

The Wallkill River

The Wallkill River begins its northeastward journey in the New Jersey Highlands. After meandering almost 90 miles through Orange and Ulster counties, the Wallkill joins the Rondout Creek and enters the Hudson River Estuary near Kingston. The Wallkill River receives freshwater from hundreds of miles of streams within its 1,000 square mile watershed. The Wallkill/Rondout watershed is the largest of all Hudson River Estuary tributaries.

The Wallkill's south to north flow may explain the high diversity among frogs, salamanders and turtles, with some species not normally found this far north. With over 22 species of fish, the Wallkill has the greatest fish species diversity of any Hudson River tributary. The Wallkill River provides habitat for many warm-water fish, like rock bass, while some of its tributaries provide valuable habitat for cold water fishes, like trout. The Wallkill's valley serves as a passageway between the Hudson Highlands and the Shawangunk Ridge for many mammals, such as black bear and fox. Migratory bird species, such as black duck, Canada geese, common mergansers, and wood duck, use the river and its wetlands as an important nesting and migration habitat along the Atlantic Flyway.

The river and its watershed provides countless resources to the people in the Valley, including drinking water aquifers, irrigation water, hydro-electricity, nutrient-rich agricultural floodplains, and opportunities for fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing. However, urban and agricultural runoff, improperly functioning septic and sewer systems, and the loss of vegetation and natural habitats threaten the health of the river. In earlier times, the Wallkill was a more vibrant ecosystem and a swimmable river. The goal of the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance is to restore the river not only as a thriving ecosystem but also as a focal point in our lives and a symbol of the vitality of our communities

What is the Alliance?

The Alliance is an association of individuals, businesses, civic organizations and municipalities dedicated to restoring the ecological health of the Wallkill River and its watershed.

Our mission is to bring the Wallkill River back into the centerpiece of people's lives as a key feature symbolizing the vitality of our communities and our natural environment.

We monitor, research and advocate for the river.

Join the Alliance!

Our members are the backbone of the Alliance, providing the volunteer effort needed to clean the Wallkill. We welcome individuals, local businesses, municipalities and non-profit organizations to join.

We welcome everyone interested in restoring the Wallkill River and its' watershed.

wallkill river watershed alliance

wallkillalliance@gmail.com

www.wallkillalliance.org

www.facebook.com/wallkillriver

[#savethewallkill](https://twitter.com/savethewallkill)

[@wallkillriver](https://www.instagram.com/wallkillriver)

wallkill river
watershed alliance
we fight dirty

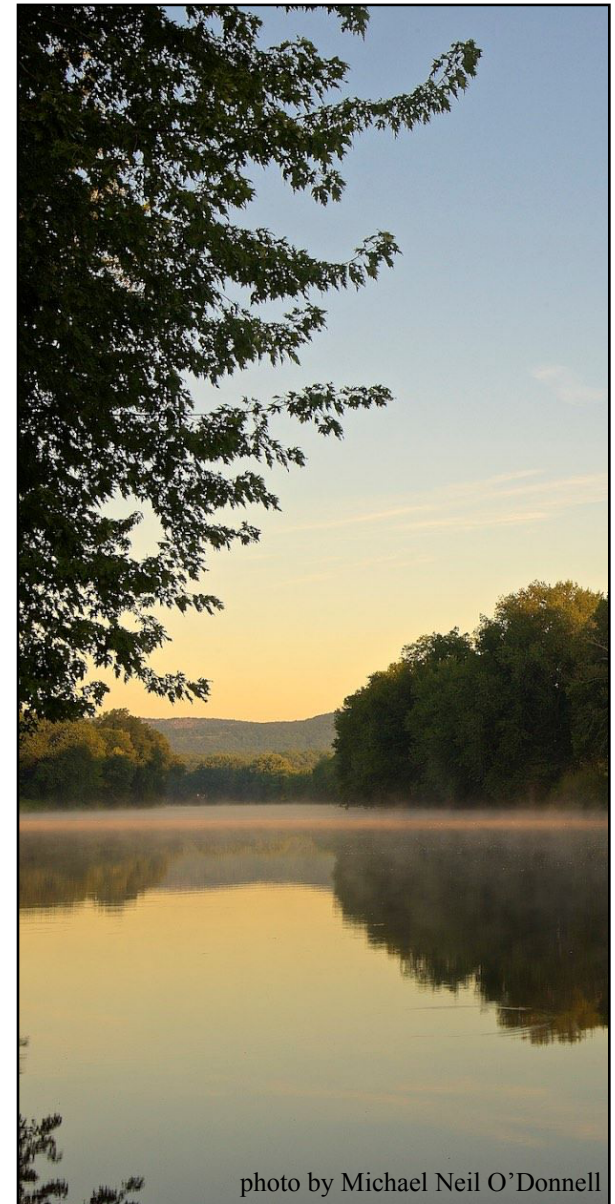
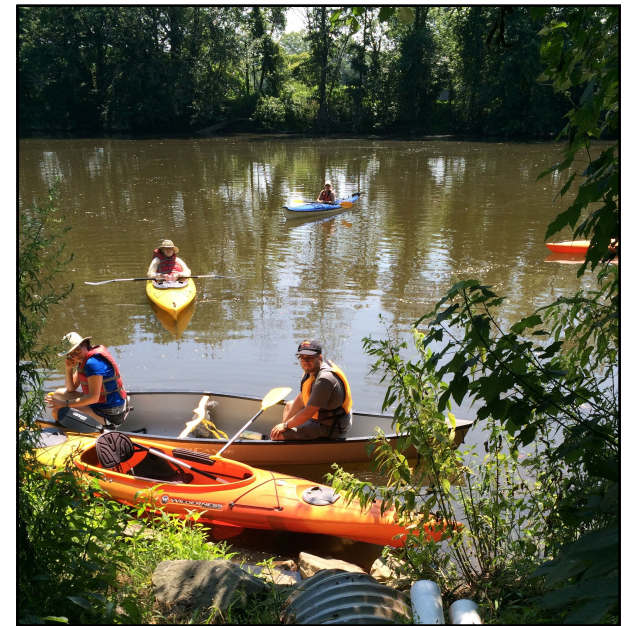
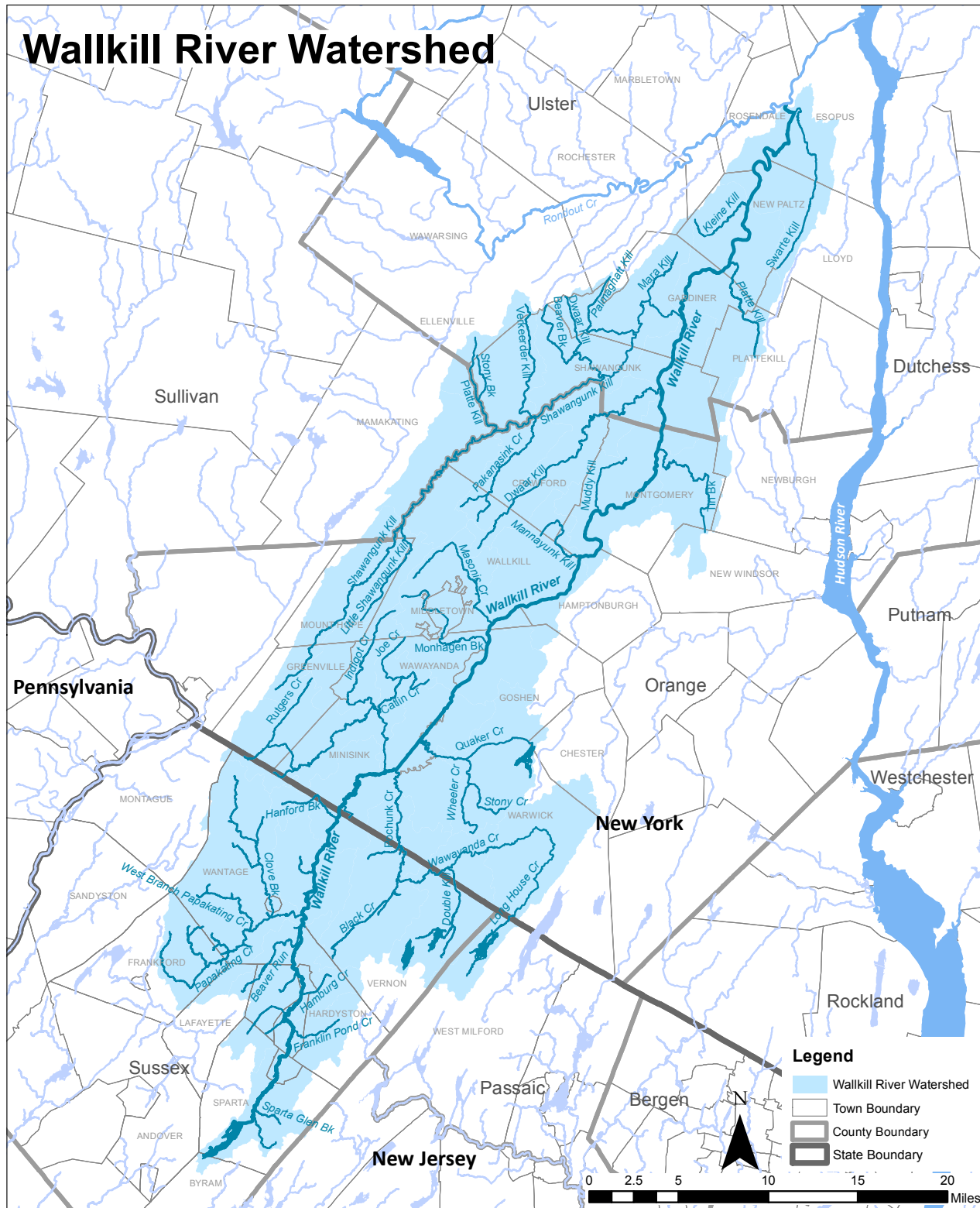


photo by Michael Neil O'Donnell

Wallkill River Watershed



What Does the Alliance Do?

Monitor the River

The Alliance Boat Brigades periodically patrol the river, looking for such problems as illicit discharges, stormwater issues, or algae blooms.

Scientific Research

Trained research scientists lead the Alliance Science Working Group (along with other interested people) in researching what is in the river. Alliance scientists also analyze samples sent in by our members, alerting the relevant agencies of significant findings.

Educate, Recruit and Grow

The Outreach Working Group gets the word out about both the state of the Wallkill and the work of the Alliance. They recruit new supporters and help grow the Alliance.