
VIII-B. Education & Outreach

Increasing public awareness about the importance of the Batavia Kill watershed is critical to the success of this Management Plan, and education is the key to ensuring implementation of balanced natural resource protection measures. The willingness of people and communities to work together depends on an understanding of the importance of the watershed ecosystem and how it relates to their daily lives. Ultimately, people will protect what they care about, and they only care about things that they understand and appreciate.



In the previous sections of this Stream Management Plan, many new concepts related to stream and watershed management have been introduced. In addition to these new concepts, the GCSWCD has identified several areas where local audiences would benefit from technical or awareness training in a variety of topics. To ensure successful implementation of this SMP, the GCSWCD and NYCDEP will work with a diverse mix of partners to refine the recommendations in this section into a detailed Education & Outreach Implementation Plan. The Plan will address details on types of workshops, subject areas, instructors, training methods and logistics of conducting the various workshops. The following section sets some general recommendations to serve as a starting point of a detailed plan.

- VIII-B.1 Stakeholder Workshops
- VIII-B.2 School Based Education
- VIII-B.3 Publications & Resources

VIII-B.1 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

In the Batavia Kill watershed, the range of stakeholders with a direct or indirect interest in the health and function of the stream corridor is as diverse as the watershed itself. Stakeholders include private interests such as the landowners who live along the stream, and various constituencies which prize the Catskills streams for their recreational value. On the other hand, stakeholders also include a myriad of local, state and federal interests which have responsibility for management and protection of community and natural resources.

Audience Identification

With a diverse base of stakeholders in the watershed, the GCSWCD proposes that any education and outreach efforts be targeted at specific audiences. While the development of a detailed Education & Outreach Plan would refine target audiences, the GCSWCD proposes that there are three primary audiences. Additional participants or sub-audience will be identified as these recommendations are moved forward.

Private Interests	a. Landowners (residential and business) b. Recreational users
Municipal Audience	a. Legislative Bodies (town boards, legislature etc) b. Planning Board and Code Enforcement Officers c. Highway Departments/Public Works Departments
Business Sector	a. Realtors/Bankers/Insurance Agents b. Developers & Contractors c. Contractors

Workshop Structure

While a planning team will develop the specific details of the workshop program, the GCSWCD has identified several broad categories of workshops recommended for specific target audiences. Workshops should include indoor sessions, as well as field trip and practical exercises. The following list is not inclusive of all possible workshops.

1. Riparian Landowners - sessions need to provide basic understanding of fluvial process, factors impacting stability/water quality, and management decisions which can promote a healthy stream. Sessions should provide landowners with training

which will enable them to undertake effective stream protection actions on their own property.

2. Municipal Leaders - sessions need to address the importance of local management of the watershed and stream resources. Municipal leaders also need to understand basic fluvial process, with an emphasis on how local decision makers can support stream health through their leadership. Sessions must address multiple benefits which can be realized by protecting stream and watershed health.

3. Planning Boards & Code Enforcement Personnel - The GCSWCD proposes that stream awareness sessions be targeted at this important group of local decision makers. Planning boards have a significant ability to effect change in land use practices which may impact stream health. After planning decisions are made, the local CEO is charged with oversight of development activities and they in turn must understand the impact of development activities on the stream system.

4. Local/County/State Highway Department - This audience has the most direct ability to impact stream health. Day to day activities in the maintenance of the road systems and other public infrastructure frequently involves local waterways, and often actions which may seem harmless can create extreme instability problems that grow in size by moving up or downstream and become very costly to repair. The GCSWCD proposes this audience must not only have a knowledge of basic stream process, but they must also have the ability to recognize what changes are occurring in a problem area, as well as the potential impact of any management action they may take. The GCSWCD does not propose that this training would be a substitution for highways departments seeking technical advice from experienced stream managers.

5. Banks/Realtors/Insurance - In the experience of the GCSWCD, many landowner inquiries involve floodplains and the flood insurance program. The GCSWCD would propose that a joint workshop session for the financial, real estate and insurance businesses would be an effective vehicle to address flood insurance, lending regulations and other issues related to these industries.

6. Contractors & Developers - Local contractors should receive training to allow them to make better decisions regarding impacts to streams. Contractors can benefit from training on new methodologies for addressing stream stability, the permitting process and project construction issues such as water quality protection. Contractor training should also address stormwater management as well as sediment and erosion control.

Again, this list is not inclusive of all possible audiences and/or workshop topics. The

GCSWCD will facilitate an Education & Outreach working group which will develop a detailed plan for conducting workshops in the Batavia Kill watershed. The GCSWCD would also propose that many of these workshops will be more effective if conducted over a broader area such as the entire Schoharie basin.

NO. EO-01			
Recommendation	The GCSWCD will facilitate the formation of an Education & Outreach working group to develop a detailed E&O strategy which would address the number, type, subjects, instructors, logistics and other details of conducting stakeholders workshops.		
Priority		Task Leader	GCSWCD
Funding Sources	NYCDEP (project/in-kind) Grants	Task Partners	GCSWCD NYCDEP Municipalities GC Planning Dept. Catskill Center NYSDEC NYSDOS Others
Estimated Cost	Unknown	Schedule	1. E&O Working group established by spring 2003 2. Initiate 1 st round of workshops in 2003.
Notes	The GCSWCD recommends that priority focus be placed on Landowners, municipal leaders and local planners.		

VIII-B.2 SCHOOL BASED EDUCATION

Long term protection of Batavia Kill stream resources will be greatly enhanced by developing a “stream ethic” in young students. As the future decision makers, today’s youth must be a priority audience. While school curriculum often provide a local focus on stream water quality, there is a need to provide students with a better understanding of the relationship between stream stability, and activities such as development or flood response. The GCSWCD proposes that school based programs should be modified to provide for presentation of basic information on stream morphology and function.

NO. EO - 02			
Recommendation	The GCSWCD, NYCDEP and local schools should support the on-going efforts of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development to provide stream-based education in the WAJ school district.		
Priority		Task Leader	Catskill Center
Funding Sources	CWC Educational Grants NYCDEP NYSDEC Other Grants	Task Partners	WAJ School District GCSWCD NYCDEP Others
Estimated Cost	unknown	Schedule	
Notes	The GCSWCD recommends that the current program be modified to include presentation of information on stream morphology and relationship to watershed land use, management activities etc.		

NO. EO - 03			
Recommendation	Develop a “nature” trail/outdoor classroom facility at the WAJ to promote educational programs related to natural resources		
Priority		Task Leader	WAJ School District
Funding Sources	CWC Educational Grants NYCDEP NYSDEC	Task Partners	GCSWCD NYCDEP CWC
Estimated Cost	\$50,000	Schedule	Unknown
Notes	The WAJ school district is currently investigating development of a new school facility which is proposed for a parcel located on the Batavia Kill. The site would offer excellent opportunities to develop outdoor educational resources on-site.		

NO. EO - 04			
Recommendation	Work with WAJ school district to evaluate feasibility of conducting field trips to degraded stream reaches, reference sites and GCSWCD restoration sites to educate students on stream management issues.		
Priority		Task Leader	WAJ School District
Funding Sources	CWC Educational Grants NYSDEC Other Grants	Task Partners	GCSWCD NYCDEP CWC
Estimated Cost	\$50,000	Schedule	Unknown
Notes	The WAJ school district is currently investigating development of a new school facility which is proposed for a parcel located on the Batavia Kill. The site would offer excellent opportunities to develop outdoor educational resources on-site.		

NO. EO - 05			
Recommendation	Work with Columbia Greene Community College to integrate fluvial geomorphology and stream management into their Environmental Studies Program.		
Priority		Task Leader	Columbia Greene CC
Funding Sources	Tuition Grants State Educational Funds	Task Partners	GCSWCD
Estimated Cost	Not determined	Schedule	Unknown
Notes	The GCSWCD has held preliminary discussions with CGCC regarding the addition of classes on stream management in their new Environmental Studies Programs. This would provide an opportunity for local students to advance their training and potentially apply their education in various capacities in the NYC Watershed.		

VIII-B.3 PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

The GCSWCD would also propose a number of education and outreach based recommendations which do not fall into the categories above. These activities are focused on “self learning,” and include use of the internet, interpretive signage, mobile displays and others.

NO. EO - 06			
Recommendation	Continue use of the GCSWCD website to provide information to watershed stakeholders. Upgrade site to allow landowners interaction such as reporting stream changes, problems etc.		
Priority		Task Leader	GCSWCD
Funding Sources	NYCDEP NYSDEC other grants	Task Partners	GCSWCD NYCDEP Others
Estimated Cost	not determined	Schedule	on-going
Notes	The GCSWCD proposes that the internet can be an effective resource for watershed stakeholders. The site should provide access to publications and project updates.		

NO. EO - 07			
Recommendation	Develop a mobile display focusing on stream management which can be displayed at local events or in public places.		
Priority		Task Leader	GCSWCD
Funding Sources	NYCDEP/NYSDEC CWC Other Grants	Task Partners	NYCDEP Catskill Center
Estimated Cost	\$3,500 - \$5,000	Schedule	not determined
Notes	In the Batavia Kill watershed, events such as the Windham Autumn Affair and Pld Prattsville Days are examples of opportunities for use of a display that would focus on current stream management activities. The display could also be left in public spaces such as banks, post office or town halls.		

NO. EO - 08			
Recommendation	The GCSWCD should work with local print media to develop a routine news column to run in local papers. The column which would provide current information related to stream management activities and other watershed issues watershed issues.		
Priority		Task Leader	GCSWCD - WAP
Funding Sources	Not applicable	Task Partners	GCSWCD NYCDEP
Estimated Cost	no cost, use existing staff	Schedule	Initiate spring 2003
Notes	GCSWCD Watershed Assistance Program will take the lead. GCSWCD staff and guest writers will produce columns. For publication at least 2x per month. Local press includes the Windham Journal, Mountain Eagle and Daily Mail.		

NO. EO - 09			
Recommendation	Develop a series of publications focused on stream management which can be provided to watershed stakeholders and/or used in training workshops		
Priority		Task Leader	NYCDEP - SMP
Funding Sources	CWC Educational Grants NYCDEP/NYSDEC Other Grants	Task Partners	GCSWCD Catskill Center CWC/Others
Estimated Cost	Not determined	Schedule	Unknown
Notes	Currently, there is a lack of publications on stream management readily available to watershed stakeholders. Fact sheets, landowner stream management guidelines, and other topics should be the focus of such publications. GCSWCD, NYCDEP and watershed stakeholders will jointly review potential subjects for potential effectiveness.		

NO. EO - 10			
Recommendation	Annually, publish a "Watershed Health" report that can be distributed to stakeholders. The report will present updates on projects, results of monitoring efforts and other relevant information.		
Priority		Task Leader	GCSWCD - WAP
Funding Sources	CWC NYCDEP NYSDEC Other Grants	Task Partners	NYCDEP Catskill Center NYSDEC NYSDOS USEPA CWC Others
Estimated Cost	\$5,000 annually	Schedule	Initiate 2003
Notes	GCSWCD Watershed Assistance Program will take the lead on development of the reports.		

NO. EO - 11			
Recommendation	Develop interpretive signage at selected restoration sites.		
Priority		Task Leader	GCSWCD
Funding Sources	CWC Educational Grants NYCDEP NYSDEC Other Grants	Task Partners	NYCDEP Catskill Center CWC Others
Estimated Cost	Not determined	Schedule	Unknown
Notes	Restoration projects such as Big Hollow provide a unique opportunity to develop interpretive signage. The GCSWCD recommends development of small kiosks at either end of the project which provide information on the watershed, the stability problems addressed in the designs. Basically, a person could be at the kiosk reading and read about restoration techniques to better understand the restoration work they are observing.		