NYS DEC Activities in Support of Clean Water

Permitting and enforcement
Public information
Wastewater infrastructure needs assessment
Green infrastructure
Support for citizen science and stewardship
Status of Wastewater Treatment Outfalls Permitted Under SPDES program

Main Outfall (001):
- Town of Orangetown (12.75 MGD) is meeting permit requirements for the outfall
- Rockland County (28.9 MGD) has outfall violations for one parameter; remedies currently under negotiation

Outfall 001A: permitted only during extreme wet weather conditions, such as hurricanes
MS4 Program - Stormwater

Municipal separated stormwater sewer systems (MS4s) are also regulated by DEC under SPDES.

Orangetown and Piermont are MS4 communities, required to develop & implement stormwater management programs to reduce pollutants carried by stormwater to the maximum extent possible.

MS4 permit requires 6 activities, including illicit discharge detection & elimination.
Sewage Pollution Right to Know Law

• Enacted in 2013

• Requires discharges of untreated and partially treated sewage be reported within 2 hours to DEC and 4 hours to public and adjoining municipalities

• Discharge reports available at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/90315.html

• Helps document wastewater infrastructure needs
Rotating Intensive Basin Studies - RIBS

- Assesses water quality of all waters in NYS on 5-year cycle & supports development of the Waterbody Inventory and Priority Waterbodies List.
- Lower Sparkill Creek – aquatic life and recreation impaired due to sewage discharges and urban runoff.
- Upper Sparkill Creek – aquatic life and recreation stressed due to urban runoff and non-point sources of pollution.
Coordination with Interstate Environmental Commission

DEC has asked the IEC to perform a reconnaissance of the Sparkill Creek watershed to determine other potential sources of discharge to the storm sewers.
Prioritizing Wastewater Infrastructure Needs Study

Publicly owned facilities (combined and separated)

• Collection system size/age
• Infrastructure failures
• Flooding vulnerability
• Water quality impacts
Potential Support for Improvements

- Town of Orangetown scores high for size, aging infrastructure, sanitary sewer overflows, & flooding criteria.
- May be able to compete well for state funding for asset management priorities
Green infrastructure (GI) in Sparkill Watershed

1. Site design techniques & structural practices for managing stormwater to keep excess flows and pollutants out of waters.

2. Sparkill Creek GI group identifying potential projects, such as pavement removal at the Homes for Heroes site, for TZB & other funding.

Rockland Audubon Society Rain Garden, Piermont
Trees for Tribs Program -- Replanting Stream Buffers

• DEC provides volunteers with native trees & shrubs to help restore water quality and stream health.
• Projects in Sparkill Watershed