

Mohawk River Basin Program Action Agenda

2012 – 2016

(<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/58571.html>)

GOAL 1: FISH AND WILDLIFE: Understand and manage fish, wildlife and their habitats in the Mohawk River watershed while communicating to the public about their value to human communities, and natural processes so that people can fish, hunt, trap, bird-watch and enjoy the unique character of the valley and its living ecosystem.

- Improve angler access to the river
- Restore and protect critical wildlife habitats
- Sustain fisheries
- Promote community-based environmental education programs
- Foster education and research

GOAL 2: WATER QUALITY: Protect and improve water quality in the Mohawk River watershed so that people are protected from health hazards, drinking water supplies are conserved, aquatic animal communities flourish and natural processes are sustained.

- Support ambient water quality monitoring
- Develop and distribute Best Management Practices for water quality management for municipalities
- Identify remaining sources of legacy contamination
- Monitor sedimentation and identify sources

GOAL 3: FLOODING: Reduce the consequences of flooding events on Mohawk River Valley communities so that communities are prepared for climate change and cultural, recreational, economic and environmental heritage is protected.

- Update flood maps utilizing LIDAR
- Restudies of outdated or flood-prone segments of the Mohawk
- Installation of stage-elevation and real-time monitors in the basin
- Develop inventory of at risk infrastructure
- Develop a hydrodynamic model of the Mohawk Watershed

GOAL 4: COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION: Revitalize Mohawk Valley communities using sustainable development principles creating vibrant, healthy, desirable places to live, work and visit; capitalizing on the region's historic, cultural, environmental and recreational resources.

- Improve regional coordination between heritage related entities
- Increase visitation to the region
- Promote the historic and contemporary arts of the Mohawk River Valley
- Increase economic activity from heritage and cultural tourism
- Work to increase recreational opportunities within the Mohawk River Basin

GOAL 5: WORKING LANDSCAPES AND OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION: Maintain working landscapes by supporting well-managed farms and forest lands that sustain the agricultural economy, rural land use and open space in the Mohawk River Valley while protecting the natural environment.

- Maintain traditional agricultural landscapes
- Increase awareness of environmental and economic impacts of agriculture
- Foster the 2009 NYS Open Space Plan
- Highlight open space assets
- Connect New Yorkers with nature and recreation

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