# The Catskills:





# A world of water







... 9.5 million people in New York City and its northern suburbs depend upon it.

More than 1 billion gallons of water is consumed every day.



The reservoirs were created by damming rivers which required destruction of 26 communities, and displacement of 5,500 people

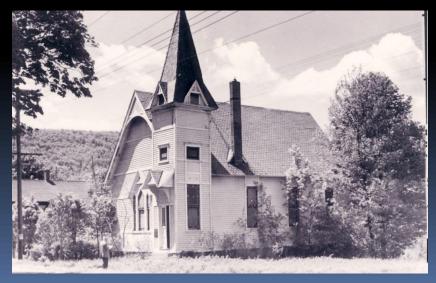


**Schoharie Reservoir, completed 1925** 









# REMOVALOFBODIES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to formal notice of the Corporation Counsel of The City of New York, the undersigned intends to remove all the remains, all the monuments and all the distinguishing marks from the cemeteries or burial places located in the Town of Colchester, County of Delaware, New York, known as the Cat Hollow Burying Ground, the Edgett Cemetery, the Shaver Burying Ground, the Sickler Burying Ground and the Flynn Burying Ground, and from the cemeteries or burial places located in the Town of Andes, County of Delaware, New York, known as the Shavertown Cemetery, the Union Grove Cemetery and the Weaver Burying Ground.

Please take further notice that any and all persons legally entitled to direct as to the disposition of the above may remove the same to any other cemetery or burial place within the same or an adjoining county within sixty days after May I, 1953, if they so elect, upon informing John C. Buhrendorf, Division Engineer, at the office of the Board of Water Supply, Main Street, Downsville, New York, in writing, of the cemetery or burial place in which said remains are to be reinterred and to which the monuments and other distinguishing marks are to be moved.

Upon the satisfactory removal of said remains and the said monuments and other distinguishing marks, the Board of Water Supply proposes to make the following allowances to be paid to the person or persons legally entitled to direct as to the disposition of the above upon the presentation to the Board of Water Supply o proper vouchers for payment:

For the removal of the remains, refilling the grave, purchase of new lot and reinterment in a new grave per grave

For the removal and resetting of an ordinary headstone or foot-

For the removal and resetting of a monument containing than one-quarter of a cubic yard

Thousands of bodies were moved to cemeteries on higher ground.

Choice river valley farmland was claimed by eminent domain.



Entire communities were leveled to make way for the water





Cannonsville Reservoir Completed 1965



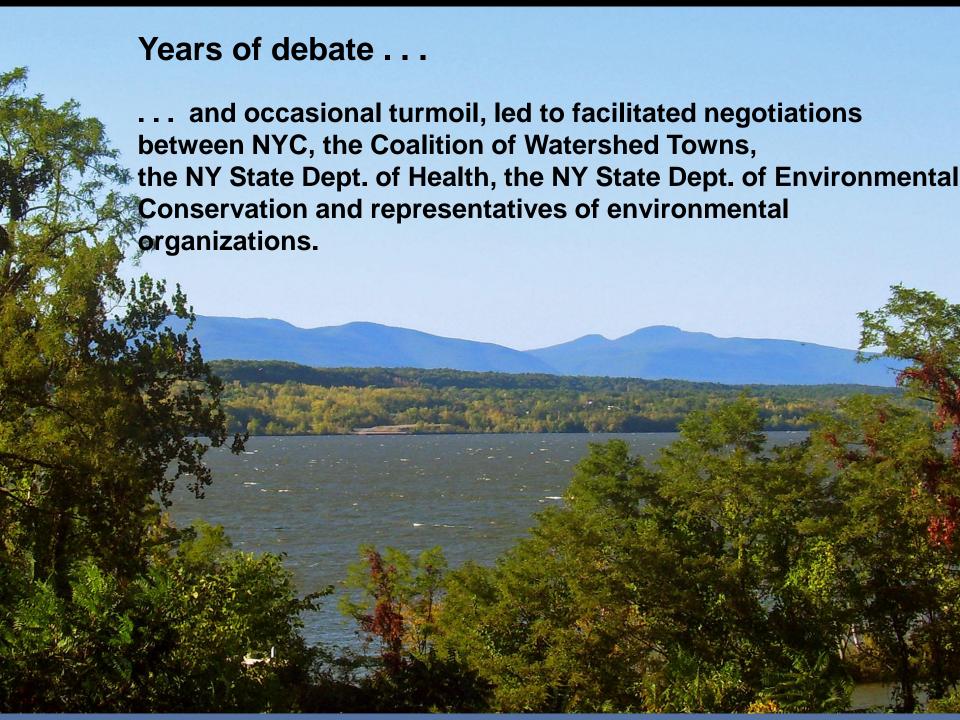
### The Coalition of Watershed Towns



35 Watershed Towns joined forces to advocate for economic justice for this region.

#### Two main demands:

- 1. Land could only be acquired from willing sellers
- 2. Watershed residents and businesses must not have to pay to keep city water clean



# Finally, with the Coalition and others satisfied (more or less), the NYC Watershed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed in 1997



## NYC GOT

- A filtration waiver
- A permit to buy vacant land, and
- The right to impose strict regulations

### WATERSHED INTERESTS GOT

- Funding to pay for environmental protection and other programs
- Support for an economic development fund for the Catskill-Delaware Watershed
- "Good Neighbor Payments" for municipalities as an inducement to sign the MOA



The Catskill Watershed Corp. was established under the MOA to run several programs. Today, those include:

- Septic repair, replacement and maintenance
- Stormwater controls
- Community wastewater systems
- Loans and grants to businesses
- Education grants to schools and organizations
- Planning grants
- Flood mitigation assistance

## **15-member CWC Board of Directors**



12 locally elected officials from the Watershed
1 appointed by NYC Mayor
2 appointed by NYS Governor, including
an environmental representative







5,303 failed septic systems replaced as of Dec. 31, 2017

Systems for full-time residents:
100% paid for
Part-time residents:
60% paid for







Funds provided to correct stormwater/erosion problems and to meet NYC requirements for new construction





## **CONTINUING CHALLENGES:**

- NYC land acquisition
- Interpretation of regulations
- Communication with other agencies
- Shifting of political winds

