



Catskill Mountainkeeper 2021 Program Highlights



Catskills Trail Stewards

This summer, Mountainkeeper deployed 2 full-time Catskills Trail Stewards to help keep our trails and outdoor areas safe from the ravages of overuse. Posted at popular local areas in need of protection, our stewards welcomed visitors, taught best practices for responsible outdoor recreation, cleaned up trash and cleared trails, assisted rangers, and reinforced the importance of protecting these special places for future generations. This program, new in 2021, was a huge success.



Invasive Species

Mountainkeeper's work to protect the Catskill Region's iconic eastern hemlock stands from the ravages of the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) pest gained important momentum in 2021. We hired a new staffer with scientific expertise in entomology and forest management to spearhead our work to educate the Catskills community about the severe threat posed by HWA and other pests to our region's forest stands and waterways.

Organizational Update

2021 was an important year for Mountainkeeper. We grew our staff and reached into new program areas and campaigns. We hired our first-ever staff member solely focused on enhancing and expanding our environmental justice efforts, moved our headquarters to a bright new space in Hurleyville, and updated our mission to better reflect our programs and our focus.

Catskill Mountainkeeper's mission is to protect our region's forests and wild lands; safeguard air and water; nurture healthy, equitable, and sustainable communities; empower environmental justice communities, and accelerate the transition to a 100% clean and just energy future in New York State and beyond.

A Big Win on Fracking

The Delaware River Basin Commission permanently banned fracking throughout the Delaware River Basin (DRB), protecting the drinking water supply for millions and ensuring this vital watershed is protected across all four DRB states—NY, NJ, PA, and DE. Mountainkeeper and our allies fought hard to score this big win, and we're now pushing for bans on fracking wastewater treatment, transport, and disposal, as well as water withdrawals, to protect the Basin from fracking-related activities.



Protecting Pollinators

Bees and other pollinators are dying at an alarming rate across New York, the US, and the globe. Neonicotinoid pesticides ("neonics") are largely to blame. These neurotoxic insecticides are used everywhere: from lawns to gardens to farm fields across the country.

Mountainkeeper has made important progress advocating for NY State's Birds and Bees Protection Act, which would ban the unnecessary use of neonics. While the NY State Senate passed the bill in June 2021, the Assembly failed to take up the measure, so the fight continues with a focus on building on the strong traction gained in the last legislative session.

Keep in touch!

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The impressive number of Senators and Assemblymembers, respectively, sponsoring the Climate and Community Investment Act, the bold piece of legislation we're fighting for that will fund the transition to our renewable energy future by making polluters pay for the damage they're doing to our climate and our communities.

47 miles



We're opposing New York State Department of Transportation's (NYSDOT) proposal to widen Route 17 to three lanes between Exit 131 (Harriman) and 103 (Monticello) in both directions. Widening Route 17 in this area will likely increase traffic and congestion, and will certainly contribute to local air pollution while deepening New York's dependence on climate-destroying fossil fuels. This unnecessary project will contribute to sprawl and does not address the problem of transportation inequity.

After an

11 year fight

Mountainkeeper, our allies, and supporters won a ban on fracking in the Delaware River Basin Watershed that protects the drinking water supply for

15 million people



900+

Viewers for Mountainkeeper's engaging webinars on topics ranging from protecting the Catskills to battling ticks and invasive species, the human health impacts of bee-killing neonics, composting, and forest health. Check out our website for past recordings.



YES

This year, Mountainkeeper supported a winning campaign urging New Yorkers to vote YES on an amendment that guarantees our rights to clean air and clean water. Under the Green Amendment, these rights are now protected by New York State's constitution.



50



From Memorial Day through Labor Day, Mountainkeeper's Trail Stewards hauled 50 contractor bags worth of trash out of Big Pond, Beaverkill Covered Bridge Day Use Area, and Crystal Lake Wild Forest.



Ashokan

Mountainkeeper successfully blocked Premium Energy Holding's plans to create an enormous hydroelectric plant adjacent to the Ashokan Reservoir, which would have negatively impacted the reservoir and nearby streams.

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