

Citizen Science Engagement & Outreach in a Peri-Urban County

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Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District
New York



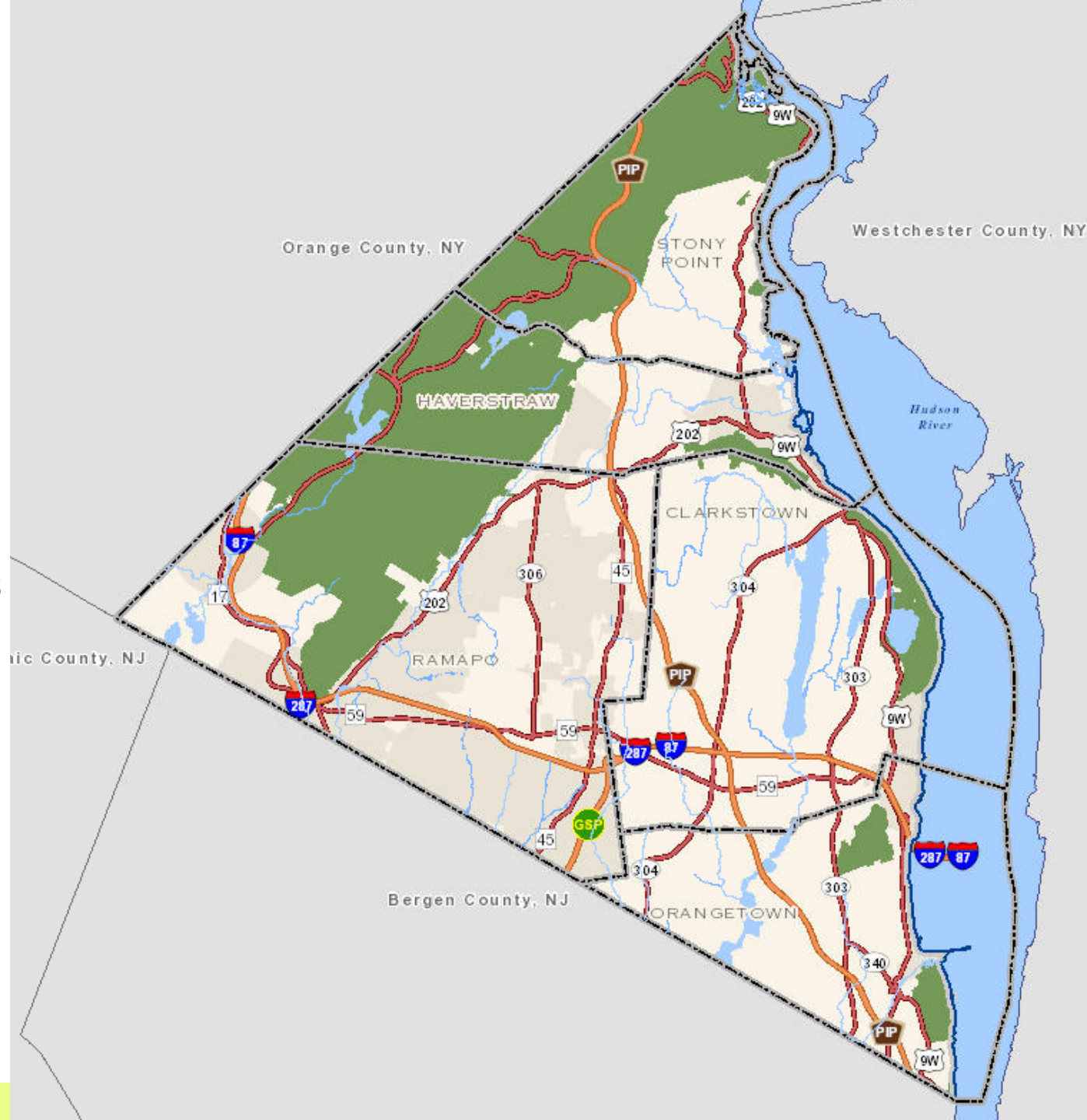
Content Outline

- Scale
- RC SWCD mission
- Programs
- Methods of Outreach
- Working Together
- Output
- Impact



Scale

- 330,000 residents (2016 Census)
- 119 sq. miles
- ~20 miles from NYC
- Preserve America Community
- 64 Public Schools
 - 40,000 students



- Hudson River Estuary
- 14 County Regulated Streams
- 1/3 Open Space
- MS4 Communities
- Privatized Water Supply (Suez- NY)
- Environmental Organizations



Rockland County SWCD

- Mission: The RC SWCD is responsible for developing Soil and Water Conservation District programs to protect and conserve soil, water, prime and unique farmland, wildlife, energy and other renewable resources to meet the needs of the local land user on non-federal lands
 - The Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources Department is committed to encouraging municipalities and residents to conserve water and to protect our existing water resources for future generations
 - Board
 - 5 Town Highway Superintendents



Programs

- Stream Biomonitoring
 - Professional
 - NYS DEC WAVE
- Storm Drain Marking Campaign
- NYS DEC sponsored American eel project
- Road-Stream Crossing Assessments
- Green Infrastructure Demonstrations
- Dog-Waste Dispensers
- Farm Tours
- Trout Stocking
- Education Programs



Methods of Outreach

- Website:
<http://rocklandgov.com/departments/environmental-resources/boards-and-committees/>
- Social media
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - YouTube
- Google



Methods of Outreach Continued...

- Visiting Community Locations:
 - Town and Village Halls
 - Community Centers
 - Community Collaboratives
 - Libraries
 - Local High Schools, Colleges and Universities



Working Together ...

Stream Biomonitoring & Road-Stream Crossing Project



Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance

Storm Drain Marking



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Rockland County



American eel Project



Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance



Federal Partners




- EPA
 - Equipment Loan Program
 - Taken from EPA.gov website
- “EPA Regional Equipment Loan Programs: Lending programs assist communities with citizen science monitoring projects. Currently, programs operate in US EPA Region 1 and Region 2 for water monitoring only.”
- Water and air quality monitoring equipment available*



State Partners





Services News Government Local

Location

Department of Environmental Conservation

Recreation Nature Prevent & Control Pollution Regulatory News & Learning Search


Hudson River Almanac

Hudson River Almanac Ordering Information

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Hudson River Almanac

The *Hudson River Almanac* is a natural history journal that covers the Hudson from the High Peaks of the Adirondacks to New York Harbor. It seeks to capture the river's spirit, magic, and science by presenting observations from many individuals who delight in the diversity of nature in the Hudson Valley.




6/17/12 - Town of Poughkeepsie: *In mid-morning the NY62 eagle nestlings, 82 days after hatching, became fledglings. At 11:15 AM, I followed the "passive" bird as it made its maiden flight - a short circle over the edge of a field - before clumsily crashing, unharmed, into the canopy of a tall white pine 200 feet north of the nest. I missed the "assertive" bird's first flight, but it was longer - across a wide field at least 600 feet to some riverside hardwoods where I lost it in the greenery. I could hear the adult(s) in the distance. It was a successful launch; I'm sure the adults have enough experience to handle things now.*

- Tom Lake

Since 1994, observations have been compiled from the contributions of more than 1700 volunteers, ranging from elementary school students to professional biologists. In presenting these records, the *Almanac* provides valuable river information to the public, places contemporary observations in historical perspective, and encourages others to look more closely at the Hudson and share what they see. In addition to recording what nature is doing over the year, the entries offer a fascinating measure of human emotional responses to natural phenomena.

Over time, the *Almanac* may serve as a comprehensive program to document changes in the ecosystem. Often, information about obscure animals and subtle changes can come only through direct observations made in many places over long periods of time. By compiling records from volunteers who observe nature as scientists or simply for their own pleasure, the *Almanac* builds a data base that can be used to guide future studies of Hudson Valley ecology.



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KEEPING YOU CONNECTED
AND INFORMED

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County Partners



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Rockland County



Watershed Groups

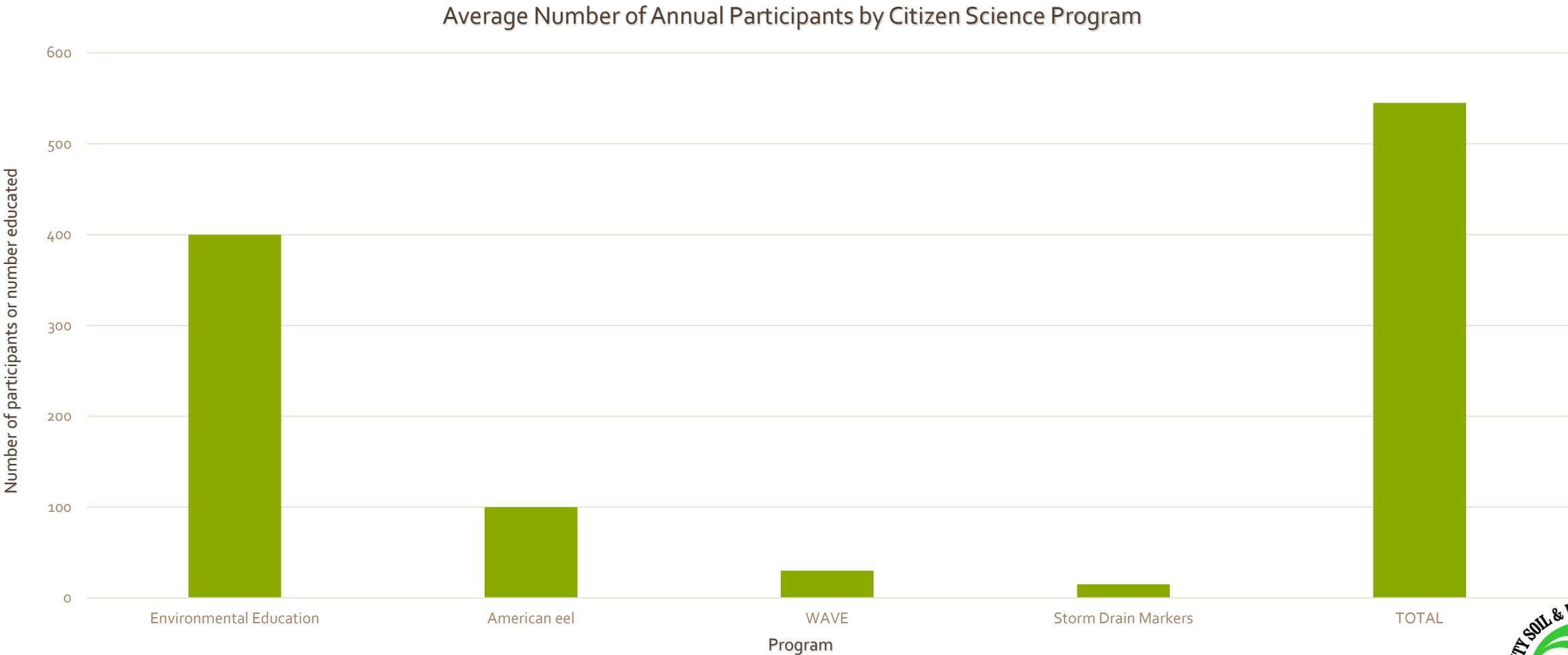
Hudson River
Watershed Alliance



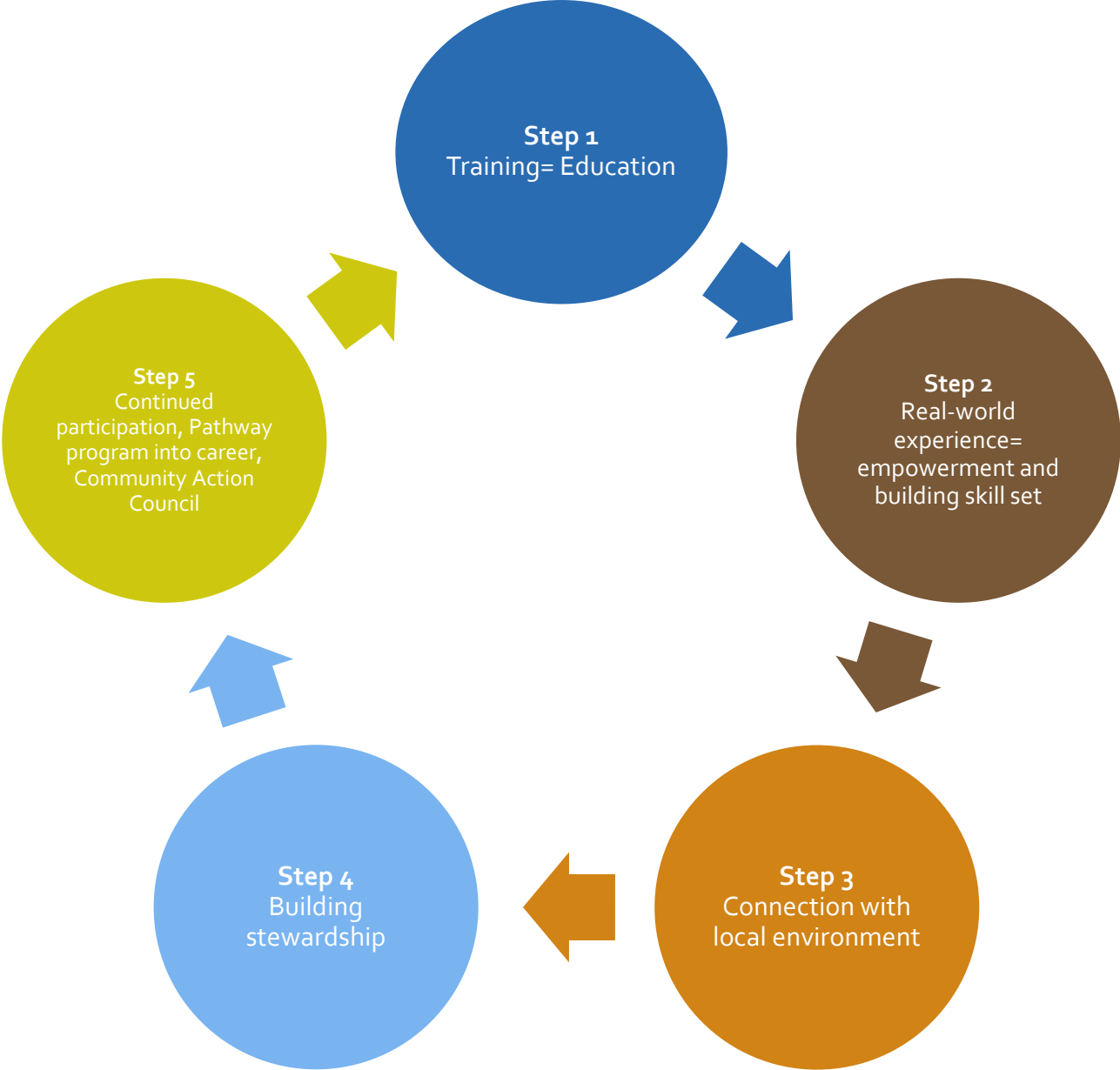
Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance



Output



Impact





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