



VOTED
BEST BREAKFAST

IN THE HUDSON VALLEY
2002-2017

by Hudson Valley Magazine.

MAIN STREET
BISTRO

—◆—
59 MAIN STREET
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK



We proudly support the
Walkkill River Watershed
Alliance in their efforts to
clean up the Walkkill River for
future generations to come.

MAIN STREET
BISTRO
—◆—
D O W N T O W N
N E W P A L T Z



**Hudson River
Estuary Program**

A Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

walkkill river watershed alliance *we fight dirty*



2019 ALMANAC



LOCATIONS:

22 COTTAGE ST. MIDDLETOWN, NY

3 MAIN ST. NEW PALTZ, NY

PINE ISLAND, NY COMING SOON

CLEMSONBREWING.COM



The Wallkill River at Forest Glen Road. New Paltz. 2018

JOIN THE ALLIANCE TODAY!



walkillalliance@gmail.com

PARISH AD

Table of Contents

About the Walkkill River Watershed Alliance	3
Calendar	5
15 Facts About the Walkkill River Watershed	8
Signs of Progress	10
Watershed Map	11
How You Can Fight Dirty	14
The Walkkill River Water Trail	19



Alliance at the New Paltz Regatta, 2017



Hauling tires out of the river at the 2018 Tire Pull, Wallkill



Community scientists preparing to sample the river, 2017.



Finding water bugs at Earth Day 2016

FIGHT DIRTY - CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS

Call your New York State Senate and Assembly representatives, and the Governor. Tell them this:

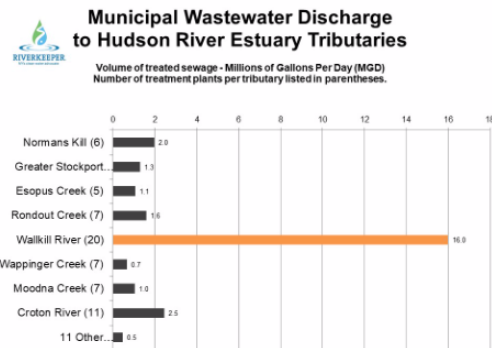
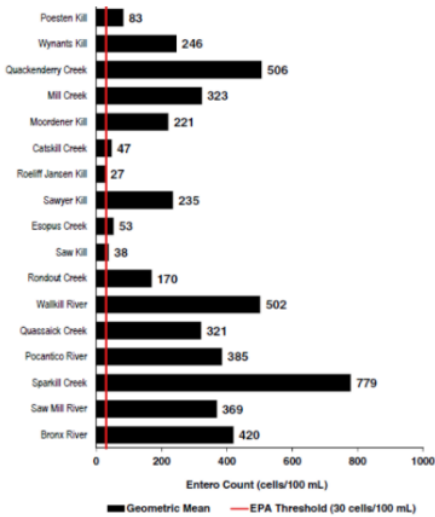
- **I love the Wallkill River**, and I am concerned about its water quality.
- **I support the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance** and its efforts to protect and restore the river.
- **I support the Clean Water Infrastructure Act***, and the grants it provides to municipalities in the Wallkill River Watershed. Please make good on Governor Cuomo's commitment to double the \$2.5 billion investment made in 2017.

**If you live in New Jersey, ask your representatives to invest in water infrastructure grants to local municipalities, as New York has.*

Why? According to Riverkeeper, 90% of 937 samples from the Wallkill River taken by community scientists since 2012 have failed to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency criteria for safe swimming. The Wallkill has among the highest concentrations of fecal bacteria of any Hudson River tributary that has been sampled.

No tributary to the Hudson River Estuary receives more treated wastewater than the Wallkill River. Twenty municipally owned treatment plants discharge 16 million gallons per day of treated wastewater.

This means that the maintenance and upgrading of wastewater infrastructure in the Wallkill River Watershed is critically important to water quality in the river.



About the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance

Soon to be a 501c3 nonprofit, the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance was founded in 2015 to restore the river to its former health. We have three priorities:

Water Quality, meaning a Wallkill and tributaries that are swimmable, with pollution levels below acceptable limits and no Harmful Algae Blooms.

Public Access & Engagement, fostering a public individually and personally invested in the wellbeing of the river and its' watershed, as well as involved in its restoration. Recreation is critically important to addressing this Priority, and efforts to expand and promote recreational opportunities are a key focus of the Alliance.

Capacity Building, or increasing the time, funding, and people dedicated to restoring the watershed, for both the Alliance and our allied organizations, agencies, and governments.

Our Mission

There is no life without water, and the water that flows through our communities is our responsibility. A river we can swim in and eat from is both our right and our responsibility. The Wallkill River Watershed Alliance was founded to restore the Wallkill River to its prime, to act as the voice of the River, and to advocate for the restoration of its entire watershed, using what- ever means we find necessary.

www.wallkillalliance.org
wallkillalliance@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/wallkillriver



The 4th Annual Wallkill River Summit, 2018

A Wallkill River Water Trail

Orange County Water Authority, in cooperation with Ulster County, Wallkill River Watershed Alliance and the Hudson River Valley Greenway, has been mapping existing and potential public access points on the Wallkill River to facilitate paddling. A Wallkill River water trail is being created in the New York State portion of the river, with the goal of promoting paddling as a way to boost quality of life for those who live in the valley, and the river's role in attracting tourists.

You can join the Alliance and New Paltz Kayaking Tours on Thursday, June 20, at 6 p.m. for a sunset paddle from Sojourner Truth Park in New Paltz. Kayak rentals will be available for a discounted \$10, or bring your own kayak to join the paddle. To reserve a rental or RSVP, contact Craig Chapman at info@npkayaking.com or 845-594-6353.

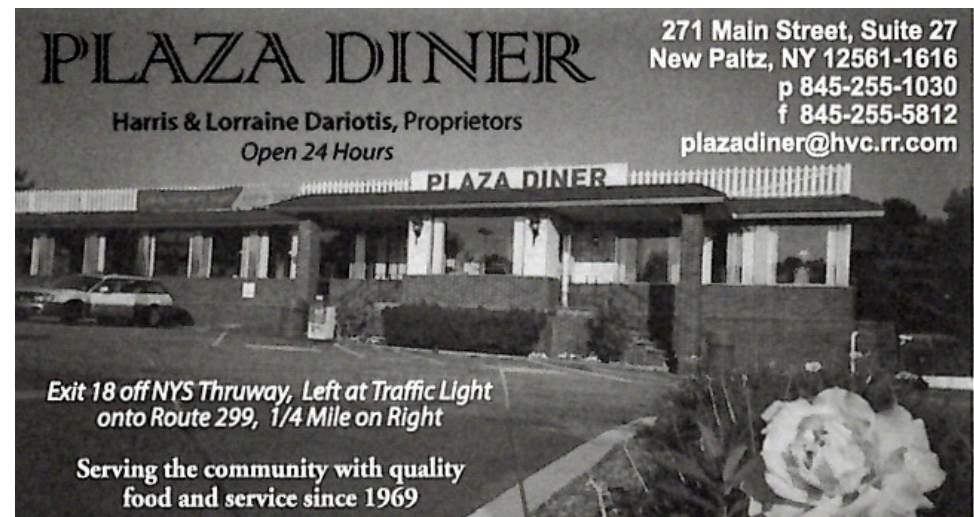
There are at least 14 existing public access points, and several potential new access points, that have now been mapped. Visit paddlethewallkill.org or waterauthority.orangecountygov.com to find maps of the access points.

Here is the list, from south to north, upstream to downstream:

1. Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge- Winding Waters Trail, 8 State Line Rd, Westtown (there are two additional paddling access sites in the New Jersey portion of the refuge)
2. Exit 122 Launch, E. Main St., Middletown
3. Thomas Bull Memorial Park, 211 St. Rte. 416, Montgomery
4. Benedict Farm Town Park, 1675 St. Rte. 17K, Montgomery
5. Veteran's Memorial Park, Montgomery
6. Riverfront Park, 11 Farm Meadow Ln, Montgomery
7. Twin Islands Fishing Park, River Rd., Montgomery
8. Marcus Millspaugh Boat Launch, Maple Street, Walden
9. Popp Park, 3081 Rte. 208, Wallkill
10. Gardiner Launch, 215 Farmer's Tpke., Gardiner
11. Ulster County Fairgrounds, 241 Libertyville Rd., New Paltz
12. Sojourner Truth Park, 55 Plains Rd., New Paltz
13. OSI River to Ridge Trailhead, 41 Springtown Road, New Paltz
14. DEC Boat Launch, 395 Springtown Rd., Rosendale



An early Boat Brigade out of New Paltz, 2016.



2019 Events

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Second Wednesday of the Month
Alternating between Walden Village Hall and various locations in New Paltz
Email wallkillalliance@gmail.com for more information

Saturday, April 27
11-5 p.m.
Earth Day Fair
Reformed Church of New Paltz

Saturday, May 4
Riverkeeper Sweep
Multiple Locations
(see riverkeeper.org/sweep)

Sunday, May 5
12-4 p.m.
New Paltz Regatta
Village of New Paltz

Thursday, May 16
5:30-7 p.m.
5th Annual Wallkill Summit
SUNY New Paltz, Terrace

Thursday, June 20
6 p.m.
Sunset Paddle with New Paltz Kayaking Tours
Sojourner Truth Park, New Paltz

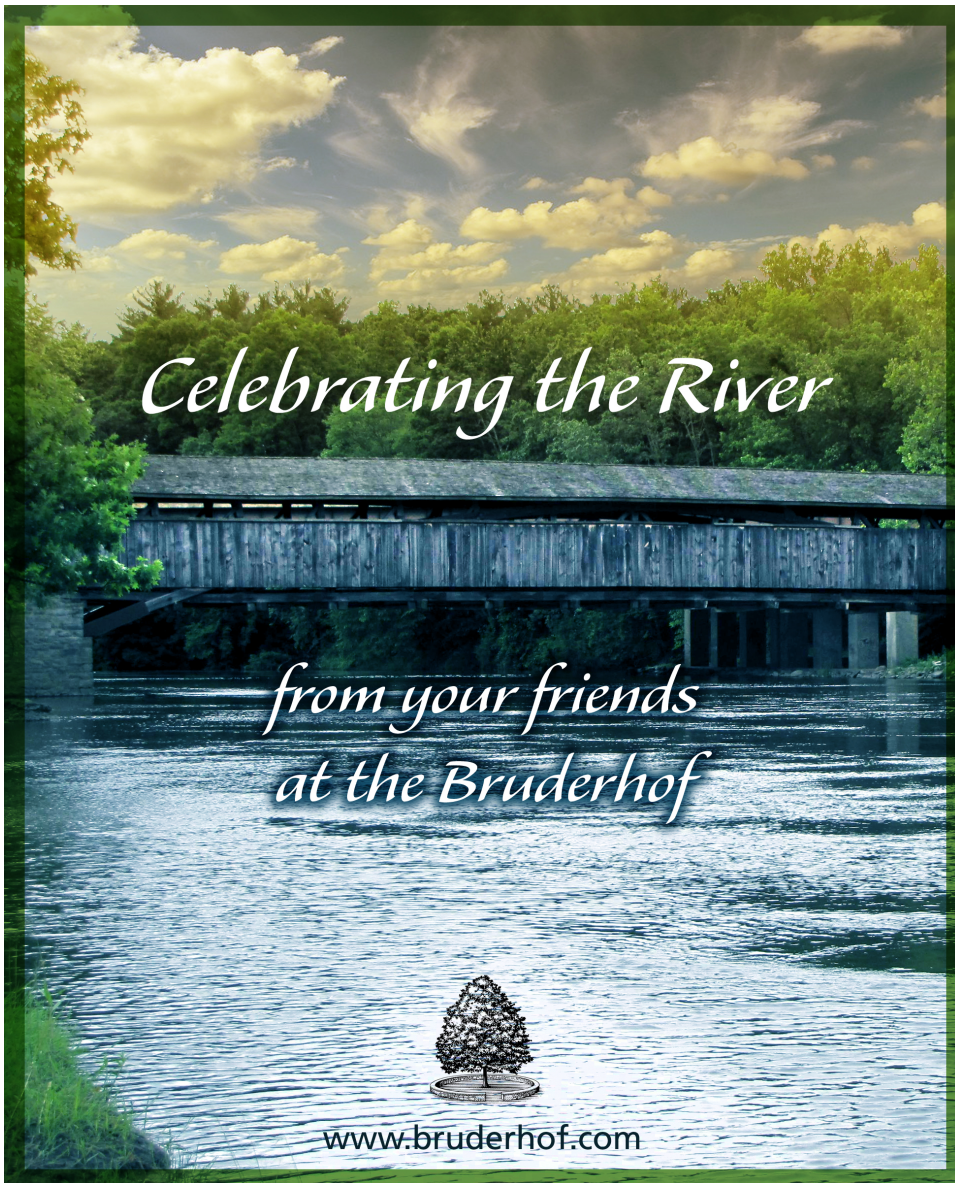
Saturday, June 22
10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
AMC Kayak Self Rescue Class (byo kayak & pfd)
Chodikee Lake, Highland

Saturday, June 22
10 a.m.
Adopt a Highway cleanup
Route 208, New Paltz
(park on Old Ford Rd)

Sunday, June 23
Boat Brigades Tire Investigation (BYO kayak)
TBA

Saturday, September 7
10 a.m.
Adopt a Highway cleanup
Route 208, New Paltz
(park on Old Ford Rd)

Saturday, September 14
Wallkill River Race & Festival
Village of New Paltz



The Alliance Boat Brigade launches another river expedition. 2017.



Popps Memorial Park in Wallkill in the Town of Shawangunk. 2018.



Diving Tower and Spring Boards, Camp Walkkill.
New Paltz, N. Y.

Swimming in the Wallkill, 1920's. Photo courtesy Haviland-Heidgerd Collection



The Black Dirt farming region in southern Orange County, 2017.

★
SNUG HARBOR
★

38 Main St. New Paltz, NY 12561
 (845) 255 9800

★
Live Music Every Weekend
★



Swimming in the Wallkill in New Paltz, 1920's. Photo courtesy Haviland-Heidgerd Collection.



RIVERKEEPER
NY's clean water advocate

Riverkeeper supports the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance and our joint efforts to improve water quality and public access.

riverkeeper.org/water-quality



Serving a delicious mix of American comfort foods & globally inspired fare.
Cozy atmosphere, great food, nice people.

26 Awosting Road
Pine Bush, NY 12566

(845) 670-HOOT
www.hootowlrestaurant.com



NEW PALTZ
KAYAKING

NEW PALTZ
KAYAKING

TEL: 845-594-6353
EMAIL: INFO@NPKAYAKING.COM
WEB: NPKAYAKING.COM

Help Save Tillson Lake

Friends of Tillson Lake is fighting to save this lake in Minnewaska State Park Preserve

More Info: SaveTillsonLake.org

Read: Ecological studies we have supported

Read: Save Tillson Lake facebook group posts
(you don't have to be a member)

info@savetillsonlake.org

Friends of Tillson Lake is a 501 c3 not-for-profit

PO Box 228 Gardiner, NY 12525

membership meetings. Make a donation to become a member: <https://tinyurl.com/wallkilldonation>

Attend a monthly membership meeting

At monthly membership meetings, ongoing projects are discussed, members give feedback on Alliance activities and volunteer for projects, and otherwise drive the mission of the organization. You may also want to attend a meeting of a group focused on one of the tributaries with active projects ongoing: Mill Brook/Trib 13, Monhagen Brook, Saw Mill Brook, Shawangunk Kill and Tin Brook. Learn about meetings by signing up for our newsletter by sending a blank email to wallkill+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Become a River Monitor

In 2015 the WRWA Boat Brigade started organizing paddles to observe river conditions and report any problems to localities and The DEC. The effort has led to better management of stormwater runoff at construction sites, more inspections of wastewater treatment facilities and assistance to municipalities in their compliance with stormwater regulations. The Alliance has changed our approach and is now recruiting River Monitors who will commit to observing a section of the river at least once in 2019. Participants will use an online Google form to report their observations. To get involved send an email with "River Monitor" in the subject line to wallkillalliance@gmail.com.

Join a project team

The Alliance relies on volunteers to complete projects, including the organization of the annual Summit and the Wallkill River Race and Festival; the building of the Alliance's New Paltz Regatta boat; the gathering of water samples; fundraising in support of this publication; and more. Most projects are discussed at monthly membership meetings, and that's the best way to get involved. If you are interested but can't attend a monthly meeting, send an email with "Volunteer Interest" in the subject line to wallkillalliance@gmail.com.

Attend a volunteer cleanup

The Riverkeeper Sweep and the Alliance's Adopt a Highway cleanups are great opportunities to get your hands dirty, and get your river clean. See the calendar for opportunities to get involved.



The Wallkill River close to where it meets the Shawangunk Kill in Gardiner, 2017

15 Facts About the Watershed

- 1. The Wallkill River Watershed covers 800 square miles**, including 42 cities, villages and towns in New York and New Jersey. The Wallkill River is 88 miles long, and flows northward from an artificial lake in Sparta, NJ, to Sturgeon Pool, an artificial lake in Rifton, NY, before meeting the Rondout Creek.
- 2. Despite its name, the Wallkill River is the larger of the two arms of the Rondout Creek Watershed.** The Rondout is the largest tributary to the tidal Hudson River, and it is part of the source waters for the 100,000 people who rely on the Hudson River Estuary for drinking water.
- 3. One of the oldest human habitation sites east of the Mississippi is in the Wallkill River Watershed.** Known inelegantly as the "Dutchess Quarry Cave," the site overlooks what is now the Black Dirt farming region, and is thought to be about 10,000 years old.
- 4. A Native American name for the Wallkill is Twischsawkin**, "the land where plums abound." The Lenni-Lenape people who lived in the valley were farmers, as well as hunters and fishers. Today, agriculture remains a dominant land use. According to GIS analysis undertaken by the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance, the watershed is currently 60% undeveloped, 27% in active agriculture of some kind, and 13% urban/suburban development.
- 5. The first settlement of European colonialists was in New Paltz**, where 12 French Huguenot families and their slaves settled in 1678. The rigidly conservative Huguenots went on to found a town that would become synonymous with hippies and gay marriage.
- 6. The Wallkill Valley Railroad operated from 1866 to 1977**, and helped to spur the growth of Middletown and other population centers. Today many miles of railroad bed have been transformed into a rail trail.
- 7. Six hydroelectric dams are operating in the Wallkill River**, creating a series of impoundments that alter the natural flow of the river. Extensive networks of drainage ditches and channels have been created to drain the Black Dirt farmland and reduce flooding risks there.

How You Can Fight Dirty



Riverside Park, Montomerv

"If there's a world here in a hundred years, it's going to be saved by tens of millions of little things. The powers-that-be can break up any big thing they want. They can corrupt it or co-opt it from the inside, or they can attack it from the outside. But what are they going to do about 10 million little things? They break up two of them, and three more like them spring up!"

Pete Seeger

The Wallkill River Watershed Alliance is looking for your help - not to do one big thing, or even two little things - but at least ONE little thing. Here are some ways you can help the Alliance and our mission to protect and restore the Wallkill River Watershed:

Fight Dirty: Call your state legislators

Tell your representative that the Wallkill River is important to you, that you support the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance's efforts to protect and restore the river, and that you support programs to clean it up. One of the most important of these programs is the New York State Clean Water Infrastructure Act, which provides grants to local municipalities so that they can improve water quality by upgrading wastewater infrastructure. In 2018 alone, state and local communities committed to \$36 million in sewer upgrades in the Wallkill River watershed - but more will be needed. See the list of legislators elsewhere in this booklet and please call your representatives.

Become a member

Alliance members help in several ways. First, they demonstrate to decision-makers that there is public support for our mission to clean the river. Second, membership donations provide the Alliance with resources to implement projects. Third, members make us what we are, by volunteering time and participating in discussions at monthly

8. **The Wallkill River has a great diversity of fish species**, though this is largely due to the presence of many non-native species. The Oriental weatherfish, a recent invader to the Hudson River Watershed, was first introduced in a Wallkill tributary in 2009, and spread to the Hudson.
9. **Twenty municipally owned wastewater treatment plants discharge to the Wallkill River or its tributaries.** At least \$71 million is needed to maintain and upgrade this critical water infrastructure. In 2018, the Department of Environmental Conservation documented the impairment of the river by Phosphorus, the removal of which may require additional treatments at these plants. Also in 2018, the state and local communities committed to \$36 million in sewer infrastructure projects to improve water quality.
10. **In 2015 and 2016, the Wallkill experienced Harmful Algal Blooms** - when cyanobacteria proliferated, producing toxins that impaired use of the water for recreation and irrigation. In 2016, the algae was observed over 30 miles of the river, from Montgomery to Rifton, and downstream in the Rondout; it persisted in parts of the river for as long as 60 days.
11. **The Wallkill River is not safe for swimming at most locations, most of the time, according to data gathered by community scientists** partnered with Riverkeeper. Since 2012, 90% of the 937 samples gathered from the river and its tributaries have failed to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency criteria for safe swimming.
12. **Other pollutants of concern in the Wallkill River include DDT and arsenic.** DDT was identified in 1997 long after its ban in the U.S. Arsenic is recognized as an impairment to water quality in parts of the river in NJ
13. **The Wallkill has 14 public paddling access points - more than any other Hudson River Estuary tributary.** A Wallkill River Water Trail is under development by the Orange County Water Authority.
14. **The Wallkill River Watershed Alliance formed in 2015**, building on the work of the Wallkill River Task Force, and a 2007 management plan.
15. **The future of the Wallkill River is in your hands.** The Wallkill River Watershed Alliance, with its partners and supporters including Riverkeeper and the DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program, is leading the effort to restore the river. We envision a river that is healthy for wildlife and humans, and central to the lives of those who live in the valley. We are working to build and support the community of people necessary to achieve that goal.



Where You Bank Matters.
Bank with **US** and strengthen your community's growth.

We are proud to support the **Wallkill River Watershed Alliance.**

Ulster  Savings

Helping Community Changes Lives.

MILLIONS DONATED. THOUSANDS HELPED.

Locations throughout the Hudson Valley
866.440.0391
UlsterSavings.com

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER / MEMBER FDIC



**Americas
Best Value Inn**

7 Terwilliger Ln. New Paltz, NY 12561 845-255-8865 www.abviofnewpaltz.com

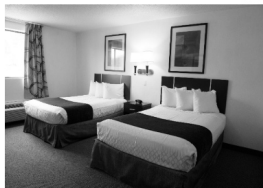
We offer ideal accommodations and location whether you are in town for hiking, sightseeing, annual festivals, visiting SUNY New Paltz, or simply passing through on your way to Albany or New York City. Our goal is to provide our guests a great experience, not just a place to stay.



**"Hassle Free"
Group Discounts
are available**

*Weddings *Reunions
*Meetings *Wine Tours
any reason you can think of!

All guestrooms include:
Free High Speed Wifi
Microwave
Mini Fridge
32" LCD TV
100+ Channels
50+ Free "On Demand" Channels
and more!



Signs of Progress for the River

\$36 million to improve water quality through commitments by state and local communities to invest in sewer systems in the watershed, including projects in the City of Middletown, Town of Wallkill, Village of New Paltz and Village of Warwick.

16,000 pounds of trash removed since 2014, including **nearly 300 tires**, during River-keeper Sweep, Alliance Tire Pull and Alliance Adopt-a-Highway events.

8,781 trees and shrubs planted along river and stream banks in partnership with DEC Hudson River Estuary Program's Trees for Tribs program, since 2007.

550 people educated about the Wallkill River at Alliance events in 2018.

46 businesses that sponsored the Alliance's 2018 Wallkill River Festival.

30 locations sampled by DEC to measure water quality in second year of an intensive whole-watershed assessment in 2018.

375 water samples gathered in 2018 by community scientists coordinated by River-keeper, including many in partnership with Wallkill River Watershed Alliance.

18 public paddles hosted by the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance, since 2015.

14 public access points for paddlers mapped by Orange County Department of Planning to help develop a Wallkill River water trail.

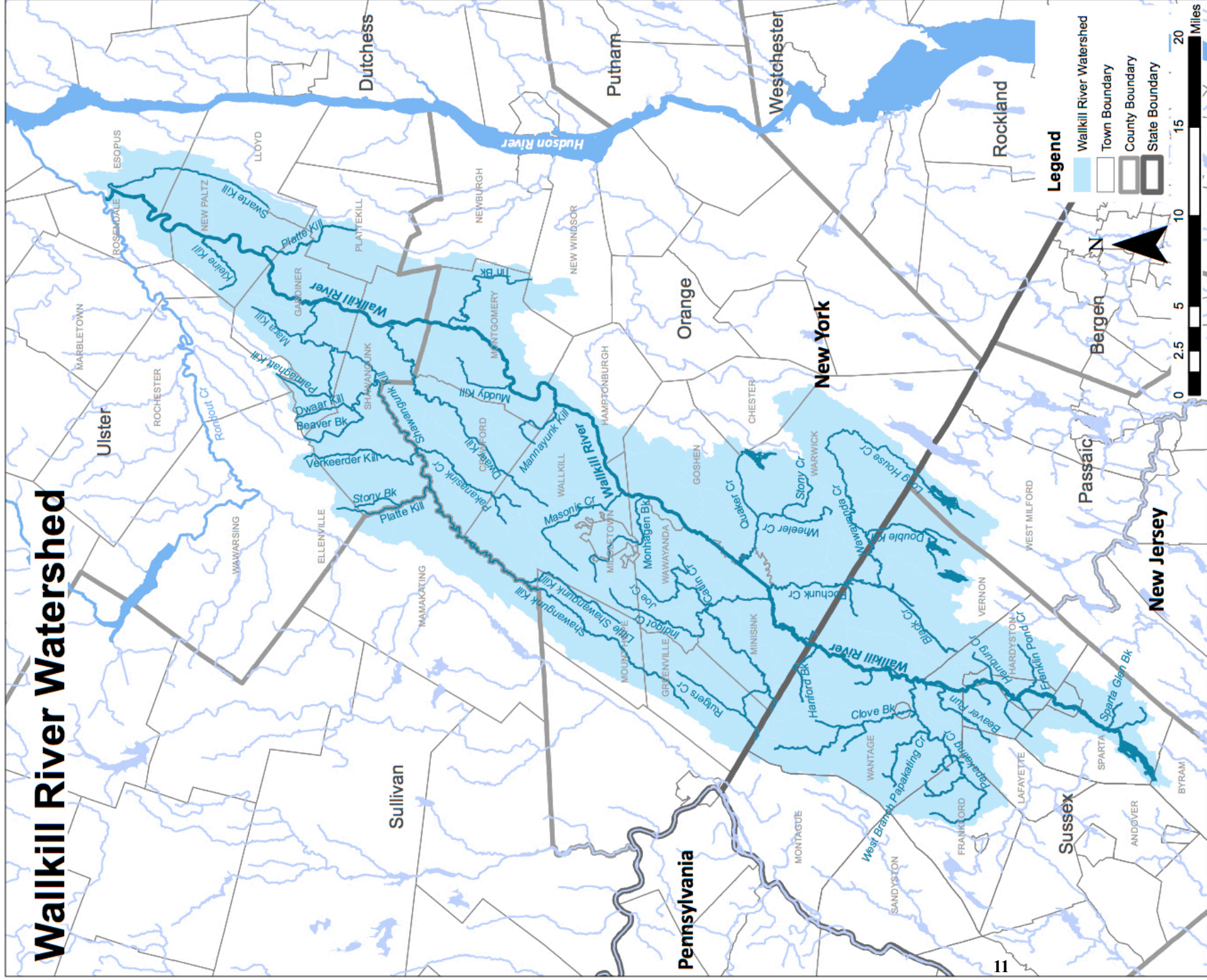
1,000 acres improved by farmers working with Orange County Soil & Water Conservation District with best management practices to reduce erosion and improve water quality.

5 stormwater reports delivered to municipalities by the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance to assist with their compliance with clean water regulations.

7 local governments trained in how to use land use law to protect water resources in 2018, with Pace Land Use Law Center and Wallkill River Watershed Alliance.

5 tributary projects to study, protect and restore the Monhagen Brook, Shawangunk Kill, Saw Mill Brook, Mill Brook/Trib 13 and Klein Kill. A 6th, for the Tin Brook, is on underway.

Walkill River Watershed



This map was created for the Walkill River Watershed Alliance (WRWA) in April 2016 and shows the extent of the watershed, its tributaries, and the municipalities in the watershed. Data sources include the United States Geological Survey, United States Census, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The map was created by the Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell University, with assistance from SUNY Geography and Intern Paulina Lustgarten. Contact Laura Heady at laura.HEADY@dec.ny.gov with questions about the map. To learn more about WRWA, visit www.walkillalliance.org or email walkillalliance@gmail.com.



