

Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District

Fall 2023 Newsletter

June - November 2023



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Greetings SWCD community!

These past months, the Soil and Water Conservation District was involved in a variety of projects and education programs throughout Rockland County. The district took on two seasonal staff this summer, Gabby D'Amico and Adam Memmesheimer, to help with ongoing road stream crossing assessments, and collect samples as part of DEC's WAVE program. Additionally, the district hosted various events and education programs. **Read on to learn more about what we've been up to!**

Road Stream Crossing Assessments

This summer, the SWCD trained two new Rockland Conservation and Service Corps (RCSC) members in the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) protocol. After they completed their training, Gabby and Adam surveyed **133** road stream crossings in the Town of Clarkstown, totaling over **9** square miles of land assessed! They finalized all surveys in the town of Clarkstown, completing culvert assessments across all of Rockland County!



Photo by Marcus Octaviano
 (Above) Seasonal staff measuring the dimensions of a box culvert



Photo by Adam Memmesheimer
 (Above) Outlet photo of a round culvert as Gabby logs crossing data



Photo by Brianna Rosamilia



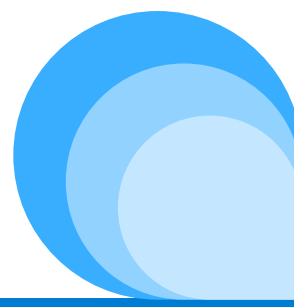
(Left) Seasonal staff making their way through a stream

WAVE Program

Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators (WAVE) is a program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Each year, SWCD staff train and coordinate volunteers to collect benthic macroinvertebrate (stream bug) samples in local County streams. Data collected can serve as an indicator of stream health. This year, **13** volunteers collected samples from **13** streams across Rockland County!



Photo by Rebecca Meyer
 (Above) A volunteer collecting a kick sample from a local stream



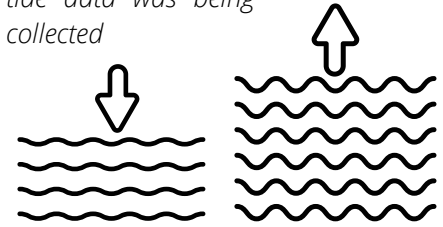
A Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor, 2023

Each year, the SWCD participates in a Day in the Life (DITL) of the Hudson and Harbor that is coordinated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO). Students, teachers, and education partners spend a day at the Hudson River and Harbor recording various parameters. This year, SWCD staff led stations at Nyack Memorial Park where students from Liberty and Upper Nyack Elementary took measurements on various data points, including tides, currents, salinity and fish identification. The data serve as a snapshot of what the River and Harbor look like on a single day, getting students closer to nature in the process. This was the 21st year of this project!



Photo by Nyack Public Schools

(Left) Students looking over side of pier as tide data was being collected



(Right) Students helping station leader hold up a turbidity tube while it is being filled with river water

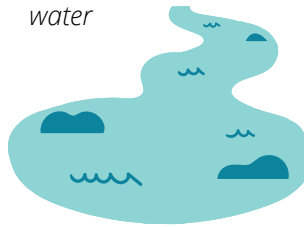


Photo by Nyack Public Schools

MCWA Cleanup

SWCD Staff helped to plan the annual Minisceongo Creek Watershed Alliance (MCWA) cleanup event! On October 22nd, 90 volunteers participated to clean up 5 sites in Garnerville and West Haverstraw. They removed **57** bags of trash, **21** bags of recyclables, and other large debris including a folding chair and electronic laminator. Together they removed **1,890** pounds of debris! A big thanks to all the partners involved in this annual clean up: Keep Rockland Beautiful, Rockland Conservation and Service Corps/Youth Bureau, Rockland Planning department, GARNER Historic District, and MCWA members.



Photo by Brianna Rosamilia

(Above) Volunteers pose in front of trash collected during the cleanup event

Contact Us!

Do you have any questions or comments about this newsletter? Let us know!
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