

Connecting Landowners and Native Riparian Buffers with Assistance from Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative



Bobby Taylor – CSBI Coordinator

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program

Ulster Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

3130 Route 28, Shokan, NY

845-688-3047 ext. 106

Bobby.Taylor@AshokanStreams.org



Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative

At the Root of Streamside Protection

What is a Riparian Buffer?



Beaver Kill Creek – Willow, NY, Healthy Mature Forested Buffer. 2012

Riparian buffers are the vegetated areas next to streams, creeks, rivers, ponds, lakes and other water bodies.

Forested buffers in the catskills should consist of a diverse mix of trees, shrubs, perennials and native grasses.

Benefits of Stream Buffers

Forested stream buffers provide a variety of benefits to the waterbody and streamside residents who live along the riverbank.

- **Habitat and Biodiversity**
- **Stream Stability & Erosion Control**
- **Water Quality**
- **Financial Savings**



Diverse plant community along Little Beaverkill Creek – Woodstock, NY, 2018

Buffer Benefits - Habitat and Biodiversity

- Habitat
- Wildlife corridors
- Food for aquatic insects
- Shading
- Stream complexity
- Siltation prevention



Buffer Benefits - Stream Stability

- Provide flood protection
- Stabilize streambanks and streambeds



Stream Buffers - Grow Stronger with Time

- Rock armoring vs Riparian Buffer Restoration



Buffer Benefits - Water Quality

- Prevent sedimentation
- Remove nutrients
- Moderate temperatures



Buffer Benefits - Financial Savings

- Minimize property damage
- Increase Property Values
- Reduce Maintenance cost
- Reduce Municipal Investment



Our Catskill Rivers are in need of Re-Leaf!





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CSBI Program Goal

- Inform, educate and assist private streamside landowners in sustainable stewardship of their riparian areas through **protection, enhancement, restoration** or **management** by providing:
 1. Property specific Riparian Corridor Management Plans
 2. Best Management Practice (BMP) design and installation including technical and monetary assistance
 3. Educational and training materials

Eligibility and Grant Process

Who is eligible? Any private landowner with streamside property in the New York City West of Hudson Watershed who live in a municipality that has adopted stream management plans.

- Landowners contact their local csbi coordinator to set up site visit, once site visit has been conducted
 - CSBI coordinators identify Best Management Practices with the landowner
 - CSBI coordinator develop a customized management plan that is specific to individual landowner's goals
 - Landowners apply to the grant program for specific recommended BMP(s)
 - Applications scored and assistance awarded
 - Practices designed and implemented by your local Soil & Water Conservation Districts
 - Landowner enjoys the beautiful newly enhanced buffer
 - SWCD staff monitors the installed practices and vegetation through 5 years for a period of at least 5 years after installation

List of acceptable practices

- Tree and/or shrub planting
- Herbaceous plug planting
- Pollinator seed establishment
- Rip-rap joint planting
- Live fascine placement
- Live stakes/post placement
- Root wad placement
- Brush layering
- Stream bank grading
- Invasive species removal



Catskill Native Vegetation



Blue Flag Iris



American Hophornbeam



Butterfly Weed



Red Osier Dogwood



White Turtlehead



Winterberry Holly



Hobblebush



Cardinal Flower



Highbush Cranberry



Buttonbush



Highbush Blueberry



False Sunflower



Yellow Birch

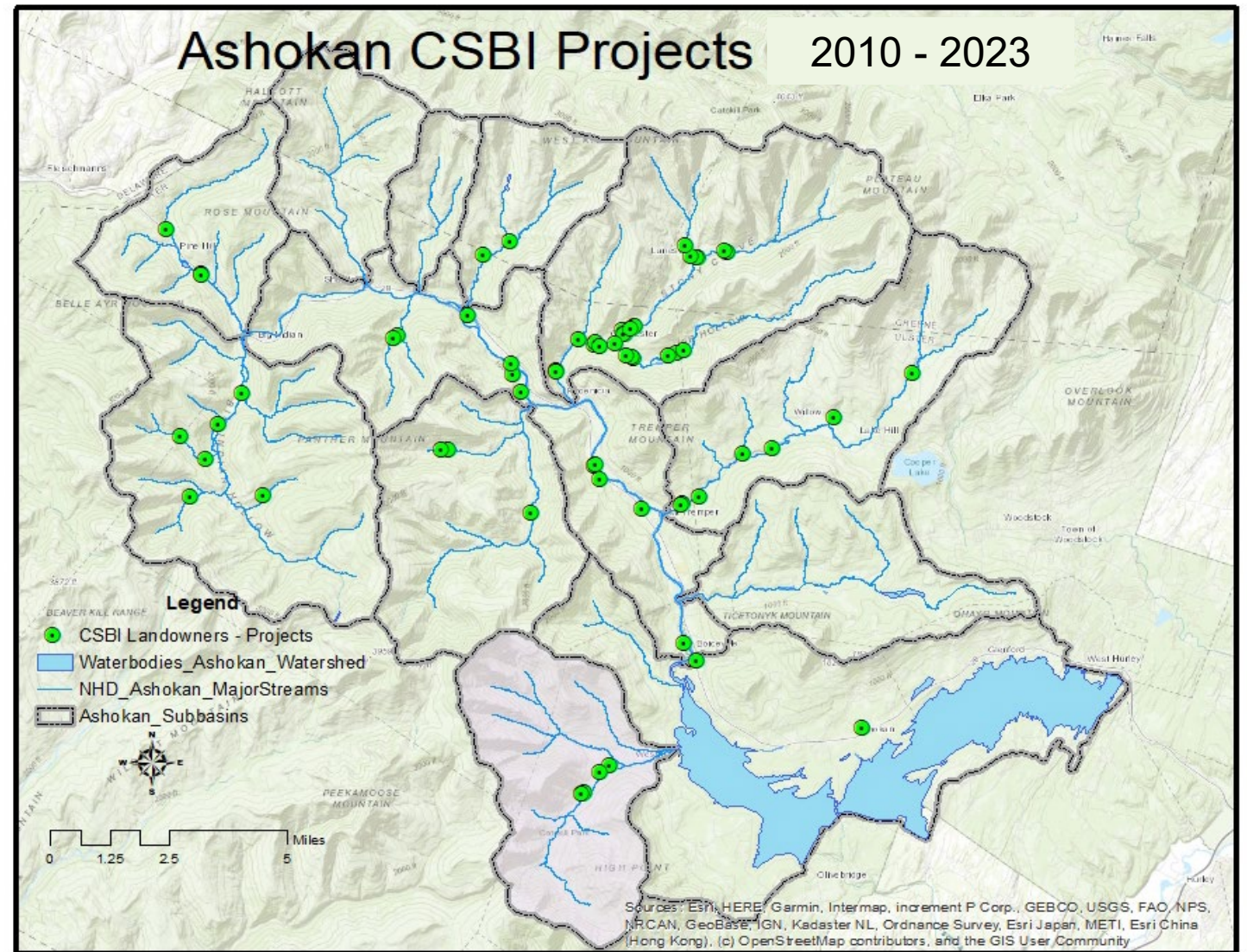


Wild Bergamot

CSBI Program in the Ashokan Watershed

CSBI began doing riparian buffer projects in the Ashokan Watershed in 2010.

- 225+ site visits recorded
- 75+ riparian buffer projects installed
- 22,973 liner feet of streambank planted
- Nearly 17 acres of streamside lawn areas restored to tree and shrub community
- 13,000+ trees and shrubs planted
- 17,000+ live stakes installed



CSBI Project Potential



For additional information or to see if you qualify please reach out to me in the Shokan Office

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