

The Legislature of Rockland County



ALDEN H. WOLFE
Vice Chairman
Legislator – District 6

Chair, Environmental Committee

**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013
6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

HON. A WOLFE, CHAIR
HON. LOW-HOGAN, VICE CHAIR
HON. CORNELL, LEG CHAIR
HON. A. WIEDER

MEMBERS ABSENT

HON. C. CAREY
HON. EARL
HON. F. SPARACO

OTHERS PRESENT

LEG. GRANT
LEG. SOSKIN
LEG. MEYERS
E. YEGER, ESQ.
A. BEERS
D. FARRISON
J. HUNDERFUND
M. HAESCHE
M. HAGGERTY
MEDIA
D. GREENBERG
K. HENRY
L. HILL

ROLL CALL, CHAIR WOLFE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:20 PM

ADOPTION OF MINUTES- MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2013

**MOTION TO ADOPT
WOLFE/LOW-HOGAN**

UNAN

1. REF. # 2369 - CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF LORINDA M. HILL,
POMONA, NEW YORK TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
(C.SCOTT VANDERHOEF, OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE)

Lorinda M. Hill stated that she has been living in Rockland County for 26 years. She wants to help, and she thinks that her experience and her education could be of services to the community.

**MOTION TO APPROVE
CORNELL/LOW-HOGAN.**

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: HON. WOLFE, HON LOW-HOGAN, HON CORNELL, AND HON. SOSKIN

2. REF # 9481 - DISCUSSION: OPERATIONAL REVIEW (DEPARTMENTAL FUNCTIONS) YOUTH BUREAU AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)
(Deferred from the 3/21/13 meeting)

YOUTH BUREAU:

Chair Wolfe asked Mr. Farrison and Mrs. Haesche to briefly explain the strengths, weaknesses and challenges of the Youth Bureau.

Mr. Farrison believes their strength is in their staff and work ethics. Their weakness is the reduction in funds. They had to scale down and consolidate youth programs, but still be able to serve the young people in the community. They came up with new ideas, which are working well.

Leg Wolfe stated that the department has a deficit in funding for employees youth bureau roster and the department will have a \$211,000 deficit if the current staffing remains throughout the year.

Mrs. Haesche explained that the transfer of funds is done at the end of the year, which will cover the deficit. They have always done it this way.

Legislative Chair Cornell stated that the Youth Employment Program is one of the most successful summer programs. The training has been extremely important. She asked if they are making use of the private sector?

Mr. Farrison replied, yes, they place young people in private sector jobs.

Mrs. Haesche said that they are meeting with the developers of the new Nanuet Mall hoping they can work with the new stores owners to hire our young people in the program. They have a program where they subsidize the payroll for up to one year. They are working with private industry and hope for great opportunities for the young people, especially with all the new stores opening at the Nanuet Mall.

They continue to each to provide skills and opportunities to succeed. They have a program, which helps to get them into Rockland Community College for an opportunity to receive a college education. 155-165 young people have been trained for job placement last year.

The money in their budget is well spent on the young people of Rockland County who need it the most.

Mr. Farrison advised that they have never gone over their budget.

Chair Wolfe questioned Federal government funding.

Mr. Farrison explained that his department would reapply for money that they didn't get last year. They have to make adjustments to the fourteen programs they are funding this year. Years ago they funded 29 programs.

Legislative Chair Cornell thanked Mr. Farrison and Mrs. Haesche. She said that Mrs. Haesche has been a great help over the years and the Youth Bureau is a gem.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Chair Wolfe asked Mr. Beers to briefly explain the strengths, weaknesses and challenges of the Environmental Resources division.

Mr. Beers reviewed that attached detailed overview of the Division of Environmental Resources programs and services provided to the residents of Rockland County.

Mr. Beers stated that their achievement would be the safety of the parks in Rockland County. Their weakness is the loss of funding and damages from Hurricane Sandy. Much of the repair due to Hurricane Sandy that his department will be doing will be covered by FEMA.

3. REF # 1290 - DISCUSSION: ENFORCEMENT OF SOURCE SEPARATION LAWS OF RECYCLING (HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

Chair Wolfe stated his concern with the co-mingling of carefully separated recycling and trash. He questioned how the department deals with private carters.

Mrs. Hunderfund explained that Article XVII of the Rockland County Sanitary Code covers Separation of Non-Offensive Materials. Article III of the Rockland County Sanitary Code covers Offensive Material and Transport of Materials.

Solid waste shall not be mixed with either recyclables, including scrap metals, or with yard waste. Each such type of waste shall be separately collected and separately disposed at the designated facility. Non-offensive materials shall not be combined with hazardous waste, infectious materials, offensive material or any other non-offensive material. At least fifty letters a week are sent to various places requesting their plans.

Local Law No. 2 of 2008 is the Flow Control law that regulates the countywide collection and disposition of solid waster generated in Rockland County, including garbage, recyclables, construction and demolition debris, and yard waste, and for prohibition of the disposal of any waste materials in any manner other than set forth in the law. They have three employees out in the field that watch and follow the haulers to see where they actually bring the garbage and recycling and to make sure it is going to the right place.

Chair Wolfe questioned how many complaints they have received in reference to people witnessing recycling not being done co-mingling.

Mrs. Hunderfund advised they received 13 complaints in 2010, 2 complaints in 2011, four complaints in 2012 and one complaint in 2013. All were investigated. They do not get a lot of feedback from the public in reference to this matter. It is not economically advantageous for haulers to co-mingle, because once it is mixed it is all considered garbage and they pay more to discard the garbage than they pay to discard recycling. They strive to educate the haulers.

Chair Wolfe was not happy to hear how difficult it is to really know if there is a problem or not. He questioned the use of a video of illegal hauling and witnesses.

Mrs. Hunderfund advised that they could use a video to register a complaint, but not to adjudicate a complaint, because their staff has to actually witness it. They attempted a pilot study where they shifted staff hours, but it made no difference in the number of violations. They have been working with the private schools to comply.

Action: Chair Wolfe Requested Of The County Attorney In Coordination With Environmental Public Health To Make Recommendations That Would Allow Changes To The Public Health Law To Make It Possible To Prosecute Carters/Haulers With Videos And Non-County Personnel As Witnesses.

Action: Chair Wolfe Requested From Judith Hunderfund, Director Environmental Public Health, A Copy Of The Source Separation Agreement For Ramapo Central School District.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN- 7:21 PM
WOLFE/LOW-HOGAN**

UNAN.

Respectfully submitted

Darcy Shapin-Greenberg
Proceedings Clerk



COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

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C. SCOTT VANDERHOEF
County Executive

R. ALLAN BEERS
Coordinator,
Environmental Resources

March 18, 2013

TO: Hon. Legislature Aiden Wolfe
Legislature District 6

FROM: R. Allan Beers *AS*
Coordinator of Environmental Resources

RE: 2013 Division of Environmental Resources:
Positions and Programs

We are providing the Environmental Committee with a detailed overview of the Division of Environmental Resources programs and services provided to our residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss our departments operations.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Local Law No. 19 of 1996 established the Division of Environmental Resources (DER). The DER is located within the Office of the County Executive. The Division serves as the "core" environmental department responsible for informing the County Executive and Legislature on all environmental issues effecting Rockland County. These include but are not limited to, state and federal initiatives, new programs, funding sources, concerns of residents and environmental problems within the county. The Division includes the Parks Commission, Environmental Management Council and the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mission Statement

Serving as the County of Rockland's "core" environmental unit, the Division of Environmental Resources consists of departments that work together in partnership to realize shared goals. The Division interacts with allied government agencies and the community, providing coordination, information and solutions to affirm and strengthen the County's response to environmental issues.

PROGRAM

Division of Environmental Resources (Administration)

Program / Service: The administration supports the three (3) units including Parks Department, Environmental Management Council and Soil and Water Conservation District. In addition, the administration supports the following committees, Agriculture and Farm Protection Board, Rockland County Water Quality Committee, Volunteer Stream Monitoring Committee, Environmental Property Review Committee and Environmental Grants Committee.

Total number of employees (three): (1) – Coordinator of Environmental Resources, (1) Environmental Management Assistant, (1) Principal Clerk Typist.

Parks Department (Management)

The Department operates seven days a week, 365 days a year from 6AM – 1/2 hour after sunset. The staff provides security, maintenance and stewardship to 27 parks, 3 farms, 2 open space properties and one monument totaling over 3,100 acres of property. To provide for seven-day a week coverage, employees are split between a Monday – Friday or Wednesday – Sunday work schedule. Weekends are the busiest time and require both security and maintenance personnel present.

Total number of employees (ten): (1) Parks Manager, (2) Supervising Park Rangers, (2) Park Rangers, (1) Senior Security Aide, (1) Security Aides, (3) Groundswokers.

Impact to other County Departments if eliminated: The DER is responsible for providing administration to 32 park/open space properties totaling 3,178 acres of land. In addition, we are responsible for all non-regulatory environmental programs run by the county as well as applying for all environmental grants which to date, have totaled over \$4,000,000. There is no other department with the staffing or expertise to administer and provide stewardship to the park properties or oversee the numerous environmental programs and committees administered by the DER.

Impact to Community if eliminated: With record numbers of visitors utilizing our park system, the elimination of the DER would have a detrimental effect to the public. Last year alone, over 80,000 visitors enjoyed the use of Haverstraw Bay Park. In addition, we estimate that an additional 75,000 residents use the other popular parks maintained by the DER. There is no county department that could absorb the large workload provided by our maintenance staff.

ROCKLAND COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

The Rockland County Park Commission was established by Resolution No. 387 of 1960. The Commission is advisory and serves as a liaison between the community and the Rockland County Executive and Legislature. The Commission's primary goal is two-fold: to protect the natural resources and landscape of Rockland County through preservation of open space dedicated as County parkland; and to help develop policies for the operation and utilization of the Rockland County Parks System.

Membership Terms Chapter 128:

The Rockland County Park Commission shall be composed of seven (7) members or Commissioners, all residents of the County of Rockland, One (1) member from each town in the County and two (2) at-large members to be residents of Rockland County and appointed by the Legislature of Rockland County and to serve at the pleasure of the Rockland County Executive.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District was founded in 1965. Considered a government subdivision of the State of New York, organized pursuant to the New York State Conservation Law. The District is a representative body of the five towns of Rockland County. The District is governed by its Board of Directors and consists of 5 members, one of whom resides in each town. The Directors are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Legislature.

Mission Statement:

The Districts programs and mission are structured around the following purposes:

- To conserve soil and water resources of Rockland County
- To improve water quality, to control and prevent soil erosion and sediment damages
- To preserve and enhance natural resources
- To control and abate nonpoint source pollution
- To promote the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of Rockland County.

In 1996 the Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was merged into the Division of Environmental Resources through Local Law No. 19. The SWCD receives administrative, managerial and technical support from those employees located within the Division. Annually, the SWCD and the County of Rockland enter into an Agreement to continue administering the SWCD programs and mission. The SWCD provides partial reimbursement to the county for employee resources.

Total number of employees: (1) Environmental Management Assistant (included under Administration), this position also provides assistance to the Rockland County Environmental Management Council. Additional administrative assistance is provided by the Coordinator of Environmental Resources and clerical staff.

Program / Service

Clean Water Act Phase II Stormwater Regulations

Starting in 2008 and continuing through 2013, the Division staff continued to administer the New York State Water Quality Improvement Project Grant Round 8 & 9 received from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Rockland County SWCD applied for the grant on behalf of the Stormwater Consortium of Rockland County (18 county municipalities).

A total of \$730,050.00 in grant funds were awarded from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund to help municipalities comply with the state's implementation of the federal Clean Water Act Phase II (mandated).

Stormwater Phase II Regulations

To assist all municipalities with the new regulations, the Rockland County SWCD organizes and sponsors mandated 4-hour Contractor Training, at the Rockland Fire Training Center. A total of 500 participants have attended the training, which is held annually. Additionally, staff assists County Departments and municipalities with fulfilling their required minimum control measures under the Stormwater Phase II program.

County Stream Water Quality Assessment

This program involves bio-monitoring of 20 rivers and streams in the county. The program's goal is to conduct stream bio-monitoring that meets and exceeds the highest level of water quality assessments approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Rockland County SWCD is committed to gathering baseline data on the health of our streams throughout the county and this program helps us to achieve this goal. The investigation includes physical site analysis, photographic site documentation, chemical analysis, and benthic macro invertebrate identification. A state approved Aquatic Biologist then prepares a comprehensive scientific water quality assessment and impact source analysis. A public presentation on the report is held annually, 2012 was the eight year of this ongoing study. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation only samples one stream in Rockland every five years. This program is only being conducted by the Soil District and provides invaluable data on the health of our streams.

Rockland County Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program Description

For the eight consecutive year, the Division of Environmental Resources coordinated the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program. Volunteers conduct physical, chemical and biological surveys of Rockland County's streams to monitor the current health and assess the level of impairment. Streams are affected by the amount and type of pollutants that dissolve/flow into them, via storm drains and runoff. Pollutants include sediment resulting from soil erosion from developments and construction sites; nitrogen, phosphorous and pesticides leaching from lawns, and roadway and parking lot runoff such as car oil, and litter.

Purpose of monitoring our waterways:

- ✓ Collect baseline water quality data for our streams in Rockland County
- ✓ Connect citizens with their local streams through education and hands on involvement
- ✓ Allow public access to water quality monitoring information for educational purposes

Our anticipated outcome of this program is to continue gathering baseline data on stream health/quality. Some of our volunteers monitor different streams each year, thus giving us good coverage throughout the county. Additionally, some of our volunteers monitor the same stream location each year and this is important for tracking patterns and to analyze data trends/chemistry and benthic macro invertebrate changes. This data will assist our county elected officials and planners to make future land use decisions that support the Clean Water Act rules and regulations. Volunteers and staff advise the NYSDEC of stream "hot spots", areas of impairment, which the NYSDEC will then investigate further. Since we are a suburban county with a good deal of impervious surface, work that our SWCD performs to protect our precious natural resources is imperative. This program is only being conducted by the Soil District and provides invaluable data on the health of our streams.

County Share Budgeted- The SWCD reimburses the county for staff administrative technical services in the amount of \$20,000 annually. There are additional reimbursements to the county from the SWCD for specific projects that the staff performs.

Impact to Community if eliminated - The SWCD is a unique agency in that being a political sub-division the SWCD has the authority to apply for grants that are only offered to Soil Districts for natural resource and stormwater improvement projects. The recent grant in the amount of \$730,050, which was received by the SWCD, has been dispersed to local municipalities for their documented stormwater improvement projects and activities. Without a functioning Soil District, the County may not be eligible for stormwater improvement grants in the future.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Rockland County Environmental Management Council (EMC) was established by the Rockland County Legislature in 1973. Members are volunteers representing Rockland County's five towns. They are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Legislature. EMC works in a non-partisan, non-adversarial manner to effect environmental improvement within the county.

Mission Statement:

1. Work within the Division of Environmental Resources to strengthen the county's environmental initiatives
2. Work proactively to preserve and improve water resources
3. Advise county government on environmental matters
4. Provide a liaison between citizens and county government on issues regarding the environment
5. Work proactively to preserve fast-diminishing open space
6. Work with the community and other county departments on environmental projects and issues
7. Promote environmental education

Program / Service

Nine public EMC meetings were held in 2012. Set agendas, set up speakers and organized each meeting. Various environmental topics were presented at many of the meetings. The focus in 2012 was on water issues. Presentations included: "Oyster Restoration in the Bronx River" By: NY/NJ Baykeeper, "What Makes a Watershed Alliance Thrive?" By: The Bronx River Alliance, "Update on the Pascack Creek" By: Steve White, of Spring Valley Concerned Citizens Coalition. Other activities included: organized The Fifteenth Annual County Executive's Outstanding Environmental Volunteer Award, the Twenty-first Annual Eleanor Burlingham Earth Day Essay Contest attracting 70 fifth grade students, submitted comments to NYSDEC on the Hudson River Desalination Drinking Water DEIS, attended county website training, developed a new department website, attended and staffed table at Rockland County Government Day, completed tax delinquent property report, attended EEO training, oriented and welcomed two new EMC members, researched specific topics in 2012, including: Brownfields, Hudson Highlands, Green Infrastructure to present updates to the EMC members, prepared/planned for EPA Brownfield presentation, created EMC workplan/goals for 2013,

prepared and shared our volunteer and consultant stream data with local high school students, municipalities, and the public. Alerted municipalities or state officials when needed, regarding stream or environmental issues. Worked with County Executive office on publicity/ media matters. Fielded public and municipal inquiries on environmental matters, including topics on: stormwater, air quality, soil disturbances, environmental grants, desalination plant proposal, litter complaints, stream pollution and flooding concerns, hydraulic fracturing in NYS, invasive plants, rain gardens, rain barrels, etc.

Total number of employees – (1) Environmental Management Assistant. This position also provides technical assistance to the Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Impact to Community if eliminated - No other county department provides the depth of public outreach on environmental issues facing the County.

COUNTY OF ROCKLAND

**DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCES**

**R. ALLAN BEERS, COORDINATOR
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

MARCH 2013

**DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
13 Employees**

ROCKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

7255 COORDINATOR
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Parks Manager
7380

2 Parks Ranger II
7379
7836

2 Park Ranger I
7532
8194

3 Groundsworkers
8359
8190
8362

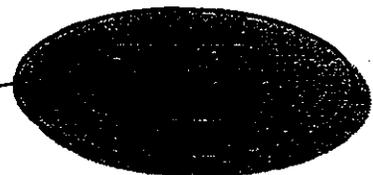


Soil & Water
Conservation
District

1 Sr. Security Aide
PT

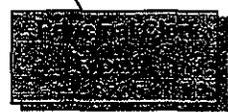
1 Security Aide PT
8360
8458

7 day-a-week, 365 days a year
coverage for 28 parks, 3,178 acres
of County Parkland



PARKS COMMISSION
7 Appointed members

SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5 Appointed members



FARMLAND
PROTECTION BOARD
12 Appointed members

Water Quality
Committee

** All Councils, Boards and
Commissions are appointed
by the County Executive
and confirmed by the RC

**DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
JOB TITLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Parks Department a unit within the Division is responsible for the maintenance, stewardship and security to 28 parks encompassing 3,178 acres of County Parkland and Open Space. The department operates and has staff on duty from 6:00am – one hour after sunset, 365 days a year.

Coordinator of Environmental Resources (1) – Administrator responsible for supervising the Parks Department, Environmental Management Council, Soil and Water Conservation District and all other committees as delegated by local law.

Environmental Management Assistant (1) – responsible for the oversight of the Environmental Management Council, Soil and Water Conservation District and Water Quality Committee.

Principal Clerk Typist (1) – Comprehensive clerical functions for the Division.

Park Operations Manager (1) – Responsible for providing work assignments and daily oversight to the Parks Department maintenance and security operations.

Supervising Park Ranger (2) – Responsible for completing work assignments and daily oversight of Park Rangers and Groundswokers. This position reports to the Park Operations Manager. The two positions have a split workweek schedule to provide 7 day a week supervision.

Park Ranger (2) – Responsible for maintenance and security to park property. This position is licensed as a Security guard by the state.

Senior Security Aide (1) – Responsible for coordinating security assignments to Security Aides. This position reports to the Parks Operations Manager. The position is licensed as a Security Guard by the state. Licensed Security Guard per New York State requirements.

Security Aide (1) – Responsible for the enforcement of the rules and regulations of Chapter 315 of the Laws of Rockland County. This position reports to the Senior Security Aide. Licensed Security Guard per New York State requirements.

Groundswokers (3) – Responsible for providing maintenance to park property and cleaning of buildings and restrooms.

Parks Department Staff Schedule

Hours of Work

| Name | Title | Work Week | Hours |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Michael DiMola | Parks Operations Manager | Monday - Friday | Management |
| Gene Herskovics | Park Ranger II | Monday - Friday | 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM |
| Tom Starr | Park Ranger II | Wednesday - Sunday | 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM |
| Timothy Trimble | Park Ranger I | Tuesday - Saturday | Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM Friday 6:00 AM – 2:30 PM |
| Michael Armstrong | Park Ranger I | Sunday - Thursday | Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM Monday 6:00 AM – 2:30 PM |
| James Killian | Senior Security Aide | Sunday – Thursday | Sunday and Monday 1:00 PM – 9:30 PM Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 6:00 AM – 2:30 PM |
| Chris Granata | Full Time Security Aide | Tuesday - Saturday | 1:00 PM - 9:30 PM |
| David Green | Groundswoker | Tuesday - Saturday | 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM |
| George Cruz | Groundswoker | Sunday - Thursday | 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM |
| Bienvenito Henriquez | Groundswoker | Sunday - Thursday | 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM |

| ROCKLAND COUNTY PARKLAND | | TOTAL ACREAGE | YEAR ACQUIRED |
|--------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | ANDRE MONUMENT | .2 | 1983 |
| 2 | BUTTERMILK FALLS | 75 | 1975 |
| 3 | CLAUSLAND MOUNTAIN | 532 | 1969/2000 |
| ***4 | COLLINS PROPERTY | 37 | 2004 |
| **5 | CROPSY FARM | 24 | 2006 |
| 6 | DATER MOUNTAIN | 350.5 | 1981/2004 |
| 7 | DEMAREST KILL | 30 | 1997 |
| 8 | DUTCH GARDEN | 3.5 | 1968/2010 |
| 9 | ELEANOR BURLINGHAM MEMORIAL | 45 | 1987/1995/ 2000 |
| **10 | ERICKSON FARM | 28 | 2002 |
| 11 | GURNEE PARK & AMPHITHEATER | 23 | 1981 |
| 12 | H. PIERSON MAPES/FLAT ROCK | 1 | 1998 |
| 13 | HAYERSTRAW BAY | 27 | 2000 |
| **14 | HILLBURN PROPERTY | 40 | 2001 |
| 15 | KAKIAT | 376 | 1972 |
| 16 | KENNEDY DELLS | 179 | 1969,1975 |
| 17 | MINISCEONGO CREEK | 34 | 2001 |
| 18 | MONSEY GLEN | 25 | 1976 |
| 19 | MOUNTAINVIEW NATURE | 83 | 1979/1997 |
| **20 | ORCHARDS OF CONCKLIN | 94 | 2001 |
| 21 | SAMUEL G. FISHER MOUNT IVY ENVIRONMENTAL PARK | 272 | 1965,1984 1986 |
| 22 | SEAN HUNTER RYAN MEMORIAL | 15 | 2002 |
| 23 | SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL | 11 | 1981 |
| 24 | SOUTH MOUNTAIN | 241 | 1975 |
| 25 | STONY POINT MARSH | 42.12 | 2005 |
| 26 | WRIGHTMAN'S PLATEAU | 590 | 2008/2010 |
| 27 | 37 S. Main Street, New City | .5 | 2010 |
| TOTALS | | 3178.82 | |

** PRESERVED AS OPEN SPACE/FARMLAND
*** ACREAGE ADDED TO BLAUVELT STATE PARK

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

R. Allan Beers, Coordinator

2012 Achievements

- Haverstraw Bay Park - The popularity of the park continues to increase and has become one of the most inviting destinations in the County. A total of 140 park use permits were issued accomodating over 10,500 residents. A total of 500 boats were launched from trailered boat launch. Over 80,000 vistors enjoyed the park throughout the year.
- Hurricane Sandy - An unprecedented storm which impacted the County on October 29, 2012 resulting in severe damage to every County park. Hundreds of trees were felled by the strong winds resulting in the closing of all 30 parks to the public. The storm surge from the Hudson River resulted in significant damage to the shoreline and park amenities at Haverstraw Bay Park. Park staff worked tirelessly for weeks to remove downed tress and debris to reopen most parks within days.
- Cropsey Community Farm - Building on the third sucessful year of this model Community Supported Agriculture progam, the Rockland Farm Alliance was granted approval to expand their operations to an additional 7-acres of land at Cropsey County Park.
- Stream Bio-Monitoring Water Quality Project - For the eighth year, a Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) consultant conducted comprehensive water quality assessments at 20 stream locations throughout the County. A final report is prepared annually detailing the findings. Go to website to see each year's reports: <http://rocklandgov.com/departments/environmental-resources/protecting-our-streams-and-waterways/>
- Rockland County Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program - For the eighth year, the Division coordinated the gathering of physical, chemical and biological survey's of streams throughout the County by trained volunteers and Americorps.
- Champlain Hudon Power Express Project - The Division continued to participate in the joint review of this project. Candian hydro-electric and wind power would be transported from Canada to NY City via direct current cables buried in the Hudson River. The project would exit the Hudson River at Tompkins Cove and follow the Consolidated Rail Company right-of-way to Nyack Beach State Park where it would re-enter the river. The Division reviewed the environmental impacts of this projecting relating to the over land route through the county.
- Environmental Property Review Committee - The Division coordinates the review of tax delinquent properties for possible environmental contamination. A total of 75 properties were evaluated in 2012.
- Stormwater Phase II Regulations - To assist municipalities and the private sector with mandated training, the SWCD sponsored a 4-Hour Contractor Training in Erosion and Sediment Control. A total of 75 paticipants attended the training.

- Technical advisor to the Stormwater Consortium of Rockland Co. and attend their meetings throughout the year.
- Environmental Grant Awards Received - The Division has actively pursued environmental grants. Since 1997, the Division has received 20 grants totaling \$4,069,000.
 - Park Programs - The Division continued to partner with the County Health Dept on the RC Walks Program. Through a guided walk program, lead by a trained Docent, residents are offered a series of guided walks in selected County Parks. The walks were very successful in expanding opportunities for physical activity while learning about the County Park System. Utilizing the Americorp program, trails throughout the County Parks were evaluated and improved. The Trout Stocking Program was continued with funding from the SWCD, providing fishing opportunities in streams designated by county fishing clubs. Installed bronze plaque and planted tree for the 2012 recipient of the County Executive's Outstanding Environmental Volunteer Award at Kennedy Dells Park.
 - Environmental Management Council - nine public meetings were held. Various environmental topics were presented at many of the meetings. Other activities included: Fifteenth Annual County Executive's Outstanding Environmental Volunteer Award, the Twenty-first Annual Eleanor Burlingham Earth Day Essay Contest attracting 70 fifth grade students, submitted comments to NYSDEC on the Hudson River Desalination Drinking Water DEIS, developed a new department website.
 - Water Quality Committee - five public meetings were held, some included presentations on water topics. Partnered with The League of Women Voters and the EMC to host an Earth Day Presentation at RCC. Presented the WQC Annual Reports to Legislature's Env. Committee. Distributed 715 storm drain markers to municipalities and the public.
 - Rockland Co. Soil & Water Conservation District - Eight public meetings were held. Created Rockland's first Watershed Report Card for the Sparkill Creek Watershed, go to: <https://rocklandgov.com/files/2513/5394/1881/Sparkill.pdf>. Staff participated in regional meetings and activities throughout the year. Oversaw the distribution of rain barrels to municipalities. Supported the construction of rain gardens throughout the county.

2013 Goals

- Complete Hurricane Sandy cleanup of hundreds of downed trees and repair other storm related impacts.
- Develop a restoration plan for Haverstraw Bay Park to repair the shoreline and other park amenities damaged by Hurricane Sandy.
- Work directly with FEMA to receive all Public Assistance Funds the County Parks are eligible for.
- Expand the SWCD's Stream Bio-Monitoring and Volunteer Stream Monitoring Programs.
- Finalize conceptual site plan for commercial property purchased adjacent to Dutch Garden to provide improved public and handicapped access.

- “RC WALKS” - Continue to partner with Health Department on this successful program including offering more self guided hikes in the County Parks. Work with Dept. of Health on the Hudson River Advisory Outreach Program as well as provide guided tours of the parks to community groups.
- Provide the public and municipal officials with interesting environmental presentations at regular meetings of the EMC, WQC and SWCD.
- Coordinate 2013 programs: rain barrel demos for municipalities and support new rain garden construction on municipal or public library properties.
- Partner with the Planning Federation to present information on green infrastructure for new construction and redevelopment, to municipal staff, elected officials, and the public.
- As we do annually, host NYS DEC’s Endorsed, 4-Hour Contractor Training.