



Town of Walkill

99 Tower Drive • Middletown, New York 10941-2026

Commission for Conservation of the Environment

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Highlights of Recent Commission Activities

HIGHLAND LAKES STATE PARK CLEAN-UP 2011

The Commission for Conservation of the Environment (CCE) successfully organized with the cooperation of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission & the Town of Walkill DPW (2) clean-ups at this Town of Walkill Treasure to remove illegally dumped debris. The CCE request for clean-up volunteers was answered by the many groups that use the park for recreation. Participating in the clean-up in July & November were equestrian riders, mountain bikers, hikers & naturalists. Many of the volunteers were Town of Walkill residents but there were an equal number of participants who live in nearby towns and love the park. The photo below shows a portion of the garbage that was removed from the park. The CCE is working with the PIPC and park enthusiasts to develop solutions to curb the illegal dumping that occurs at the Park.



Stream Protection

While conservation programs need to address all areas of the Town, the CCE has recently given special attention to Wallkill's stream corridors. With assistance from a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation program called Trees for Tribs, we have planned and completed two 'riparian restoration' projects – both on the Monhagen Brook. Streams lacking natural vegetation along their banks and the adjacent 'riparian' area are ideal candidates for restoration projects. Converting mowed turfgrass to native tree and shrub cover will benefit water quality, and improve habitat both within the stream and in the adjacent areas.

Our first project was completed in the spring of 2011, on a branch of the Monhagen that runs through the Middletown Community Campus (formerly the Middletown Psychiatric Center). It can be seen at the corner of Ashley Avenue and Dorthea Dix Drive. In the spring of 2012, a second project was completed at the Maple Hill Elementary School off County Route 78. This branch of the Monhagen joins the branch on which our 2011 project was completed next to County Route 78 near the Middletown Schools complex – becoming the main stem of the Brook that passes through (and in places under) the City of Middletown.

Four foot tall 'tree tubes' are a tell-tale sign of a Trees for Tribs project. These tubes protect the small trees that are typically used for these stream improvement projects from animal browse until they can fend for themselves.

Do you know of a stream segment in the Town that might be a candidate for a Tress for Tribs project?
Please let us know via the 'contact conservation commission' page on the Town's website.



Students from the After School program assisted with streamside plantings at Maple Hill School. The project was coordinated by the Town of Wallkill Commission for Conservation of the Environment, with assistance and planting materials provided by the NYSDEC Trees for Tribs program.