

Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition

Stream Corridor Management Plan

Delaware County, NY

Vision Statement and Project Goals/Objectives

I. Stream Corridor Management Plan - Project Vision Statement:

The vision of the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition (UDRTC) for the Upper Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan (SCMP) is to create comprehensive guidance document that will highlight opportunities to maintain, enhance, protect and restore stream systems, water quality and habitat to promote a healthy Upper Delaware River ecosystem and increase recreation and tourism opportunities.

The SCMP will be a non-regulatory, multi-jurisdictional blueprint for the future management, protection and restoration of waterways in Delaware County, NY below the New York City Delaware River basin reservoirs and be replicable on a regional basis.

The SCMP will be developed with maximum public participation and involvement and will be embraced and implemented by all watershed stakeholders including local government officials, businesses, landowners, recreational users, and civic organizations. The SCMP will be integrated and consistent with existing local programs associated with stream management activities and will promote economically sustainable and vibrant communities throughout the watershed.

The Plan will assess and identify opportunities to build community resiliency, enhance public safety, protect infrastructure caused by devastating and frequent flooding.

II. SCMP Project Goals/Objectives:

Goals:

1. Involve all watershed stakeholders in the development of the SCMP, generate broad public support for the plan, and ensure active and practical long term use of the plan.

Objectives:

- a. Develop and collaborate with SCMP Project Advisory Committee made up of federal, state and local stakeholders, through meetings and regular status updates and individual consultations as needed.
- b. Develop and engage five Community Advisory Committees (CAC) comprised of local elected officials, municipal and Town/Village leaders to help support local decisions regarding the SCMP goals.
- c. Educate and solicit feedback from the public through four rounds of public meetings and workshops and meet with industry leaders to discuss planning process.
- d. Develop a comprehensive list of recommendations to assist all stakeholders in the future management, protection, and restoration of Delaware County waterways.

2. Create a SCMP that promotes resilient communities and supports a vibrant, sustainable economy including recreation, tourism and resource based industries.

Objectives:

- a. Highlight and profile existing industries and businesses and how they can benefit from a comprehensive plan to manage, protect, and restore area waterways
 - b. Update the 2014 Upper Delaware River Economic Study and provide topline findings in the SCMP how improved waterway management and river based tourism can revitalize local economies.
 - c. Develop specific waterway management recommendations that will help stimulate and promote a river based economy
 - d. Expand, activate, and engage the membership of the Upper Delaware River Business Coalition in the development of the SCMP
3. Identify opportunities to improve infrastructure, mitigate flood threats and identify sustainable flood response actions to protect communities and natural resources.

Objectives:

- a. Identify where infrastructure threats exist along streams
 - b. Develop management recommendation designed to protect and repair impacts to infrastructure
 - c. Prioritize stream restoration projects that target the reparation of damaged infrastructure
 - d. Provide funding recommendations for infrastructure improvements
 - e. Identify dams, levees, and berms and assess their utility and functions
 - f. Identify current best management practices for post flood response
4. Promote revisions in the NYC Reservoir Management Plan (FFMP) that result in sustainable water releases and river flows, normalized sediment transport, and the maintenance of high water quality and suitable stream temperature to support the unique cold water ecosystem of the Upper Delaware River.

Objective:

- a. Work in partnership with the UDRTC to develop a list of recommendations for the 2017 FFMP that will improve water releases from the NYC Delaware River basin reservoirs to the Upper Delaware River
5. Create a plan that will address excessive erosion and sedimentation problems in tributaries and encourages channel and bank stability and floodplain reconnection.

Objectives:

- a. Develop a list of management recommendations for restoration strategies and techniques that will address sediment and erosion problems
 - b. Highlight sensitive and critical areas that are highly erosive and cause excessive sedimentation to waterways in the project area.
 - c. Identification of priority implementation projects
6. Gather and analyze relevant data to better understand watershed characteristics and ecosystem processes in order to develop a list of useful, non-regulatory recommendations that will help protect and restore communities and the natural resources of the watershed.

Objectives:

- a. Develop a comprehensive watershed overview and characterization for the project area
- b. Complete detailed stream assessment on four streams pilot projects – Cadosia Creek (Hancock), Oquaga Creek (Sanford/Deposit), Fish's Creek (East Branch), and Downs Brook (Downsville)
- c. Work with local stakeholders to identify protection and restoration project needs
- d. Develop prioritization process for project implementation
- e. Develop monitoring metrics for tracking Plan process and use and implementation progress

7. Develop a list of on the ground implementation projects that support the recommendations and promote opportunities for a diversity of partnerships and funding opportunities.

Objectives:

- a. Work with Delaware County and local municipalities to create a centralized database of identified restoration and protection projects derived from local stakeholders
- b. Develop a prioritization process for the projects