



August 1, 2017

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*Photo caption: Mike Reynolds, Town of Woodstock Highway Superintendent, stands in front of the Beaver Kill stream restoration project site. The Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District is about to begin construction. Courtesy of L. Zucker 2017.*

### **Stream Restoration to Begin in Mink Hollow**

*Lake Hill, NY* - The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program is about to begin a project to restore stability and reduce erosion over 2,000 feet of the Beaver Kill stream in the Lake Hill area of Woodstock.

The project, overseen by the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District ([UCSWCD](#)), will be constructed immediately upstream and downstream of Van Hoagland Road in Mink Hollow starting in August and ending in September. “Construction will not affect the Van Hoagland Road bridge and is expected to take eight weeks to build,” said Adam Doan, the manager of the project for the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Both New York City and the City of Kingston rely on the stream for drinking water. The NYC Department of Environmental Protection is funding the project in an effort to reduce the amount of sediment reaching the Ashokan Reservoir. The Beaver Kill joins the Esopus Creek at Mt. Tremper and flows into NYC’s Ashokan Reservoir. The stream project will be constructed on land owned by the City of Kingston.

There are two separate sites of erosion being dealt with during the construction project. The Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District identified the sites as a high priority for restoration in the 2015 stream management plan for the Beaver Kill. The two failing hillslopes were flagged as contributors of suspended sediments that reduce water clarity and contaminate drinking water.

The stream will be restored to a more stable configuration that is designed to withstand frequent, typical flooding without excessive erosion. Two eroding hillslopes, the largest of which rises 110 feet above the channel, will be stabilized with rocks and drainage swales.

The hillslopes will be cleared of large trees that are falling into the stream channel. The Town of Woodstock has been worried the trees could block the Mink Hollow Road bridge during the next flood. Blocked bridges can be undermined by erosion and dislodged.

“Erosion here has been a problem here for a long time,” said Town of Woodstock Highway Superintendent Mike Reynolds. “The site may heal for a short time, but then we get a big event and it all ends up downstream. This doesn’t go away on its own.”

The Soil and Water District is overseeing project design and construction. The District contracted with engineering firm Milone & MacBroom, Inc. to develop the restoration design plans. The project will be constructed by Evergreen Mountain Contracting, Inc. out of West Kill, NY.

After construction begins, the project site will look raw for several weeks. Mink Hollow residents can expect to see large trucks carrying rocks on Mink Hollow Road. Stream water will be pumped out of the channel and around the project site to protect downstream areas from sediment during construction.

The site will be fully restored. The stream's natural boulders will be placed back in the channel, and native Catskill vegetation will be replanted to reduce stream bank erosion. The plantings will be monitored to ensure successful growth.

Since 2010, the stream program has restored about 2 miles of stream and stabilized 1.5 acres of hillslope with funding from the NYC Department of Environmental Protection and federal government.

Similar stream restoration projects on the Stony Clove Creek near Chichester have worked to reduce erosion and improve water clarity at certain flows. The same results are expected for the Beaver Kill.

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program ([AWSMP](#)) is a partnership between Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

For more information, contact Adam Doan at [adam.doan@ashokanstreams.org](mailto:adam.doan@ashokanstreams.org) or Leslie Zucker at [laz5@cornell.edu](mailto:laz5@cornell.edu), or (845) 688-3047.

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