

Saw Mill River Coalition

Action Plan: 2004

GOALS	2004 ACTIONS	Additional ideas (Not yet scheduled or funded)
<p>WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION</p> <p>A strong and active watershed coalition crosses jurisdictional lines and coordinates management activities throughout the Saw Mill basin.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to convene quarterly Coalition meetings and expand participation. (Groundwork) 2. Make presentations in public forums throughout the watershed to bring in new participants. (Groundwork) 3. Identify common issues and concerns to promote an intermunicipal watershed planning and agreement, including Phase II stormwater requirements. (Groundwork) 4. Inform key watershed stakeholders of public events and activities related to Saw Mill issues and management. (Groundwork) 5. Create Coalition marketing material including logo, stationery, web site, and brochure. (Groundwork) 6. Collect watershed wide maps, data, and planning information (Groundwork, et. al) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a corridor-wide management plan, including measurable goals and objectives. • Promote the development of the Saw Mill Parkway as a Scenic By-way • Map the watershed for planning and management purposes, identifying land-uses, ownership issues, open space and more. • Outreach to businesses and land owners in the watershed • Assist MS4s in developing intermunicipal projects that meet Phase II requirements as well as other projects identified.

<p>PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS</p> <p>The public understands and is aware of the Saw Mill River, its watershed and its significance to local ecology and river systems.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teach local high school and college students about the Saw Mill River through stormwater monitoring project. (Groundwork) 2. Obtain publicity for stormwater monitoring project with local media. (Groundwork, Manhattan College and Yonkers Public Schools) 3. Place historic Saw Mill River trail sign at the Arches site in Yonkers. (Groundwork) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize public events such as river clean-ups with local students to obtain publicity. • Establish an annual “Rolling for the River” event along the walking/bike trail. • Develop education program with local schools called “River Rats” that will bring students to the river to learn and help improve the river. • Organize educational conferences about the Saw Mill River. • Place additional informational signs along Saw Mill River roadway. • Sponsor an Adopt-A-Highway site and sign.
<p>ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION</p> <p>The Saw Mill River is a healthy ecosystem that supports biodiversity, aquatic life, and contributes minimal pollution to the Hudson River.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue efforts to promote the day-lighting of the river in Yonkers at Chicken Island and Larkin Plaza (Scenic Hudson) 2. Assess storm water and baseline-pollution through water quality monitoring project at 2-3 sites in lower watershed. Also, consolidate historic water pollution data and information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore habitat in select small sites along the Saw Mill through native plant plantings. • Install blue bird boxes along the Saw Mill to provide habitat and promote restoration activities. • Create demonstration sites on low-impact development and water

<p>ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION continued...</p>	<p>(Groundwork, Manhattan College, Saunders High).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Clean-up trash along river. (Groundwork, Minozzi, Americorp, WESC) 4. Participate in Army Corps Saw Mill Restoration Study and Project (Groundwork and County) 5. Work with and support efforts to identify and stop polluters along the river (County, Riverkeeper, Groundwork) 	<p>conservation techniques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct workshops in the watershed to teach local property owners, landscapers, and governments about best management practices that reduce stormwater runoff and prevent pollution. • Implement intermunicipal projects.
<p>CULTURE AND RECREATION</p> <p>The Saw Mill is a community resource for an array of recreational activities (fishing, biking, walking, birding, resting), and its history is interpreted for educational and cultural purposes.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to promote the idea of Saw Mill River Heritage Trail (Philipse Manor Hall, Groundwork, et. al) 2. Install historic signage in one site in Yonkers. (Groundwork) 3. Work with the Army Corps to improve a section of the South County Trail along the Saw Mill River (County, Groundwork) 4. Support efforts to open river and create walking trails at Chicken Island and Larkin Plaza sites in Yonkers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve students in a project to collect information on the history of the Saw Mill in each watershed town and village. • Obtaining federal DOT funding to build a section of the historic Saw Mill Trail along War Memorial Park in Yonkers. • Extend the South County Trail along the Saw Mill River to connect with the OCA Trail.