



# Hudson River Watershed Alliance

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

### SUPPORT WATERSHED GROUPS

Over **25 watershed groups** benefited from our programs and direct technical assistance.

We held **22 educational programs**, including our annual conference, technical workshops, watershed roundtables, and lectures, with **742 people** attending.



*The Community Resilience Building Workshop in Tarrytown brought representatives from Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, and Hastings together to identify assets vulnerable to climate change and prioritize next steps.*

### COMMUNICATE AS A COLLECTIVE VOICE

Our **2019 Work on Watersheds Yearbook** compiles the accomplishments, opportunities, and challenges of our local watershed partners, and is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2019HRWAYearbook>.

Our monthly **Watershed Digest newsletter** provided information on events, opportunities, and watershed case studies to over 1,100 people.

We communicated watershed information and needs to **decision-makers in regional meetings** and through both social and traditional media.



*The Connecting Our Streams workshop shared best practices on culverts and dams that can be flooding hazards or barriers to fish and wildlife in streams.*

### IMPROVE INTER-MUNICIPAL COORDINATION

In partnership with The Nature Conservancy, we held 3 Community Resilience Building Workshops to help **12 municipalities plan for climate change** in Dutchess, Ulster, and Westchester counties.

We brought Pace University's award-winning land use training to local leaders from **6 municipalities in Albany County**. We held a follow up workshop to further discuss watershed issues and opportunities.



*Panel discussion on the Hudson River (photo: Anna Sirota)*

The Hudson River Watershed Alliance unites and empowers communities to protect their local water resources.

## GEOGRAPHIC REACH

A watershed is the area of land from which water drains into a river, stream, or other waterbody. The Hudson River watershed covers almost 13,400 mi<sup>2</sup>, and includes over 65 tributary streams. In 2019, we held events in Albany, Rensselaer, Ulster, Dutchess, Rockland, and Westchester counties. Our watershed partners extend from the Battenkill in Washington County to the Saw Mill River in Westchester County.

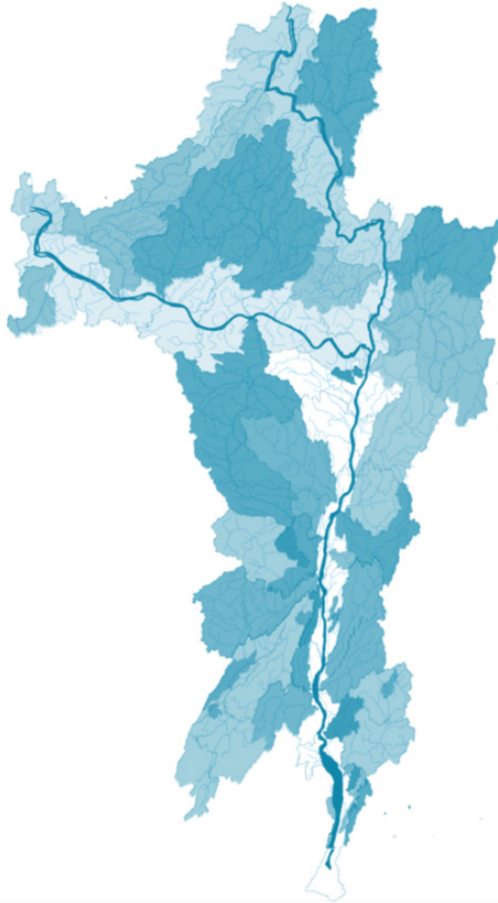
## Hudson River Watershed Alliance provides education & technical assistance on key issues for a healthy and resilient Hudson River watershed.

### CLEAN WATER

- Support for 25 active watershed groups
- Technical assistance on developing clean water restoration plans
- Workshop on water quality monitoring
- Lectures on Hudson River water quality, stormwater management, and other topics
- Talks on source water and stream clean ups at annual watershed conference
- Case studies on harmful algal blooms and watershed plans in Watershed Digest newsletter

### WILDLIFE & HABITAT

- Workshop on in-stream habitat, focused on impacts of culverts and dams on fish and wildlife
- Lectures on Natural Resource Mapper, salamander migration, and other topics
- Case study on dam removal in Watershed Digest newsletter



### CLIMATE CHANGE

- 3 Community Resilience Building Workshops to help 12 municipalities identify assets that are vulnerable to climate change and strategies to increase their resilience
- Participation in regional climate change networks
- Talks on flood resilience planning and floodplain protection at annual watershed conference

### SCENERY

- Theme of annual watershed conference, with a focus on how to understand different perceptions of beauty to communicate with broader audiences
- Case studies on open space planning, land conservation, and natural resource inventories in Watershed Digest newsletter



Watershed partners kayaking on the Esopus Creek, after a roundtable to share information and insights.

### NEW PARTNERSHIPS

- Focused on programs in the Capital Region, including Upper Hudson Speaker Series in Troy, Land Use Leadership Alliance training with Pace University for municipalities in Albany County, and presentation on values of small streams with Hudsonia in Delmar
- Supported newer watershed efforts, including projects on the Fall Kill (Poughkeepsie), the Sawkill (Ulster County), and the Minisceongo Creek (Rockland County)
- Community engagement case studies and talks on communicating values of healthy watersheds at the annual watershed conference