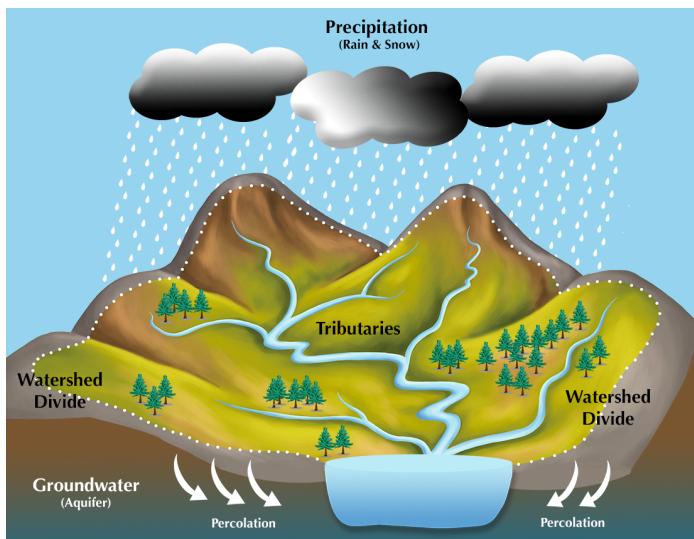




Mohawk River Watershed: Alplaus Kill

Key Terms:

- **Watershed:** An area or ridge of land that drains into a particular stream, river, or lake.
- **Sub-watershed:** A watershed that drains into a larger watershed.
- **Tributary:** A river or stream flowing into a larger waterbody, usually a river or lake.



Source: Kim Roberts, Center for Watershed Protection

Mohawk River Watershed

The Mohawk River Watershed flows from the valley between the western Adirondacks and Tug Hill Plateau all the way to the Hudson River, spanning 140 miles. The watershed makes up one quarter of the Hudson River Basin, which eventually drains into the Atlantic Ocean. It covers nearly 14 counties, contains over 4,000 miles of freshwater rivers and streams, and also holds 135 notable freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

Headwaters Alplaus Kill Watershed

The Headwaters Alplaus Kill Watershed is a sub-watershed of the Mohawk River Watershed. Its southern portion lies within Glenville. Headwaters Alplaus Kill contains many tributaries that flow into the Mohawk River. According to the Mohawk River Watershed Management Plan of 2015, Alplaus Kill is a mid-scoring watershed, meaning that it is in need of both restoration and protection. Out of 112 possible points, the watershed scored a 73.5. The score is reflective of the combination of three categories: water quality, land use, and habitat scores. A study of the watershed found that the aquatic life of Alplaus Kill is impaired, with percent of intolerant fish species calculated to be 5-20%. There are also multiple endangered fish species. It also found that both Collins Lake and Mariaville Lake, located close to Glenville, have elevated levels of phosphorous, which could be attributed to agricultural practices. The management plan suggested a plethora of methods that the town can implement to remedy the problems facing Headwaters Alplaus Kill watershed, but residents can also help. You can prevent watershed pollution by supporting local legislation to do so, educating yourself on watershed protection, and following the individual practices below.



Source: NYDEC



Source: Schenectady GIS Mapping

Ways That You Can Prevent Watershed Pollution:

1

DON'T DUMP!

Never dump ANY substance down the storm drain. This includes but is not limited to car fluids, household cleaning products, car washing chemicals. It's illegal! Also, avoid flushing personal care products and medications down the toilet. Instead, read disposal instructions and participate in drug take-back programs.

2

FERTILIZE FRUGALLY

When using lawn chemicals, like pesticides and fertilizers, try to use as little as possible. Also, look at the weather forecast. If it's supposed to rain within the next few days, consider holding off on applying products so that they are not washed into storm drains.

3

DOUBLE-CHECK DISPOSAL

When you're about to dispose of chemicals and household items such as paint, medication, and car fluids, double-check the preferred disposal method on the label of the product to ensure that it is properly discarded. Look into local hazardous waste disposal locations and check the FDA website for drug-take back programs near you.

4

GROW GRASS

Growing grass and other plants in your yard is a great way to absorb fertilizers and pesticides before they make their way to a storm drain. Roadside ditches are a great place to plant long grasses that will act as a buffer for soil so that it is not washed into the sewer system.

5

PICK UP POOP

Always pick up your pet's waste so that bacteria and viruses do not enter nearby storm drains.

7

CONSERVE WATER

Water is a valuable resource. Be conscious of your water consumption and brainstorm ways you might lessen it. Shorter showers, decreasing yard watering, and fixing faucet leaks are some examples.

6

SWEEP DON'T SPRAY

Instead of power washing or hosing down your driveway and sidewalks, consider sweeping them. Washing them will rinse any car fluids and chemicals present on your driveway into storm drains.

References

Mohawk River Watershed Management Plan. Mohawk River Watershed Coalition, 2015, mohawkriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/MohawkWatershedMgmtPlan_Mar2015_Final_r.pdf.

“Mohawk River Watershed.” Mohawk River Watershed , NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, www.dec.ny.gov/lands/48041.html.

“Watershed Stewardship.” Watershed Stewardship , NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, www.dec.ny.gov/lands/25604.html.