

Our mission: We work with communities to protect and restore stream corridor stability and ecosystem integrity in the Ashokan Watershed.

About the

Ashokan Watershed

Stream Management Program

Who We Are

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) is a collaborative effort between three agencies:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC)

Coordinates community funding for stream related projects, works with local governments and other relevant groups and agencies on stream and floodplain programs and policies, and conducts education, training and outreach programs.

Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District (UCSWCD)

Coordinates and provides technical services such as stream assessments, construction of stream projects, and direct technical assistance to municipalities and landowners.

New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Provides technical assistance and focused field studies, integration with Stream Management Programs in the Ashokan, Schoharie, Delaware, Rondout and Neversink Watersheds and program funding through the DEP Stream Management Program.

The Ashokan Watershed Stakeholder Council is composed of 15-20 watershed stakeholders representing county, state and federal agencies, as well as watershed towns, non-profit organizations, and residents. The Stakeholder Council supports the program by reviewing the AWSMP's Annual Action Plans, staff projects, and Implementation Fund project proposals.

Other Working Groups, such as the Highway Managers Working Group and Education and Outreach Working Group, provide technical guidance to staff and enhance involvement of the local community.

What We Do

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program seeks to:

- Protect and Restore water quality, stream stability, and aquatic and streamside ecosystems, as well as reduce flooding and erosion hazards and enhance stream-based recreational opportunities
- Coordinate stream management activities in the watershed
- Educate local municipalities, landowners, students and tourists about stream stewardship practices
- Develop Stream Management Plans that provide the basis for the program's work in the Ashokan Watershed. The plans are a comprehensive review of stream characteristics, data, maps and recommended management strategies. The plans recommend measures that help to improve water quality, reduce flood risks to public infrastructure and private property, and improve the ecology of the stream and floodplain.

Ashokan Watershed
Stream Management Program

Who we serve:

Service Area

The Ashokan Watershed includes six towns (Shandaken, Olive, Woodstock, Hurley, Hunter, and Lexington) in Ulster and Greene counties. Most of our programs are restricted to the watershed.



Above: USGS staff and interns survey streams for a fish study supported by the Implementation Grant Program.



The Ashokan Watershed

A watershed is the land area that drains into a single feature — in this case the Ashokan Reservoir. This watershed provides high quality drinking water for nine million New Yorkers.

Local Governments

The AWSMP assists local governments with stream management by providing:

- Grants for stream and flood mitigation projects, education, training and planning that help to implement stream management plan recommendations
- Design and construction of stream stabilization projects
- Coordination and assistance with flood hazard mitigation and floodplain management
- Coordination and technical support for post-flood stream restoration
- Methods for comprehensively assesing and sizing road-stream crossings
- Training for local government staff and elected officials on topics such as stream restoration and floodplain management

Streamside Landowners

We assist landowners with streamside living by providing:

- Advice to landowners on managing streambanks and riparian areas
- Funding for riparian corridor restoration and streambank bioengineering (Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative)



Above: AWSMP oversees construction of stream restoration projects to stabilize and restore stream channels and improve water quality.

- Landowner workshops
- Educational materials, newsletters and factsheets
- Advice on flood-resilient sizing of privately managed stream crossings

Contractors and Watershed Professionals

AWSMP coordinates trainings and provides technical assistance to contractors and watershed professionals who carry out stream and floodplain management projects for landowners and local governments. The program also coordinates with regulatory agency staff on project designs, permit requirements, and trainings.

Other Groups and Agencies

The AWSMP coordinates with numerous groups and agencies to address the broad set of interests within the watershed. The program seeks input and involvement from environmental groups, landowner associations, and sporting and recreational groups in its stream management activities and educational programs.

We provide grants to organizations serving the watershed to implement stream management projects.

What we offer:

Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative

Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative
At the Root of Streamside Protection

The Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative informs and assists streamside landowners in the West of Hudson NYC Watershed through enhancement, management, and restoration of streamside vegetation. The initiative provides individualized stream corridor management plans, restoration designs, installation of plant materials, and educational materials and activities.

For more information about the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative, go to www.catskillstreams.org/catskill-streams-buffer-initiative. If you would like to apply for the program, speak with Bobby Taylor, CSBI Coordinator for the Ashokan Watershed at (845) 688-3047, or by email at bobby.taylor@ashokanstreams.org.

Ashokan Watershed Implementation Grants

Implementation grants support projects recommended in the Ashokan Watershed Action Plan, flood mitigation plans, and stream management plans.

Local Flood Analysis Grants

Local Flood Analysis grants are for projects to determine the causes and solutions to flooding and implement flood mitigation projects in population centers. Examples of funded projects:

$1,017,000: Boiceville Stream Crossing Enlargements
$214,040: Phoenicia Bridge & Floodplain Modeling

Education, Planning, Research and Assessment Grants

Grants support management and understanding of streams and floodplains. Examples of funded projects:

$90,500: Town of Shandaken, Repetitive Loss Area Analysis Update and Community Rating System Assistance

$135,000: Town of Olive, Shokan Flood Study and Stormwater Analysis / West Shokan Flood Study Update

$396,386: U.S. Geological Survey, Fish, Habitat, and Temperature Study at Stream Restoration Sites

$1,500: Trout Unlimited, Catskill Heritage Brook Trout Study





Above: Youth and families learn about streams during stream snorkeling and other outreach events for all ages. Right: Volunteer stream buffer planting.

Infrastructure and Stream Restoration Grants

Grants support municipalities with stream restoration and public infrastructure projects consistent with stream management plan recommendations. Stream projects are coordinated with Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District. Examples of funded projects:

$500,000: Town of Shandaken, Design and Construction of McKenley Hollow Stream Project

$145,660: Town of Olive, Engineering Design for Bostock Road and Red Maple Road Stream Crossings

For more information on AWSMP grant program, go online to www.ashokanstreams.org/projects-funding/.

Annual Events

Spring: Stream Explorers Youth Adventure

Summer: Summer Recreation and Booths at Festivals

Spring & Fall: Stream Walks, Watershed Conference

Throughout the Year: Community & Landowner Trainings



Detail from children's book "Little One and the Water" by artist and author Will Lytle

Program Staff

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County Staff

Position	Name	Email	Area of Responsibility
Executive Director	Melanie Forstrom	maf357@cornell.edu	Program oversight
Program Leader	Leslie Zucker	laz5@cornell.edu	Program manager, grant program manager
Education Program Manager	Sally Rodgers	ser287@cornell.edu	Flood hazard mitigation education, coordination
Stream Educator	Max Kelly	mk2397@cornell.edu	Stream education and technical assistance
Youth & Community Education Lead	Matt Savatgy	mjs593@cornell.edu	Youth and public education
Youth Educator	Shelley Savatgy	sjs477@cornell.edu	Education assistance
Operations Coordinator	Ally DeStefano	ard262@cornell.edu	Education program administration

Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District Staff

Position	Name	Email	Area of Responsibility
Executive Director	Jake Wedemeyer	jake.wedemeyer@ny.nacdnet.net	Program oversight
Stream Project Manager	Vacant (contact Jake W.)	jake.wedemeyer@ny.nacdnet.net	Project management and administration, field assessment, landowner technical assistance
Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) Coordinator	Vacant (contact Gabe Bonse)	gabebonse@ashokanstreams.org	CSBI program coordinator, streamside plantings, landowner technical assistance
Watershed Technician	Mark Tollefson	mark.tollefson@ashokanstreams.org	Project assistance, GIS lead, drone operations
Watershed Technician	Gabe Bonse	gabebonse@ashokanstreams.org	Project assistance
Program Assistant	Christine DeGroot	christine.degroot@ny.nacdet.net	Administrative support

NYC DEP Stream Management Program Staff

Position	Name	Email	Area of Responsibility
Section Chief	Dave Burns	dburns@dep.nyc.gov	Supervision for DEP Stream Management Program
Ashokan Basin Manager	Adam Trescott	atrescott@dep.nyc.gov	DEP related questions, project assessment
Stream Engineering	Doug Dekoskie	ddekoskie@dep.nyc.gov	Engineering design and review



Above: Tree roots provide excellent bank stabilization and habitat on a tributary to the Esopus Creek the Little Beaver Kill, near Willow, NY.

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County

Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District

NYC Environmental Protection

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