

DCAP

Facts

Delaware County Action Plan

Highways

Objectives

Road design, condition and maintenance have a bearing on the potential pollutant load originating from the roads in the Cannonsville Basin. Road maintenance practices, such as the application of sand, cinders and salt for public safety and the cleaning of ditches to ensure proper drainage create opportunities for accumulation and transport of sediment and pollutant loads to adjacent water courses. Roads and the associated stormwater structures also serve as a conduit of pollution delivery originating from contiguous land uses. To address these issues, DCAP partners are continuing to develop and expand on locally specific management practices to minimize surface water contamination originating from County and Town roads and highways in the Cannonsville Basin.

The program consists of the following:

- Inventory and evaluation of road conditions and formulating appropriate maintenance programs for County and Town roads, referred to as Highway Management Plans.
- Evaluating the roads as conduits of pollutant delivery.
- Implementing stormwater management practices (SMPs) in areas identified in the evaluation phase as significant pollutant contributors.
- Fostering an institutional relationship with the Towns to ensure the continued implementation of the maintenance programs and SMPs.

Work Completed

The Delaware County Department of Public Works (DPW) recently completed an inventory of roads in the Cannonsville Basin. Three road surfaces were defined and identified at the

Town, County and State levels. Town roads were identified as sixty percent of the roads in the basin, therefore requiring that any program developed in the basin address Town roads.

Phosphorus loading from the different surfaces is estimated at approximately 3,911 kg/yr of total phosphorus of which 1,737 kg/yr is in the form of dissolved phosphorus (McIntyre 2002). This represents less than ten percent of the total load but is still a significant source of phosphorus to address due to the phosphorus restriction.

Local Implementation

Local Capacity Building. It will be necessary to foster institutional arrangements and capacity throughout the County to assess potential load reductions from roads and provide assistance to Highway Superintendents on road maintenance. The DPW will utilize the GIS and relevant modeling methods to assist in the assessment of potential load reductions. Equally important will be the development of Highway Management Plans to address phosphorus management and implement SMPs on roads. Since town roads represent the largest surface area of roads in the Cannonsville Basin, this element is essential to the success of the program.

Implementation of Pilot SMPs. In addition to water quality protection regular maintenance activities, Delaware County would like to install SMPs in areas in close proximity to the reservoir and streams that have an obvious potential for contributing to the phosphorus load in the reservoir. These pilot projects would include the development of monitoring sites to evaluate the impact of the SMPs. The

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DPW, with the assistance of the Planning Department, will input the monitoring data into the County GIS. Relevant modeling methods will be used to assess the impact of the SMPs. These projects will serve as a learning tool for customizing the SMPs for the roads in Delaware County.

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DCAP is a collaborative partnership with Delaware County and the NYS Water Resources Institute, the Catskill Watershed Corporation, the Watershed Agricultural Council, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, state and federal watershed partners. The Plan comprehensively addresses all significant nonpoint contaminant sources in the Cannonsville Basin to meet water quality objectives. For more information on DCAP contact the Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs.

