



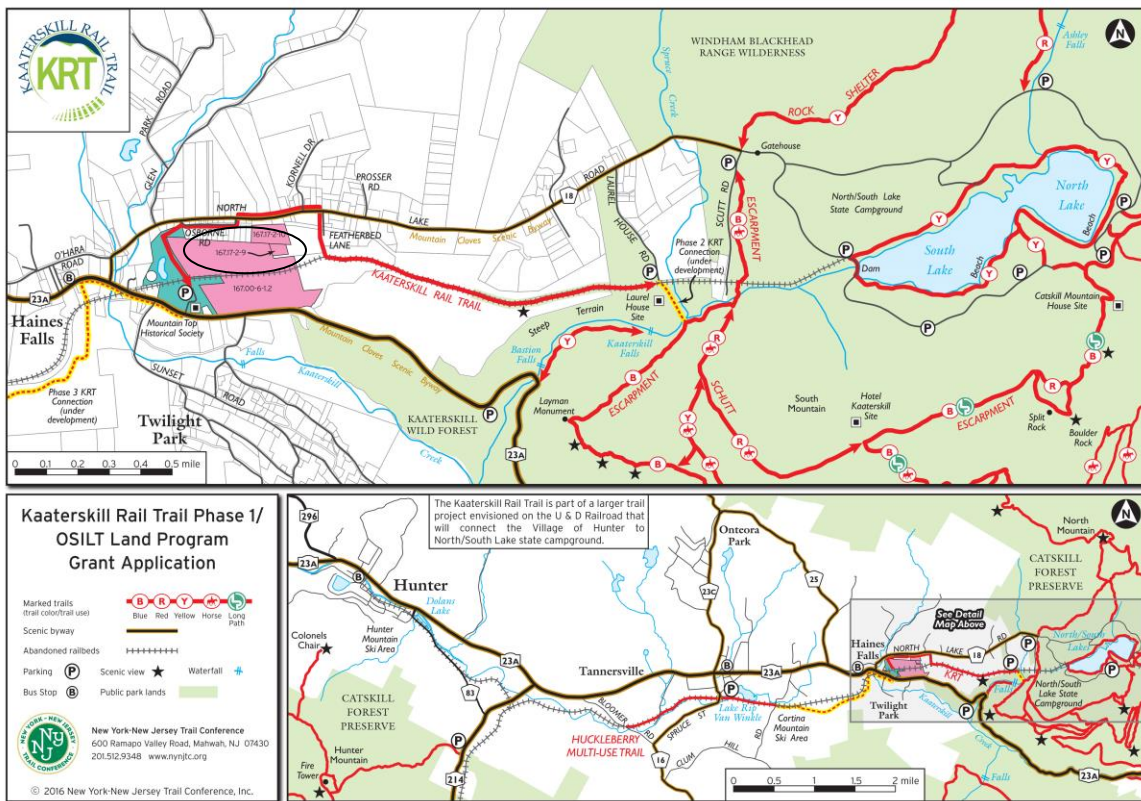
GCSWCD Watershed Assistance Program
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August 2016 Update for GCSWCD Board

Formed in 2002 to assist the Mountaintop communities of Ashland, Jewett, Lexington, Prattsville, Halcott, Town of Hunter, Windham, and the Villages of Hunter and Tannersville in dealing with issues and programs related to the NYC Watershed, the GCSWCD Watershed Assistance Program (WAP) provides coordination for and among mountaintop municipalities, residents and local, regional and state agencies on watershed programs and projects. The WAP serves as an advocate on watershed issues for public and private interests to exist in the NYC watershed and to maximize the opportunities to benefit from watershed programs and resources. Current projects include:

Outdoor Resource Projects

1. Kaaterskill Rail Trail (KRT) Kursh property purchase – working with Open Space Institute, NY NJ Trail Conference, the KRT committee, and The Hunter Foundation, Inc. to purchase 29 +/- acres to close the gap on phase 1 of the KRT. Funding approved, shooting for closing sometime in September. The Mountain Top Historical Society will own the property.



2. Kaaterskill Path, phase 3 – site walks and meetings with three landowners to connect the Huckleberry Trail in Tannersville to the KRT in Haines Falls.

3. Hunter Area Trail Coalition – organizing individual trail organizations (Hunter Mountain Outfitters/Windham Area Recreation Foundation, The Hunter Foundation, NY-NJ Trail Conference, KRT committee) to develop an integrated, connected trail system in the Town of Hunter. DEC and DEP will be involved as well.



4. Windham Path phase 3 – Windham Area Recreation Foundation and the Town of Windham are expanding the popular Windham Path east to Hensonville. GCSWCD providing mapping and permitting assistance as needed.
5. Ashland Public Park – support local committee in drafting park plan that can be used for grant applications, such as the next Smart Growth grant round. GCSWCD providing mapping services.

Flood Mitigation Assistance

Assisting communities with Flood Hazard Mitigation Programs funded by FEMA/SEMO and NYCDEP:

1. NYC Voluntary Flood Buyout – provide assistance for eligible and approved landowners to go through the program on behalf of municipalities that choose GCSWCD as their Outreach Lead.
2. Local Flood Analysis (LFA) program and facilitation of flood advisory committees:
 - Windham LFA completed in October 2015, town working with Greene Co. IDA and CWC on GNH relocation, and CEO identifying properties for pollution prevention control (anchoring down oil and propane tanks for eligible landowners)
 - Lexington LFA completed May 2016 – working with town on applying for a \$20,000 CWC Sustainable Community planning grant for properties along County Rte. 13A that may be interested in relocating with town concurrence
 - Prattville LFA done (Jeff contact) – upsizing two bridges
 - Conesville and Ashland started in 2016 (Joel D. facilitating) – working with consultant and hiring consultant, respectively

- Tannersville first flood advisory committee meeting July 21, 2016 to begin process, hoping to coordinate RFP with Town and Village of Hunter



3. Greene County All Hazards Mitigation Plan update – supported mountaintop communities with updating their annexes to the county plan and applying for HMGP funds when grant rounds are announced.
4. FEMA Flood Buyout program – last property was demolished in June 2016 (Briggs, Prattville). Program closed, working on final reimbursement forms and reconciling with NYCDEP reimbursement for their contribution. Total of 23 properties across the county went through the program. Jeff and Joel handled demolition which was trying to say the least!

Briggs pre-demolition



Post demolition



Mountain Cloves Scenic Byways – coordinate projects for the MCSB Inc., a not for profit organization, overseeing the MCSB including:

- Improving communication with NYSDOT regarding work along the state designated byway, meetings with DOT on Rte. 23A slope failure projects starting in 2016
- \$26,000 Smart Growth grant to the Town of Hunter for 5 interpretive gateway kiosks – working on designing kiosk panel (content and map); siting four on state roads (23A and 214) and county roads (16/Platte Clove Rd.)
- Working through Catskill Park Advisory Committee and MCSB Inc. to get NYSDOT to develop design guidelines for work along state roads in the Catskill Park

- Working with Catskill Mountain Scenic Byway on joint proposal to get funding for a paid byway administrator

Committee coordination and/or participation

- *Mountaintop Supervisors and Mayors Association* (4th Monday) – monthly meetings of Mountaintop leaders to discuss topics of mutual concern and interest that promote inter-municipal communication and innovation. The MSMA provides input and direction for the WAP and serves as program advisor based on priority needs the local leaders see for their communities.
- *Coalition of Watershed Towns* (3rd Monday) – advocacy member organization that protects the rights of watershed communities; the CWT negotiates funding and policy affecting local watershed municipalities and other issues and concerns expressed by Greene County stakeholders.
- *Education/outreach and habitat and recreation subcommittees* to the Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee
- *Catskill Park Advisory Committee* – group meets quarterly, charge is to advise and provide guidance to the NYSDEC, the NYCDEP and other land managers in the management of the New York State Forest Preserve, the Catskill Park and the Catskill Watershed.

General District programs

1. *Second Vacuum sweeper truck for Mountaintop towns* – awarded \$310,000 total from CWC Stormwater Retrofit and GCSWCD SMIP programs, working on maintenance agreement for two private entities and contracting for CWC to release funds to Greene County Highway to bid out project
2. *Advocacy for Greene County Mountaintop Communities*
 - NYCDEP Filtration Avoidance Determinations (FAD), comments for the 2017 FAD, which determines watershed programming and funding for next 10 yrs
 - NYC Voluntary Flood Buyout Program (\$15million program to support eligible landowners) and new Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program (\$17 million administered by CWC)
 - Proposal for Greene County Stormwater Technician (recommended in Hunter Corridor Strategy), was pulled from consideration after Hurricane Irene
3. *Resource and referral* – for watershed interests (landowners, local elected, appointed officials, developers, etc) looking for information on funding programs, educational programs, resources benefitting the mountaintop communities, watershed rules and regulations
4. *Education and outreach assistance* – annual water quality summits, Schoharie Watershed Month