

# Landowners and Their Watershed



In 2002, residents of the Broadstreet Hollow stream valley united to form a landowner's association to assist with developing a stream management plan and installing a stream restoration project in their neighborhood. The landowners elected their own leaders and held meetings in collaboration with local agencies such as County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

This association has:

- Organized four annual stream clean-ups, clearing more than two tons of garbage and debris from the stream and roadside
- Hosted talks about planting native trees and shrubs
- Documented a nearby restoration project with photos
- Authored sections of the Broadstreet Hollow Stream Management Plan and supported its adoption by the Town
- Removed Japanese knotweed, an invasive plant
- Served on Project Advisory Committees for stream management activities
- Attended stream walks and workshops
- Coordinated clean-up of an abandoned house and dump site
- Joined stream surveys to assess the condition of the Broadstreet Hollow
- Provided historical photos of the stream
- Established sense of community united around a common issue: protecting Broadstreet Hollow



The Broadstreet Hollow Landowner's Association provides a great example for landowners in other watersheds about how to get involved in stream stewardship activities. While some activities required professional assistance from local agencies, many of their activities required no money, just a little time and effort. Stewardship has just become engrained into the community as everyday activities.

“One activity that brought all interested landowners together was our first stream clean-up sponsored by Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC). The weather was terrible, but we got to know our neighbors, had a great time, and ended up with a clean stream.”

– Chris Baltz, BSH Landowner & Association Chair