



Indian Brook Watershed Streamwalk Program

BACKGROUND

The watershed serves as a source of drinking water for half of Ossining's residents. The Westchester County Department of Planning will be working with the municipalities (Town and Village of Ossining, Town of Cortlandt, and Town of New Castle) who have land area within this watershed, to develop a plan to protect the Indian Brook Watershed and Reservoir. This plan is working in a variety of areas impacting water quality including the following:

- Land Use Inventory
- Build-Out Analysis
- Local Law Review and Development
- Water Resource Conditions Report
- Outreach and Education of Residents, especially in the Watershed

As part of the Water Resource Conditions "Natural Features Assessment", the Westchester County Department of Planning and your municipality are sponsoring a streamwalk to assess the environmental conditions of the Indian Brook Watershed. Streamwalks are an effective way to collect information on the existing physical and baseline chemical conditions of streams in a given watershed. The data gathered can be used to identify water quality impairments, resource needs and to plan conservation measures. Streamwalks bring local volunteers into direct contact with streams, enabling them to better understand the ecologic system and the relationship between their community and its water resources. The data collected through streamwalk will help to establish an understanding of the condition of the watershed. This inventory will contribute to the development of the *Indian Brook Watershed Water Quality Protection Plan*.

GOALS

- Resource Evaluation through Data Collection
- Community Involvement and Education

STREAMWALK SEGMENTS

There are approximately 400 miles of stream within the Indian Brook Watershed. In order to accomplish a streamwalk for this entire area, it has been divided into segments. Streamwalk teams will be responsible for a specific stream segment stretching approximately two miles. Assessment activities will begin on segments that are high priority, based on collected water quality information.