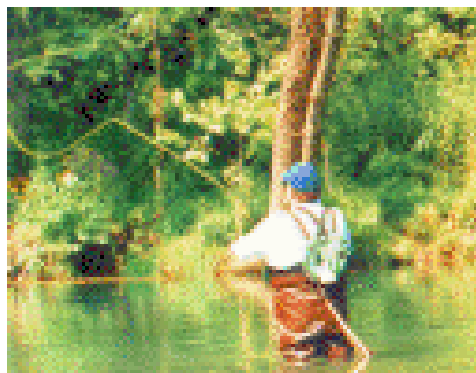


VIII- F Public Enjoyment

Historically, the Catskills have been a draw for the wide range of recreational activities they provide. Hiking, camping, fishing and family vacations at the former great resorts have all drawn people from the surrounding metropolitan areas. While time has not been kind to the tourism industry in the Catskills, the GCSWCD has seen hope in the new emphasis on “eco-tourism.” While the Batavia Kill watershed has much to offer its visitors, the GCSWCD would propose several recommendations that could enhance public use and enjoyment of the stream system.



NO. PE - 01			
Recommendation	Public access for fishing should be increased along the Batavia Kill stream corridor.		
Priority		Task Leader	NYSDEC/NYCDEP
Funding Sources	NYSDEC NYCDEP other grants	Task Partners	GCSWCD Local Municipalities Trout Unlimited Landowners
Estimated Cost	not determined	Schedule	no-going
Notes	At the present time, there are limited areas open to public fishing. NYSDEC has access near CR 17 and the C.D.Lane park facility is also stocked. Land acquisition activities by NYCDEP have resulted in additional streamside lands being available for fishing. Access improvements should be coordinated with local resort industry and opportunities for fisheries access should be considered during stream restoration projects.		

NO. PE - 02			
Recommendation	Develop an annual “festival” celebrating the stream and other natural resources of the Batavia Kill Watershed.		
Priority		Task Leader	Undetermined
Funding Sources	Undetermined	Task Partners	Local chamber of commerce Local Municipalities GCSWCD
Estimated Cost	Not determined	Schedule	
Notes	Theme based festivals can be effective ways to promote public stewardship and use of stream systems. A stream festival could include a number of activities which would provide an economic benefit as well as increase public awareness of recreational opportunities.		

NO. PE - 03			
Recommendation	Investigate opportunities to develop multi-use, low impact trail systems along the stream corridor.		
Priority		Task Leader	Local Municipalities
Funding Sources	NYSDEC CWC other grants	Task Partners	GCSWCD NYCDEP GC Promotion Dept. Local Chambers of Commerce Landowners Resort owners
Estimated Cost	not determined	Schedule	not-determined
Notes	<p>Trails for hiking, biking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing can provide multiple benefits, including drawing visitors to local resorts and increasing user awareness of stream management issues. Trails should be integrated with interpretive signage.</p> <p>In 2001, a survey conducted by the Windham Chamber of Commerce identified development of a trail system and picnic areas along the Batavia Kill as a priority interest.</p> <p>Trail development efforts must be addressed as a cooperative effort of multiple municipalities and on the watershed scale. Trail systems should be integrated with NYSDEC trail system.</p> <p>NYCDEP should evaluate their decision making process in regards to recreational uses of acquisition lands. Low impact, passive trail use will not impact water quality, and in fact may provide long term benefits through increased public awareness.</p>		

NO. PE - 04			
Recommendation	Feasibility of developing a fishing based tourism business should be studied, including an economic analysis and review of resource limitations/needs		
Priority		Task Leader	GC Planning Dept GC Promotions Dept
Funding Sources	CWC NYS Economic Development NYS I Love NY Program Foundation Grants Local Business Greene County Promotions	Task Partners	GCSWCD NYCDEP NYSDEC NYS Local business owners Local municipalities Landowners
Estimated Cost	not determined	Schedule	not determined
Notes	<p>Studies of fisheries based tourism in the lower Catskills have found these activities to have a significant benefit to the local economy. The GCSWCD recommends funding of a study which would evaluate the potential to enhance fishing based tourism on the Batavia Kill, as well as the overall Schoharie Basin.</p> <p>A study should address stream conditions, resource limitations and the status of support industries such as tackle shops.</p>		