



# WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Hudson River  
Watershed Alliance



**EMILY VAIL**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**HUDSON RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE**

Watershed Characterization & Planning Workshop | Vassar College | March 24, 2026

# HUDSON RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

- Unite and empower communities to protect our shared waters
- Support watershed groups
- Help municipalities work together
- Communicate as a collective voice



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*This Project has been funded in part by a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Hudson River Estuary Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.*

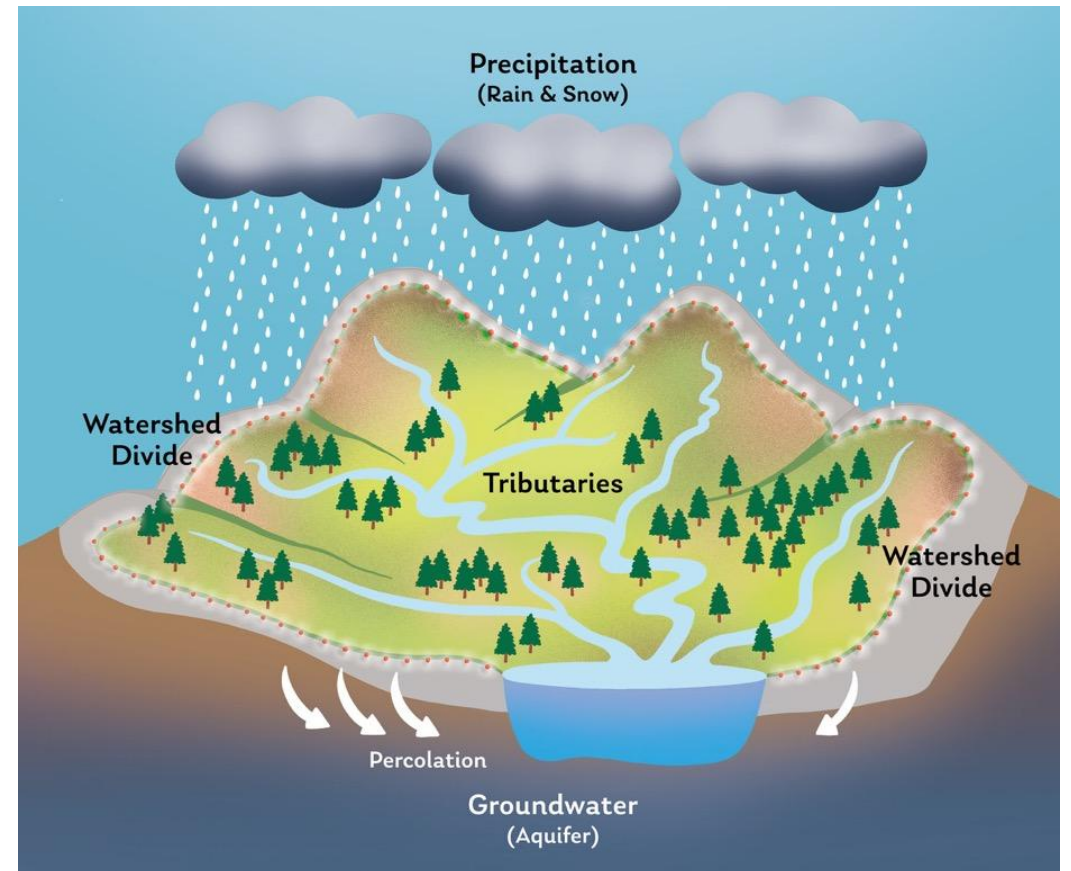


**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

**Hudson River  
Estuary Program**

# WHY WATERSHEDS?

- Land area where water flows to a specific waterbody
- Hydrologic connections linking lands, waters, people upstream & downstream
- Geographic unit best-suited to understanding conditions and managing our waters
- Cross political jurisdictions, require a thoughtful process / broader approach to understand and protect our waters



# TODAY'S FOCUS

- Locally-led watershed characterizations and plans
  - Typically focused on water quality, but can also include habitat, climate resilience, flooding, etc.
- Led by: watershed group, municipality, nonprofit, academic institution, etc.
- Process often includes applying for grant funding (as opposed to receiving technical assistance)
- Grounded in community input, information, priorities
- Strong scientific foundation



## UPPER HUDSON RIVER WATERSHED REVITALIZATION PLAN

MARCH 2020



Preparation of the Upper Hudson River Watershed Management Plan was funded through a New York State Department of State Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) grant to the Town of Horicon

# TODAY'S FOCUS

- Today's goal: to explore the watershed planning process, with a focus on **watershed characterization** as a foundational step
- Morning presentations:
  - Watershed planning frameworks, focus on watershed characterization process
  - Watershed characterization case studies
  - Funding and technical resources that support local watershed efforts



Sparkill Creek Watershed Characterization  
Community Presentation

# TODAY'S FOCUS

- Afternoon interactive/working session:
  - Space to apply what you learn
  - Tools to think through motivations, approaches, partners, and your work to date
- We hope you'll leave with:
  - A better understanding of process options
  - Clear next steps in support of your watershed goals

## Health of the Casperkill, Dutchess County, New York

February 2009

Vassar College Environmental Research Institute  
Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Environment Program  
Casperkill Watershed Alliance



*Photo taken at the site where Rt. 9 crosses the Casperkill*

# SAVE THE DATES!

- Upcoming programs:
  - Watershed group capacity-building cohort
  - WaveMaker Awards Benefit: Wednesday, June 3 at the Falcon in Marlboro  
[hudsonwatershed.org/wavemaker/](https://hudsonwatershed.org/wavemaker/)
  - Nominate a WaveMaker by Friday, March 27!
  - Annual Watershed Conference: Tuesday, October 27 at FDR Presidential Library & Museum in Hyde Park

2025 WaveMaker Awards Benefit



# THANK YOU!

**Emily Vail**

Executive Director

Hudson River Watershed Alliance

[emily@hudsonwatershed.org](mailto:emily@hudsonwatershed.org)

[hudsonwatershed.org](http://hudsonwatershed.org)

@HudsonRiverWatershedAlliance

Hudson River  
Watershed Alliance



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protect our shared waters*