Stream Buffer Protection Resources

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Stream Buffer Protection Resources

Tools to Assess, Plan, Prioritize and Implement protection

- Mapping tools
- Assessment tools
- Planning and prioritizing tools
- Implementation funds
- Who can help?
Existing Data – Online Map Tools

- Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper
- DECInfo Locator
- Environmental Resource Mapper
- StreamStats (USGS)
- NY Riparian Opportunities Assessment
- County Mapping platforms
- Aerial photos – e.g. Google, Yahoo, etc
DECinfo Locator
StreamStats – Delineate a Watershed

Step 1: Select a scenario below, or expand the "Basin Characteristics" panel to select specific basin characteristics.

- Peak-Flow Statistics
- Flow-Duration Statistics
- Bankfull Statistics
NY Riparian Opportunities Assessment
The Ecological Health Score, 2.78, is the sum of the scores of each of the individual Ecological Health Indicators. To control for the different scales of measurement, each indicator score was transformed to range from 0-1, with 1 equal to the maximum score within the HUC 12, and the lowest score set to 0. The normalized scores for this catchment are shown below.
Map Disclaimers

- Layers are created at different scales
- Layers were created for different purposes
- Maps have errors and omissions
- Not all streams are mapped

- For local decisions – visit the site!
- For permit questions – contact permit agency
  - [DEC Permits](#)
Existing data - Local Documentation

- Watershed plans / watershed assessments / flood studies
- Natural Resource Inventory / Open Space Plan
- Existing Local Watercourse protection ordinances
- Historical documents
Assessment Guides

- Riparian field assessment / checklist
- Stream corridor assessment

Invasive Species

- *Guide to Managing Invasive Plants in Riparian Areas* (DEC)
- Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)
Planning – data, goals, priorities

Watershed
- Watershed Characterization
- Watershed Plan
  - DOS - Guidebook
  - DEC - Nine Element Plan

Municipal
- Natural Resource Inventory
- Open Space Plan
Municipal Protection tools

- Watercourse protection policies
- Designate Critical Environmental Areas
- Consider streams in environmental review

- Conservation Easements
  - From PA conservationtools.org
  - Catskill Streams - Streamside acquisition

State funding for restoration and protection

- NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation
  - Green Innovation Grant Program
- Climate Smart Communities
- NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation
  - Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP)
  - Hudson River Estuary Grants
  - Trees for Tribs
    - Hudson Estuary Trees for tribs
    - Trees for Tribs (statewide)
Agricultural Funding

State

• **Ag Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control** - Technical and financial assistance for practices to preventing water pollution

Federal Programs

• **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)** - financial incentives to plant buffers

• **Debt for Nature (DFN) Program** – loan cancellation for conservation practices

• **Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP)** – financial and technical assistance for practices on farmland and forestland.
Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP)

Establish or Restore Floodplains, Riparian Buffers, Streams or Wetlands

- Floodplain restoration and replanting
- Lake-side tree planting
- Wetland construction
- Brownfield to park with wetland and buffer
Climate Smart Communities

- Restoration Floodplains & Riparian Buffers
- Preserve Natural Areas Through Zoning or Other Regulations
- Natural Resources Inventory
- Watershed Assessment
- Conservation of Natural Habitats
Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP)

Non-Point Source Abatement and Control

- Streambank Stabilization/Restoration and Riparian Buffers
- Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection
  - Easement / land acquisition
  - High Priority for buffer around reservoir

Aquatic connectivity

*Based on 2019 description*
Hudson River Estuary Grants

Local Stewardship Planning
- Watershed planning
- Conservation planning (NRI, Open Space plans)

Tributary Restoration and Resiliency
- Aquatic passage (culverts and dams)

*Based on 2019 description
Hudson Estuary Trees for Tribs - Revegetation

- Native trees and shrubs
- Plant protection
- Planting recommendations
- Education and planting demonstrations

- Applicant provides labor and maintenance
Web Pages with Resource Links

- NYS Dept of Env Conservation - Riparian Buffers
- NYS Water Resources Institute/Cornell - Riparian Buffer Restoration & Assessment
- Catskill Streams - Catskill Stream Buffer Initiative
- Cornell Department of Natural Resources and the Environment - Conservation Planning in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed
Technical Assistance

• **NYS Dept of Env Conservation** - trainings, grants, permits
• **NYS Dept of State** - **planning assistance**, grants
• **Hudson River Watershed Alliance** - trainings and resources
• **Soil and Water Conservation Districts** – agricultural projects, stream dynamics, plants
• **Cornell Cooperative Extension** – **resilience planning**, plant id
• **Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)** – invasive species
Local Partners

- Watershed groups
- County government
- Conservation Organizations
- Colleges
- Streamside residents
- Volunteer Groups
- Users (kayakers, anglers, streamside park users)
Thank You

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