

# Stream Management Plan Adoption

## Frequently Asked Questions

*What does it mean to the Town to adopt a stream management plan?*

By adopting a stream management plan, the Town recognizes that:

1. Actions or policies proposed by individuals or agencies that seek to correct one problem can have unintended negative upstream and/or downstream effects. These effects can be lasting and eventually need correction at additional expense.
2. An approach to future stream related projects that benefits multiple interests (e.g. sediment transport, erosion rates, flood levels, fish habitat) is necessary to ensure good, cooperative stream stewardship.
3. Where negative impacts are suspected and unavoidable, the Town will urge mitigation to the best extent practicable.
4. Cooperating with the Soil and Water District at early stages of project scoping and design can help ensure a cooperative, multi-objective project or policy.

*Why would the Town do this? How does adoption benefit the Town?*

Adoption of a stream management plan can provide numerous benefits, including:

1. Catskill Mountains and streams provide economic vitality through tourism to the Towns. Adoption is a way to show commitment to preserving the health of the streams and to the multiple benefits of stream management planning, such as infrastructure and property protection.
2. Many recommendations within the plan focus on applying for grants or seeking funds from existing programs (e.g. Stormwater Retrofit). Agencies that review grant proposals are often more likely to fund a project that has a planning foundation coupled with demonstrated local government support. In some cases, these agencies may even **require** plan adoption before committing funds.
3. New York City DEP will consider whether a Plan has been adopted when prioritizing implementation funding.

*Does adoption result in any new local regulations or regulatory actions?*

No, adoption does not mean that regulatory actions will be taken. This plan does not change zoning, restrict development or create new local ordinances. However it may be in the interest of the public and/or Town to reduce the risks of development in locations where there are documented hazards from streambank erosion, in the same way that towns use existing floodplain ordinances. Future funding of elements of the Plan may be contingent on demonstrated commitment to reducing risks from such erosion hazards.

*Can plan adoption be useful in emergency situations?*

Yes, a stream management plan can be helpful in emergency situations. Again, agencies are often more likely to fund projects that are based upon previous studies and assessments. The plan discusses flood and erosion hazard mitigation and can serve as documentation of existing conditions and known problems in the stream corridor area. The plan provides a technical basis for decision-making for long-lasting projects or policies.

*How can the Town maximize benefits from plan adoption?*

A stream management plan is only as helpful as a Town makes it. It could be adopted, placed on a shelf and then simply collect dust. Alternatively, the plan can be built upon and be frequently used as a tool to guide future projects and built upon for future plans and projects.

To put the Stream Management Plan to work for your community your Town could:

1. Send a letter to agencies that do stream work or project review of stream work. The letter would announce your adoption and support of the plan and ask those agencies to coordinate their planned projects, such as bridge replacements, with the Town and SWCD.

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2. As any projects or policy proposals arise, either small or large in scale, Towns can refer back to the relevant section of the plan to review content that may inform decisions.
3. Seek assistance from your County Soil and Water Conservation District. The District has great technical review expertise. Early involvement by the District will improve the efficiency of the planning process as well as leading to a better end product.
4. Appoint two Town liaisons to participate in Project Advisory Committee meetings to develop and review proposed activities within an annual basin action plan, which will drive DEP's implementation funding.