the grants program for high priority critical impacted fishing areas that are improperly sized or aligned and causing stream instability and/or water quality issues.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMP Staff, DCPD, NYC DEP, PAC

Recommendation 15: Enhance Recreation Opportunities

The SCMPr, in cooperation with the PAC and NYCDEP, should assist communities to enhance streamside recreational opportunities where possible. These efforts should be developed and implemented in cooperation with the PAC and with assistance with the DCPD.

Action Items:

1. Provide technical assistance to communities to enhance streamside recreational opportunities.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, SCMPr staff, NYC DEP
2. Work in collaboration with municipalities in the Towns of Roxbury, Middletown, Andes and Villages of Margaretville and Fleischmanns, the Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce and the East Branch Recreation and Fisheries sub-committee to implement the East Branch Enhanced Recreational Access Plan. Together, support programs and create events to advance education and awareness of the importance of stream stewardship and expand access and promote enjoyment of the streams of the East Branch Delaware watershed.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, SCMPr staff, NYC DEP
3. Work with the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce and the Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce to partner with the CWC and the NYCDEP on activities, programs and initiatives to promote recreational fishing and boating on the Pepacton Reservoir. Developing appropriate events such as sponsored fishing days, boating safety and fishing safety courses, and encouragement of kayak and canoe group events will increase use and expand opportunities for area businesses and vendors. .
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff, DCPD, NYC DEP, EBDR Recreation and Fisheries sub-committee, CWC, DC Chamber of Commerce

Recommendation 16: Invasive Species Management

The SCMP, in cooperation with NYCDEP, PAC, TNC, Catskill Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP), and other interested stakeholders, should continue its involvement with invasive species management, following and promoting all invasive plant programs in the East Branch watershed. These efforts should be developed and implemented in cooperation with the PAC.

Action Items:

1. Continue to work collaboratively with Delaware County Solid Waste Facility to compost Japanese Knotweed.
 - May 2014– April 2016 SCMP staff, DCDPW

2. Continue to participate in CRISP
 - May 2014– April 2016 SCMP staff, DCPD

Recommendation 17: Flood Hazard Mitigation and Flood Response and Recovery

The SCMPr should continue to work with the Delaware County Planning Department and Emergency Services to implement the county-wide, multi-jurisdictional, All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. The SCMPr should continue to work with the Delaware County Board of Supervisors, the NYCDEP, the NYSDEC, and the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) to revise the FEMA flood study and floodplain maps.

Action Items:

1. Provide documentation of completed flood hazard mitigation projects to the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff
2. Provide assistance as requested by the Director of Emergency Services to the Emergency Operations Center during flood related events.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff
3. Develop a list of historic problem areas where streams impact infrastructure during flood events and correlate to stream gage stage heights.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff
4. Work with communities to understand, utilize and revise (FEMA) floodplain maps.
 - May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, NYC DEP Project Manager, NYSDEC, FEMA

5. **Work with communities to update local ordinances, laws and comprehensive land use plans to incorporate elements of the Stream Corridor Management Plan, its recommendations and stream stewardship principles.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, SCMPr Staff**

6. **Provide technical assistance to municipalities with emergency stream intervention measures during flood recovery.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff**

7. **Continue to support USGS efforts to create inundation mapping throughout the basin.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, SCMPr Staff**

8. **Work to create a new educational program that promotes a better understanding of meteorology, stream gages and other assessment tools throughout the East Branch Basin schools to better understand and model stream flows and assist with supporting grant application for schools to utilize existing and/or purchase stream gages and rain fall gages to better model the hydrology in the basin.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 DCPD, SCMPr Staff**

9. **Facilitate and support scientific flood modeling studies throughout the East Branch basin**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPR staff, DEP**
 - **Continue to promote, support and give technical assistance to the East Branch Flood Commission in the Town of Middletown and The Village of Fleischmanns Local Flood Analysis**
 - **Continue to promote, support and give technical assistance to the NY Rising Community Reconstruction program in the Village of Margaretville**
 - **Prepare a prioritization plan and schedule for implementing LFA in other EBDR population centers**

10. **Design and implement flood mitigation practices including, but not limited, to floodplain reclamation, scientific channel dimensioning, and natural stream design techniques throughout the East Branch basin.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 SCMPr Staff, DEP**

Recommendation 18: Utilize Existing Funding Sources

The SCMPr should cooperate with the NYCDEP to explore opportunities for existing funding sources to enable implementation of recommendations identified in this Stream Corridor Management Plan.

Action Items:

1. **Continue to explore opportunities for utilizing existing funding sources to implement recommendations.**
 - **May 2014 – April 2016 DCSWCD SCMPr Coordinator**

Recommendation 19: Develop a Process for Updating the East Branch Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan

In cooperation with the PAC and the NYCDEP, the Stream Corridor Management Program should develop a process for updating the East Branch Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan.

Action Items:

1. **Work with the Project Advisory Committee and its Sub-Committees to initiate a comprehensive review of The East Branch Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan and initiate a process to update the plan as required.**
 - **November 2013 PAC, DCPD, SCMP Staff, DEP**