

### **3.9 Recreational Opportunities on Broadstreet Hollow**

The blue line of the Catskill Park outlines a mountainous region of public and private lands in Ulster, Greene, Delaware, and Sullivan counties. The natural and cultural heritage of the Catskill Region is inextricably linked to the unique high quality streams that course through its mountains and valleys, and play a defining role in the character of its landscape. Recreation in and around these Catskill streams provide residents and visitors to the region with a myriad of opportunities to reconnect with the natural world.

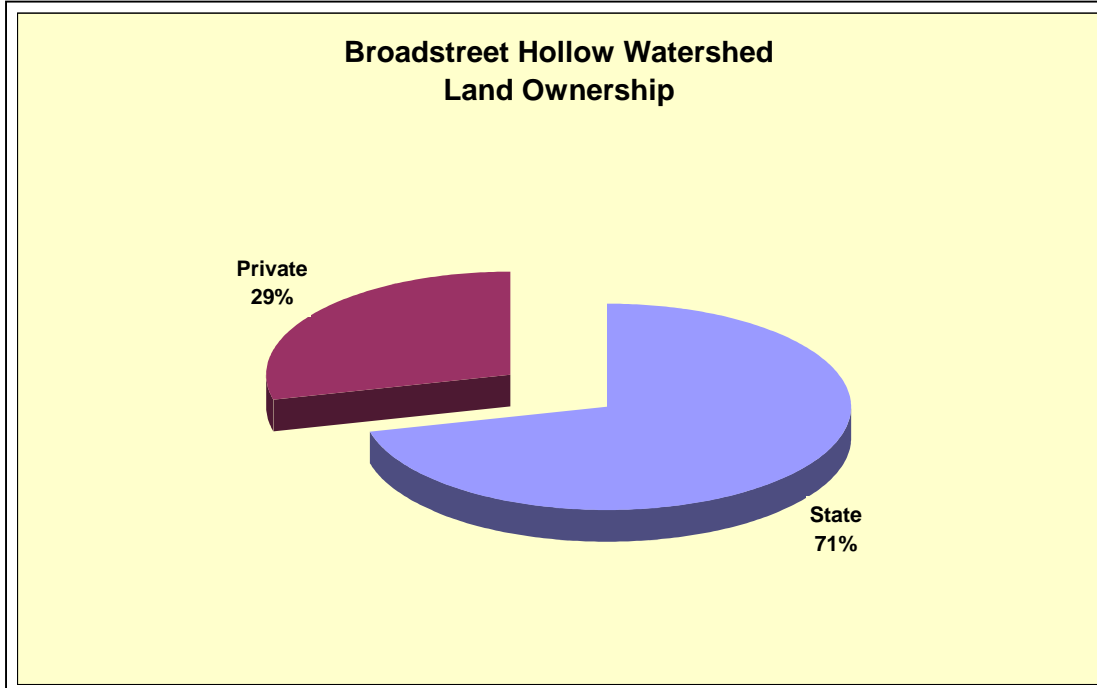
#### **3.9.1 The Catskill Forest Preserve**

The headwaters of the Broadstreet Hollow are protected within the Catskill Forest Preserve, the New York state land within the Catskill Park. Since its creation in 1885, the Forest Preserve has grown from 34,000 to almost 300,000 acres. An 1894 amendment (now Article XIV) to the State of New York Constitution directs “the lands of the State now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereupon be sold, removed, or destroyed.”

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) manages lands in the forest preserve according to classification in the 1985 Catskill Park State Land Master Plan that is based on specific characteristics and their capacity to withstand certain uses. (These public uses include Wild Forest, Wilderness, Intensive Use, State Forest, and Wildlife Management Area.) DEC’s *Catskill Forest Preserve Map and Guide* graphically depicts the locations of these different management areas and provides general background information about the Catskill Park and Preserve. It can be obtained at DEC’s regional offices, locations are listed on DEC’s website: <http://www.dec.state.us>

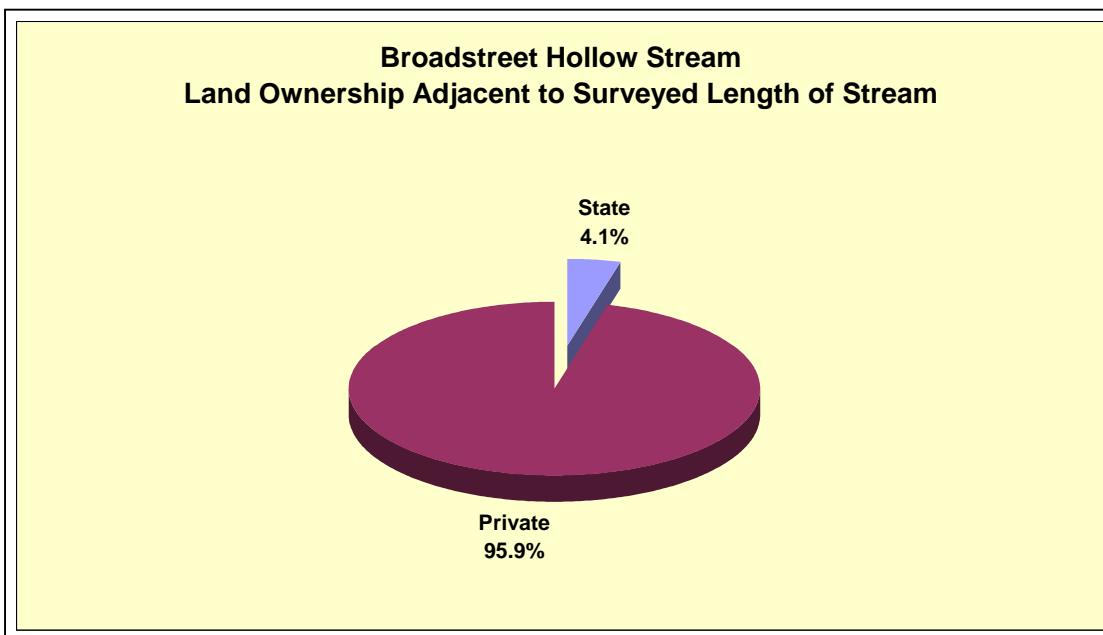
The Broadstreet Hollow and its watershed are located within the Shandaken Wild Forest Unit. A Draft Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan is scheduled to be finalized in 2003. An accompanying Shandaken Wild Forest Map and Guide will be published for public distribution when the Plan is finalized. This Wild Forest Management Plan will describe recreational opportunities within the unit further. Guides for the Slide Mountain Wilderness and Overlook Mountain Wild Forest are currently available at the DEC Region 3 office.

Hiking is permitted on all lands held by NY State. Hunting is allowed subject to required NY State licenses and regulations. Graphs below show a summary of watershed area and streamside ownership distribution between private and state land.



### 3.9.2 Fishing

Steep headwater streams like Broadstreet Hollow are renowned for supporting healthy populations of native trout. Just ask Bruce Duffy, a longtime Catskill fisherman, and current member of the Ashokan-Pepacton Chapter of Trout Unlimited. In a 2003 interview, Mr. Duffy reported that the Broadstreet Hollow is known as a terrific spawning tributary. Resident 14 -15 inch brown trout swim up Broadstreet Hollow and the other tributaries of the Esopus Creek from the Ashokan reservoir to spawn and eventually return. A New York State Fishing License is required.



Broadstreet Hollow is not stocked. Native brown and rainbow trout inhabit its lower sections, brook trout have been documented in upper sections. The fishing season is April 1 - September 30. (The mainstem of the Esopus Creek and the Ashokan Reservoir have an extended season to November 30). The basic state catch limit of 5 trout is applied in BSH; and as elsewhere, the practice of Catch and Release is voluntary. Since there are so few people fishing BSH due to limited access, the only way to accurately estimate the fish population is by electrosampling.

USGS/DEP research efforts to assess fish and macro-invertebrate population changes as a result of the stream restoration project in MU3 can be found in the Fish and Wildlife section of this plan.

The only current public fishing access on the Broadstreet Hollow is through the Parking area and NYSDEC trailhead at the end of the Broadstreet Hollow road. About 2 or 3 miles of the stream are accessible above this point by a trail. According to Mr. Duffy, the first fifty feet are most often fished, however a little more effort will reward seekers with plenty of small native brook trout (6-8 inches) that inhabit the colder water in the upper reaches. Due to this limited public access, the way most people have historically fished Broadstreet Hollow is by invitation. Mr. Duffy fondly recalled that for many years he and many others had accessed the BSH through the camp of Rupert Sandburg, the late master net-maker active in the Catskill Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Mr. Duffy and others have proven that they are true stewards of Broadstreet Hollow and other nearby Catskill streams. After the January 1996 flood, volunteers with the Ashokan-Pepacton Chapter of Trout Unlimited spent some 400 hours clearing woody debris (log) jams from the Esopus Creek and its tributaries that were likely to cause additional erosion of the banks. The following fall, TU and other volunteers spent several weekends “opening up the tribs” by hand clearing storm deposits of gravel and large boulders with pick, shovel and rake from the tributary confluences so that mature fish could head up the narrow streams to spawn.

### **3.9.3 DRAFT Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan**

The following information pertaining to Broadstreet Hollow has been excerpted from the November 2002 “Draft Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan” provided by the DEC for use in developing this Stream Management Plan. Any information herein should be verified with the Final Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

Broadstreet Hollow is located in DEC’s Shandaken Wild Forest Management Unit. The Unit is comprised of four separate parcels totaling approximately 5375.6 acres: 4184.6 acres in the Town of Shandaken; 1191 acres in the Town of Lexington. Broadstreet Hollow serves as the western boundary of the 414 acre Allaben parcel that is bordered by Route 28 on the south, and the Westkill Wilderness to the north and east. According to the Plan, this unit has a less remote character than either of the two adjacent Wilderness Areas - West Kill and Plateau Mountain.

The following Fisheries Management and Water Quality Management Objectives are included in the Draft Plan:

### Fisheries

- (1) To preserve, enhance, and restore where needed, fisheries habitats to achieve and perpetuate the historic quality of the fish communities found in all streams occurring within this unit.
- (2) To enhance the angling experience for both the young and persons with disabilities through more intensive management of the ponded waters within the unit.
- (3) Identify future management objectives resulting from information gained during ongoing fisheries studies surrounding the unit.

### Water Quality

- (1) To maintain free flowing water courses in their natural condition and free of human-induced contaminants such that water quality is not impaired.

### Wild Forest Management

The Draft Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan lists two management priorities for Broadstreet Hollow in year 4 of its 5 year implementation. A two car parking area is to be constructed on the west side of Broadstreet Hollow Road north of the Greene County line. It is unlikely that trees will need to be cut due to an existing opening. In addition, two nearby remnant household debris dumpsites are scheduled to be removed.

### Wild Forest Land Acquisition

The Draft Plan states that additional acquisition of land will be pursued by DEC as a means of protecting the integrity of the Shandaken Wild Forest, providing additional public access, and potentially linking the four separate parcels together, in accordance with provisions of the 2002 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan. Specifically the Plan states that the State would have an interest in acquiring a large holding straddling the County line on the west side of Broadstreet Hollow road.

### **3.9.4 NYC DEP Lands**

#### Access to DEP Watershed Lands

DEP manages its lands for water protection, ecosystem integrity and other benefits. The City has committed to allowing selective public access for fishing, hiking and hunting to many of its lands. Public access requires the appropriate DEP permits.

#### DEP Owned Lands on Broadstreet Hollow

As of October 2002, NYC DEP had purchased two properties in the Broadstreet Hollow watershed. Neither property is adjacent to the mainstem Broadstreet Hollow stream, though both are accessible from the Broadstreet Hollow Road.

The first property is adjacent to NYS DEC land, across the road from Management Unit (MU) 9. It is roughly 43 acres, and has steep slopes and a very small tributary stream near its northern boundary that crosses the road and enters the mainstem of Broadstreet Hollow at the top of MU 10. This land is not currently open to the public due to a lack of suitable parking. This could be addressed and provided by means of a stewardship partnership with a sponsor organization as explained below. The property could then be made available for recreational use by permit.

The other property includes 27 acres of stream riparian buffer to the Jay Hand Hollow tributary to Broadstreet Hollow and road frontage on Timberlake Road. This property also has very steep slopes. This parcel may be considered for access in the future if the local community expresses interest (see below), or if additional acquisitions are made in the area.

Since such a high percentage of the land along the mainstem of the stream is privately owned, the Broadstreet Hollow Landowner Association might work with private landowners willing to allow parking on their property to accommodate public recreational use of available City-owned watershed lands.

Local community groups interested in developing stewardship partnerships for City-owned watershed lands may write to the DEP Land Management Program, 71 Smith Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401.

#### Public Access to DEP Watershed Lands

Opening an area for public access involves several steps. The City consults with DEC, local governments and a regional Sporting Advisory Committee on a regular basis regarding potential recreational uses of its lands. Trout Unlimited members and other groups have provided input to the Sporting Advisory Committee regarding access to newly acquired DEP lands. TU supports additional access to small high quality headwater streams throughout the Catskills.

Lands where no threats to public safety or water quality exist are considered eligible to be opened. Eligible parcels are individually evaluated by DEP according to several criteria. These criteria include desirability for public access, size and configuration conducive to recreational use, suitable public access and parking opportunities, compatible adjoining land uses, and natural resource resilience.

Once a parcel is designated for public access, DEP staff post the parcel boundaries with appropriate signs. Not all allowed recreational uses are permitted on all public access areas. Hunting, for example, is only permitted on lands specifically indicated for this activity. Any City land open for hiking is also open for fishing unless otherwise designated. Those lands failing to meet the evaluation criteria remain closed to public use and are posted accordingly. Public access areas are continuously monitored and their use evaluated; where water quality or public safety threats develop, areas are closed.

A valid DEP Access Permit is required for an individual (except minors) to enter any City-owned watershed land designated for public use for any permitted activity. Permit holders agree to abide by all DEP public access rules and regulations. All DEC wildlife rules, regulations and laws apply on all DEP lands, and additional DEP regulations may apply.

A copy of the DEP Access Permit information and application can be found in the Appendix of this document.

Information on City-owned watershed public use areas, public access rules and regulations, permit applications and recreation guides are available on the DEP website at [www.nyc.gov/watershedrecreation](http://www.nyc.gov/watershedrecreation), or by calling 1-800-575-LAND, or at local DEP offices.

#### References and Contact Information:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, (1985) Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, Albany, NY.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, (2003) Draft Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, Albany, NY.

NYSDEC Website: <http://www.dec.state.us>.

NYCDEP Website Information for Recreation: [www.nyc.gov/watershedrecreation](http://www.nyc.gov/watershedrecreation)

Personal communication with Bruce Duffy: 12/2002, 1/2003