

# Kromma Kill

## A Hudson River Tributary

### Background

The Kromma Kill Watershed is located in the Town of Colonie and Village of Menands in Albany County, New York. The Kromma Kill stream channel, which originates on the campus of Siena College and flows to the Hudson River, is a 303d impaired water body and is prone to flooding and other water quality issues. The Kromma Kill flows through the Albany Rural Cemetery where stream bank erosion has necessitated gravesite relocation and recently caused a road collapse. A Brownfield site, the inactive and largely abandoned AI Tech Steel facility (NYSDEC site record, AI Tech Specialty Steel, Site Code 401003) is located in the watershed.

A 2004 Town of Colonie Stormwater Management Report indicates that PCBs have been detected in sediment downstream of the Brownfield site, and hazardous waste is known to be present in at least three portions of the total property of almost 100 acres. A groundwater remediation operation was conducted near the main plant area of the facility from 1995 to 2003 to decrease metal contamination. Although concentrations were significantly reduced, elevated levels of heavy metals (specifically nickel) have recently been detected in the soils downstream of the Brownfield site.<sup>1</sup> Community priorities within the watershed include several historic sites of national and regional importance, including a U.S. Presidential Gravesite (Chester Alan Arthur) and one of the first Hudson River trading post sites (Schuyler Flats National Historic Landmark).

### Watershed at a Glance

**Area:** 7.7 square miles

**Municipalities:** Town of Colonie, Village of Menands, City of Watervliet

**County:** Albany



Map of the Kromma Kill Watershed.  
(Credit: Kromma Kill Watershed Alliance)

<sup>1</sup> D. Liguori, D. Rigolino, and K. Rhoads, (2013) "Soil Quality Testing For Heavy Metal Contaminants Within The Kromma Kill Watershed" poster presented at Academic Celebration Day, Siena College.

## Watershed Group

Students and faculty have been using the Kromma Kill Watershed as a site for educational and research activities for the past several years. Recent efforts have focused on better understanding the hydrology of and water quality problems in the watershed with the ultimate goal of developing a restoration and management plan. Past activities to meet these goals have included GIS mapping, performing a Unified Stream Assessment (USA) to quantify the extent of erosion in the Albany Rural Cemetery, monitoring rainfall and streamflow, and designing and implementing green infrastructure projects. In 2014 these efforts were greatly expanded to include water quality monitoring (baseline water chemistry, nutrients and heavy metals) at several locations throughout the watershed and a Unified Subwatershed and Site Reconnaissance (USSR) study which is a rapid field survey designed by the Center for Watershed Protection to identify potential sources of pollution and recommend restoration strategies for urban watersheds. More information is available at the Kromma Kill Watershed Alliance website at <http://www.KrommaKillWatershed.org>.



### Contact:

Kromma Kill Watershed Alliance  
Kate Meierdiercks  
Department of Environmental Studies & Sciences  
Siena College  
515 Loudon Road  
Loudonville, New York 12211  
[bit.ly/kmeierdiercks](http://bit.ly/kmeierdiercks)  
Phone: 518-782-6936  
Email: [kmeierdiercks@siena.edu](mailto:kmeierdiercks@siena.edu)  
Website: <http://www.KrommaKillWatershed.org>



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

This fact sheet was prepared by the Hudson River Watershed Alliance in 2015 with input from Dr. Kate Meierdiercks. The production of the fact sheet was supported by the Hudson River Estuary Program, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, with support from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, in cooperation with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.