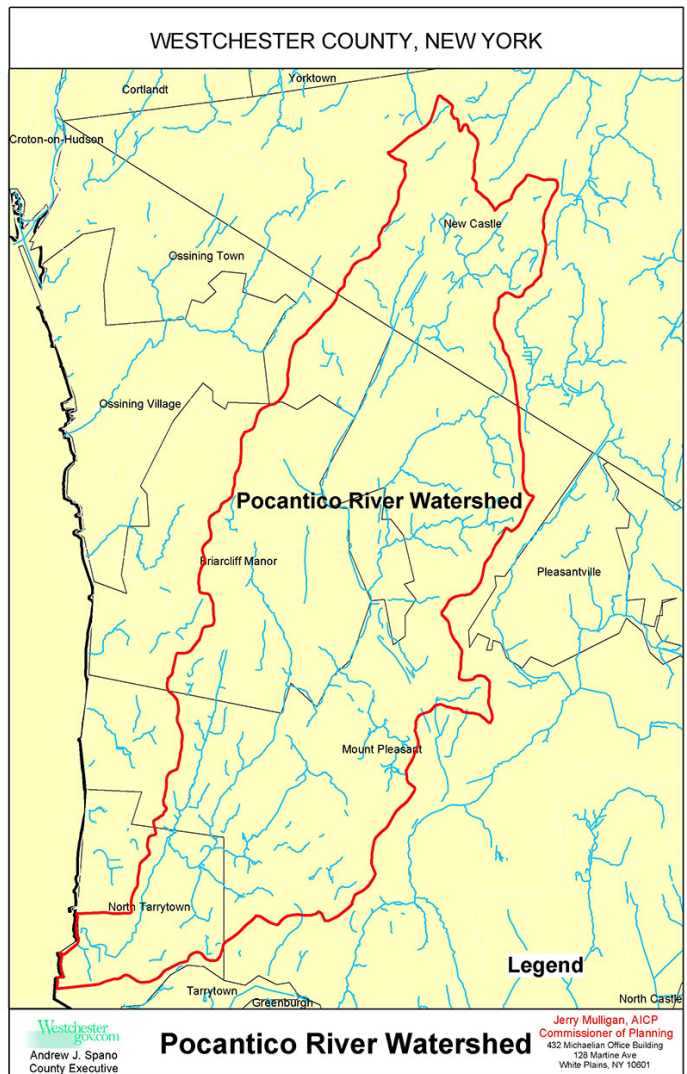


# Pocantico River

## A Hudson River Tributary

### Background

The Pocantico River Watershed is located in Westchester County, representing approximately 16 square miles or 10,000 acres in the Towns of Ossining, Mount Pleasant, and New Castle and the Villages of Briarcliff Manor and Sleepy Hollow. The headwaters begin at Echo Lake in the Town of New Castle, fed by numerous smaller tributaries, flowing less than ten miles south before emptying into the Hudson River at Devries Park and Kingsland Point Park in Sleepy Hollow. Though it is predominantly a suburban area north of New York City, the watershed includes 436 acres of mapped freshwater wetlands, additional forested areas, additional unmapped wetlands and 5% impervious surfaces. There are several dams along the Pocantico River, and the watershed includes several tourist and cultural attractions including the Old Croton Aqueduct, Kykuit Estate, Stone Barns, Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Philipsburg Manor, Devries Park and Kingsland Point Park.



### Watershed Group

Westchester County citizen volunteers sampled the water in the Pocantico River from 2004-2006 and 2008-2010 as part of the county's Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program; for much of that period, this monitoring focused mainly on one site in the Rockefeller State Park Preserve. Since 2010, Riverkeeper has been partnering with citizen scientists to monitor water quality at multiple sites in the Pocantico River. For more information on these efforts, please visit:

<http://www.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/pocantico-river-watershed/>



Pocantico River from Horseman Bridge in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery (K. Ringen).

The current Pocantico River watershed group was kicked off with a roundtable meeting on September 16, 2014 hosted by the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program and the Hudson River Watershed Alliance and attended by additional representatives from the Village of Sleepy Hollow, the Town of Mount Pleasant, Westchester County, Pace University, Riverkeeper, Trout Unlimited and others. In an initial survey of meeting participants, various goals were identified for the Pocantico by this group: to improve water quality and habitat; to improve fish, bird and invertebrate habitat; to document and restore migratory fishes; to enhance human use of the resource; to coordinate land use plans to enhance watershed quality; to fill data gaps; to raise awareness about fecal contamination; to reduce bacterial contamination; to prompt local involvement and action; and to facilitate sustained and coordinated funding of long-term studies. Following this first

roundtable meeting, the group continued to meet throughout 2015.

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This fact sheet was prepared by the Hudson River Watershed Alliance in 2015. 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.