



Neversink Watershed Management Plan

A Plan to Protect & Restore the Neversink Watershed

2024 - 2029

Prepared by Friends of the Upper Delaware River

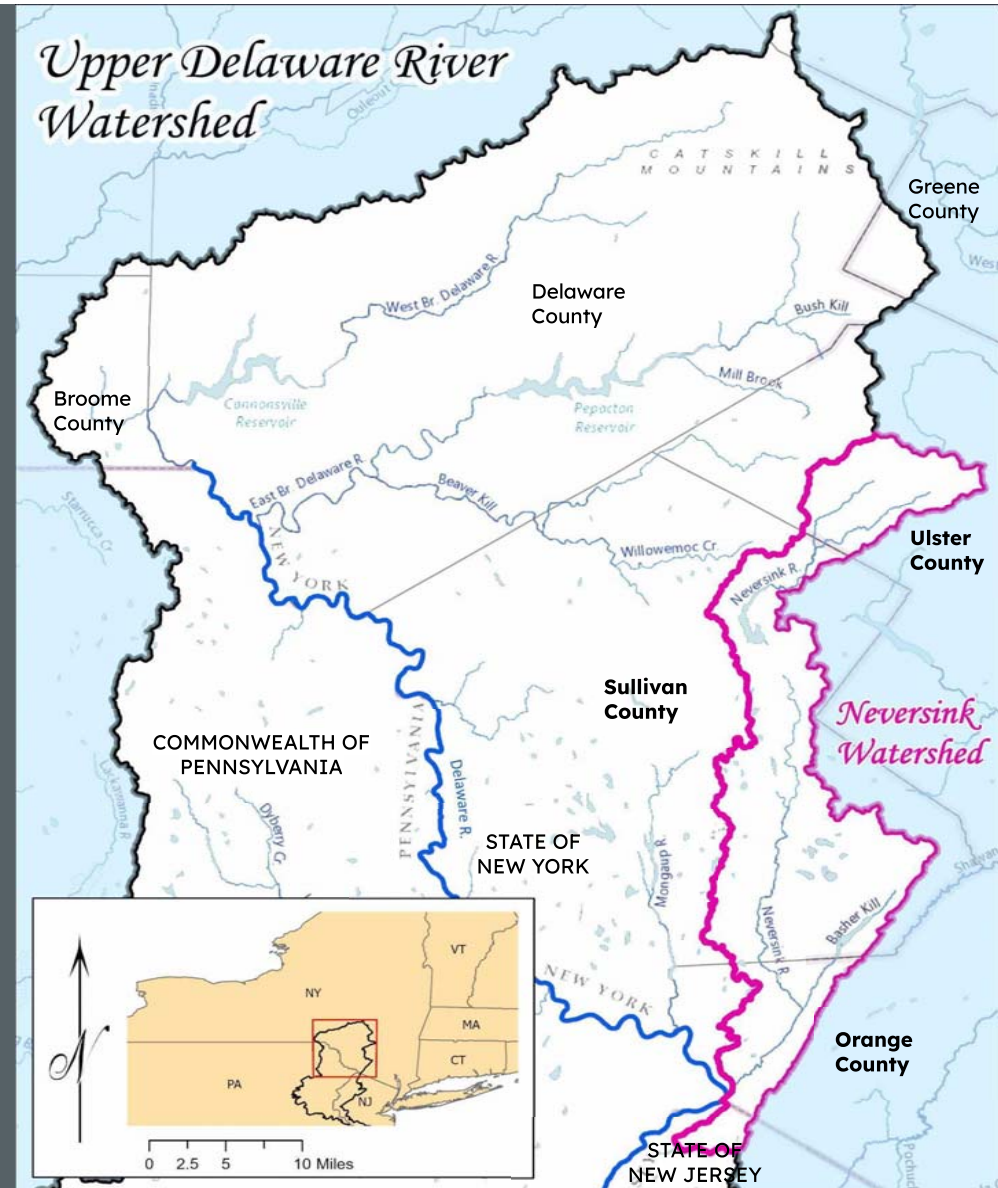
With support from Sullivan County and Trout Unlimited

Neversink Watershed Management Plan (NWMP)

Sullivan County
Legislature Planning
Committee Presentation
09/07/2024

Background

- The Sullivan County Department of Planning was awarded a federal grant from the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program to develop a Neversink Watershed Management Plan (NWMP) in 2022
 - Friends of the Upper Delaware River
 - Trout Unlimited
 - Natural Lands
 - Numerous other partners
- NWMP is a non-regulatory guidance document that profiles the entire NY Neversink watershed, outlines management goals and recommendations, and develops a project list for implementation.



Developing the NWMP

- Completed 4 series of public outreach meetings from 2023-2024, averaging 40 participants at each meeting
 - Round 1: 3 virtual meetings- basic watershed education
 - Round 2: 3 in person meetings- interactive mapping, data collecting
 - Round 3: 1 virtual meeting- develop vision and goals
 - Round 4: 2 meetings (1 in person, 1 virtual)- draft reviews
- Completed in-person meetings with officials from each municipality in the Neversink watershed (supervisors, highway departments, engineers, etc) summer and fall 2023
- Draft plan completed spring 2024
- Plan finalized summer 2024
- www.fudr.org/neversinkwmp



Plan Highlights

1. **Protect and Restore Water Quality**
 - Protect and maintain water quality and quantity through projects and programs aimed at improving land and watershed management and reduce pollutants that can impair water quality.
2. **Strengthen Climate Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Measures**
 - Strengthen climate resiliency and mitigate flooding by maintaining and improving failing infrastructure and discouraging over development.
3. **Protect and Improve Habitat**
 - Sustain and restore fish and wildlife populations through conservation and restoration of their associated habitats and promote native ecosystem restoration.
4. **Protect Important Open Space**
 - Protecting open spaces in order to protect wildlife, maintain biodiversity, conserve water quality, mitigate flooding, and help purify the air.
5. **Maximize Recreational Opportunities**
 - Provide recreational opportunities which promote conservation of natural resources and instill a stewardship ethic among recreational users.



Implementation Project Examples

- O & W Rail Trail connectivity
- Pleasant Valley Rd culvert replacement project (Town of Fallsburg)
- Improve land use planning
- Open space protection (Bashakill, Neversink Gorge, Water supply aquifers)



What's Next?

- Continue to develop the NWMP Project List
- Identify funding sources for project implementation
- Continue communication with local officials
- Develop a 'Friends of the Neversink Watershed' organization
 - Local watershed leaders who can spearhead the implementation of the NWMP





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Questions?
Comments?
Thank you!