

## 2.1 Regional Setting

The Manor Kill watershed is located in the southeastern region of NY State (Figure 2.1.1). The majority of the 34.4 mile<sup>2</sup> Manor Kill watershed lies within the Town of Conesville, with a very small sliver in the Town of Gilboa. The Manor Kill is part of the Schoharie Watershed, which encompasses 316 miles<sup>2</sup>, and receives waters from other creeks such as the Batavia Kill, West Kill and East Kill.

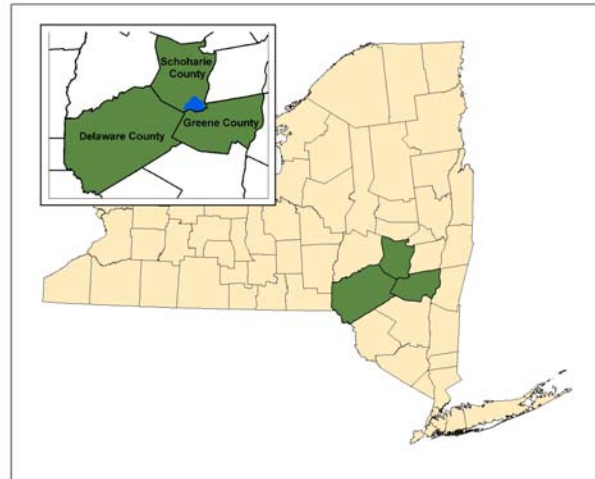


Figure 2.1.1 Schoharie Creek watershed counties

The entire Schoharie basin (above reservoir) also includes the towns of Windham, Ashland, Jewett, Hunter, Prattsville, Roxbury and Lexington (Fig 2.1.2). Approximately 75% of the Schoharie Creek watershed is located within the Catskill Park.

In 1885, the Catskill and Adirondack Forest Preserves were established by the NY State Assembly. An 1894 amendment to the New York State Constitution (now Article 14) directs “the lands of the State now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed” (NYS DEC, 2006).

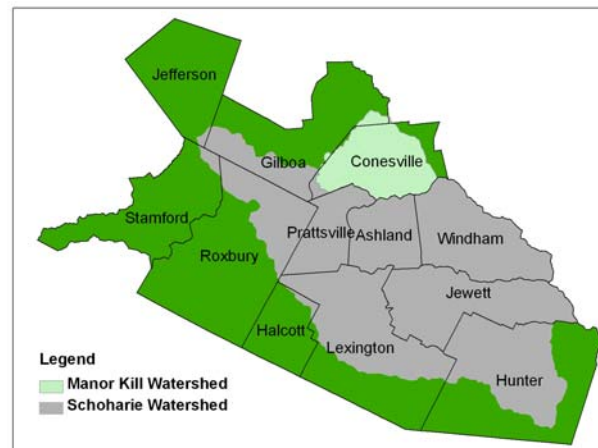


Figure 2.1.2. The Manor Kill's position within the Schoharie Basin.

In 1904, the Catskill Park was designated, establishing a boundary or ‘blue line’



*State Land historical marker*

around the Forest Preserve and private land as well.

Over the years the Catskill Park grew, and now comprises roughly 700,000 acres, about half of which is public Forest Preserve. The Catskill and Adirondack Parks are nationally unique because they are a checkerboard of public and private land; a grand experiment in how nature and human society can coexist in a landscape (Catskill Center<sub>1</sub>, 2006).

The Manor Kill and NYS Route 990V (which becomes Potter Hollow Mtn Rd) parallel each other through the Town of Conesville. This is a primary route through this rural section of Schoharie County.

A dominant characteristic of the Manor Kill watershed’s regional setting is its location within the 2,000 square-mile New York City Watershed. The NYC Watershed is the largest unfiltered water supply in the U.S., providing 1.4 billion gallons of clean drinking water each day to over nine million residents in New York City and some smaller municipalities (nearly half the population of New York State) (Catskill Center<sub>2</sub>, 2006).

The Schoharie Creek is dammed by the Gilboa Dam, creating the Schoharie Reservoir just outside the Catskill Park. The reservoir covers 1.9 mi<sup>2</sup>, is 140’ deep, and receives 80% of its water from the Schoharie Creek. The other 20% comes from local direct drainage basins, including the Manor Kill. At the reservoir, a portion of the water is transferred through the Shandaken portal to the Esopus Creek and Ashokan Reservoir. The Catskill system (Ashokan and Schoharie) provides approximately 40% of NYC’s drinking water. The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) operates this drinking water supply under a Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) issued by the Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Health. Central to the maintenance of the FAD are a series of partnership programs between NYC and the upstate communities, as well as a set of rules and regulations written to protect water quality.

## References

Catskill Center<sub>1</sub>, 2006. About the Catskill Region. Available on web: [www.catskillcenter.org/region.html](http://www.catskillcenter.org/region.html)  
(Accessed 12/20/06).

Catskill Center<sub>2</sub>, 2006. New York City Watershed. Available on web:  
[http://www.catskillcenter.org/atlas/nycwatershed/nycw\\_1watershedbasins.htm](http://www.catskillcenter.org/atlas/nycwatershed/nycw_1watershedbasins.htm) (Accessed 12/20/06).

NYC DEC, 2006. Catskill Forest Preserve. Available on web:  
[www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/publands/cats/index.html](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/publands/cats/index.html) (Accessed 12/20/06).