

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County
Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Implementation Fund
FY2010 Mini Grant Program

The FY 2010 Mini Grant Program:

The purpose of the Mini Grant Program is to provide small grants (\$5,000 or less) for projects in the Ashokan Watershed related to education, outreach, training, and other activities that help improve stream management. A further purpose of the grant program is to help implement recommendations in the Annual Action Plan and to increase knowledge, skills and information in the community related to stream management. Examples of highly competitive requests would be: (a) speaker fees to bring experts to local organizations and community groups, (b) travel and registration fees for trainings or conferences that are directly related to watershed management and likely to increase the skills of agencies and organizations working in the Ashokan Watershed, (c) education and outreach programs for the community related to streams in the Ashokan Watershed, (d) improvements to stream access points and other projects that improve recreational and public enjoyment of streams, (e) projects that reduce the spread of or increase awareness about invasive species of concern in the Ashokan Watershed (Didymo, Japanese Knotweed, Asian longhorn beetle), (f) riparian planting projects and other stream and riparian area habitat improvements, (g) stream clean-ups. The 2009-2011 Action Plan is available at www.ashokanstreams.org for more information about the program and it's goals.

Funding Available FY2010: \$100,000

Application Deadline: Rolling application, projects are approved at quarterly Advisory Council meetings. Funds are available until the allotment for the year has been fully obligated.

Applying for a Mini Grant Fund is no guarantee of support as all requests must score above a threshold to be eligible for funding and the the project staff reserve the right to not fund projects that they determine to fall outside of the stream stewardship principles and goals fostered by the program.

Maximum Grant Request: \$5,000

Eligible Applicants: Local, county, state, or federal government agencies, non-profit organizations, secondary school districts, colleges or universities. Projects that are specific to a single location in the watershed can only be funded in towns that have adopted stream management plans. For a list of eligible towns, contact Elizabeth Higgins at (845) 688-3047 or emh56@cornell.edu. This information is also available at www.ashokanstreams.org.

Eligible Use of Funds: Must be relevant to stream management in the Ashokan Watershed. Higher priority for projects that directly help to implement recommendations in the Annual Action Plan. Indirect or Admin Costs are not permitted, but can count towards matching funds. Applicants must be able to meet CCE liability insurance requirements to directly receive funds. Projects funding personnel

expenses are the most likely to be of concern. Contact Liz Higgins at emh56@cornell.edu if you have questions about this.

Application Instructions: The application must include:

1. FY2010 Mini Grant Program Application
2. Statement that organization complies with CCE Civil Rights requirements.

1 hard copy and 1 electronic copy (on a cd or dvd) shall be sent to: Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program, attn: Elizabeth Higgins, CCE Ulster County, 10 Westbrook Ln., Kingston, NY 12401

Reporting Requirements: The grantee will provide CCE Ulster County with:

- Documentation of expenditure of the match funds as required by DEP
- A final report to the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program.

CCE Ulster County reserves the right to require additional documentation

For More Information Contact:

Elizabeth Higgins, Program Coordinator
Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County
10 Westbrook Ln.
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 688-3047 or (845) 340-3990
Emh56@cornell.edu

PRINCIPLES OF STREAM STEWARDSHIP FOR CATSKILL STREAMS

1. We celebrate the role streams play in the natural heritage of our communities.

The creeks, streams and rivers that run through our neighborhoods play a subtle but profound role in the identity of our communities, and also in the larger landscape: they are the “kills” in “Catskills.” Our streams are intimately tied to our culture and history.

2. We will work to protect and restore the environmental services provided by our streams and floodplains.

Streams and their floodplains provide many essential environmental services: they are the major conduits of our stormwater system, convey sediment eroded from upland areas, process a large portion of the human waste stream --both in the stream and through the floodplain “filter”-- and for many anglers, provide significant food resources. Streams and floodplains also provide highly-valued recreational and economic benefits, and their natural beauty is an invaluable collective asset of the community.

3. We will work to protect and restore the health of our stream and floodplain ecosystems.

Stream and floodplain ecosystems are complex. They are key components of the larger ecosystem, interconnected with upland biological diversity and integrity. The health of our ecosystem is dependent on the health of our streams, and vice versa. The health of the environment is likewise connected to human health— both individuals and communities.

4. Wherever possible, we will manage streams so as to maintain their naturally effective channel form and function.

The shape of the stream –its characteristic plan form, cross-section and profile— are matched to the landscape forms through which they flow, the hydrologic regime, the geology, and the vegetation on the banks and floodplain. Streams must move sediment as well as water, and the shape of the stream determines how effectively it can perform that function. When we disturb the shape of the stream --widening, narrowing, deepening, straightening, removing gravel bars, or berming-- we alter its effectiveness. Streams evolve over time, and need to be able to shift somewhat within the constraints of their floodplain. Generally speaking, however, in the Catskills, healthy streams are more stable and resilient than disturbed streams, and maintain their characteristic form after even large flood events. Management of natural stream systems often results in the perception of competing or inconsistent goals and objectives. Using sound, science based principles, stream managers will find it easier to guide their work, and achieve a common ground between landowners, municipalities, regulatory agencies and others that play an important role in the health of our Catskill stream systems. These guiding principles set a common framework upon which stream managers may carry out their important activities.

5. Wherever possible, we will manage floodplains as part of the natural stream system.

Floodplains play a critical role in the stream system, and in the environmental services streams provide: floodplains should be considered part of the stream. When streams and their natural floodplains are well connected, the risk of flood hazards downstream are reduced and water quality is improved. The most appropriate land use for floodplains will allow natural stream processes to occur.

6. Wherever possible, we will protect and restore mature forest in the riparian buffer.

If we want to prevent bank erosion, the most critical concern should be maintaining a healthy buffer of mature, native vegetation along the stream bank. Ideally, the wider the buffer, the better. Minimally, for the health and stability of the stream, this streamside, or riparian, buffer should be no narrower than the height of mature trees in the buffer. The root system of natural, dense vegetation in the streamside, or riparian, buffer holds the soil together, and makes it more resistant to the erosive force of fast moving floodwaters. Mowing down to the edge of the streambank puts the bank at higher risk of erosion. Natural streamside vegetation also supports healthy communities of organisms in the stream and floodplains and moderates water and soil temperatures, protecting fish and amphibians.

7. As we manage streams to protect public safety and investments in infrastructure, our actions in one location shouldn't compromise the health of the stream upstream or downstream, or threaten the adjacent upland ecosystem through which the stream runs.

Even small disturbances at one location on a stream can propagate upstream or downstream, or laterally into floodplains and upland areas. When we engage in management practices in response to flooding or bank erosion, we need to anticipate these off-site impacts, and apply the principle of "do no harm."

8. We will strive to keep abreast of the state-of-the-science and best management practices related to streams and floodplains.

Our understanding of how healthy streams function is still growing. As the science of stream ecosystems and the best management practices to protect and restore them continue to evolve, this improved understanding needs to be incorporated into our day-to-day management.



ASHOKAN WATERSHED STREAM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County
AWSMP Mini Grant Application FY 2010**

Checklist of Documents:

1. Completed Application
2. Project Budget

Send by e-mail to emh56@cornell.edu or in a cd/dvd to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, 10 Westbrook Lane, Kingston, NY 12401 ATTN: Elizabeth Higgins

All organizations receiving grant funds from the AWSMP must be able to certify that they do not discriminate based upon race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation with respect to employment or programming.

Section 1: Applicant Information

Applicant organization:	
Employer/taxpayer number (EIN/TIN):	
Type of organization:	<input type="checkbox"/> 501(c)3 <input type="checkbox"/> College/university <input type="checkbox"/> Government agency <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe)
Address:	
Contact person:	
Phone:	
e-Mail:	

I certify that the information provided in this application is true:

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____

Name, Title

Phone

Date



Section 2: Information about the Grant

Proposal title

Total cost of project

Amount of matching
funds requested from
AWSMP

Expected start date of
grant

Expected end date of
grant

Section 3: Project Description

Describe the overall project (2 pages or less). Include the following information: (1) project location; (2) project team and qualifications; (3) relevance to stream management in the Ashokan Watershed; (4) the specific planned use of AWSMP matching funds; (5) specific planned outcomes/deliverables for AWSMP program. Attach additional pages if needed.

Section 4: Project Budget

	AWSMP Funds	Other Funds (including in-kind)	Total
Personnel			0
Fringe			0
Travel			0
Supplies/non-Capitalized Equipment			0
Equipment (Capitalized)			0
Contracts			0
Construction			0
Other			0
Total Costs ^[1]	0	0	0

[1] No admin or indirect costs may be charged to this grant. Admin or indirect rates used by the organization can be counted as matching funds.

[2] Groups must be able to meet CCE liability insurance requirements for their project. If you think that insurance will be a problem, contact Liz Higgins (emh56@cornell.edu) if you have questions about this. This is especially likely to be true if personnel expenses are included in the request for funding.

Section 5: AWSMP Budget Narrative

Explain how the AWSMP matching funds will be used, including your assumptions in the budget.