

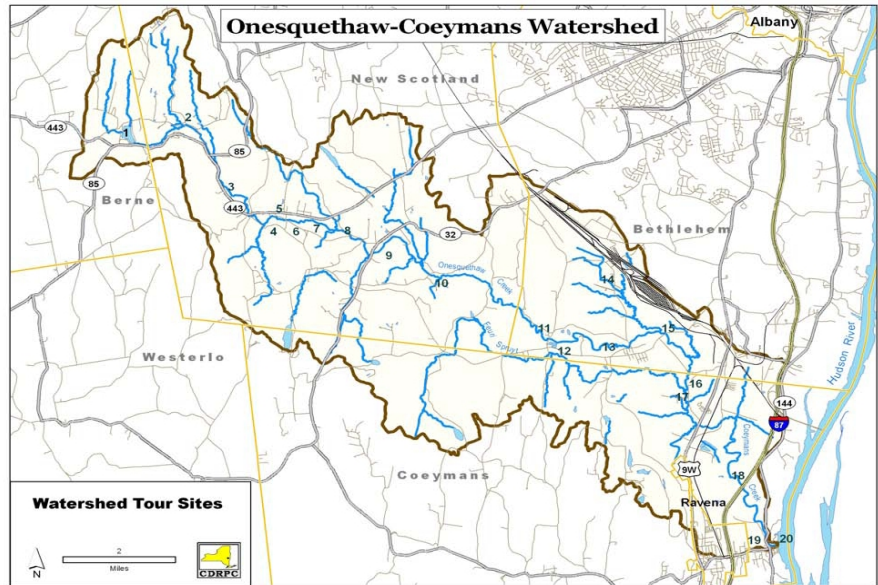
Onesquethaw-Coeymans Watershed

May 2015

Prepared by the Hudson River Watershed Alliance

Location and Geography

The Onesquethaw-Coeymans Watershed encompasses an area of approximately fifty-two square miles, which includes portions of five municipalities in Albany County: the Towns of Berne, New Scotland, Bethlehem and Coeymans, and the Village of Ravena. From its headwaters in the Helderberg Escarpment west of Clarksville, the stream – initially called the Onesquethaw Creek – travels approximately 19 miles in its 1,400-foot descent to the Hudson River. It enters the Hudson as Coeymans Creek just east of the village of Ravena in Coeymans Landing, about 12 miles south of the City of Albany.



Map of the Onesquethaw-Coeymans Watershed. Source: Onesquethaw-Coeymans Watershed Study, 2008.



Angler on creek. Credit: R. Lamberton

Watershed Planning

Starting in the late 1990s, several citizens began meeting to discuss the health and quality of this watershed. Several groups also began monitoring water quality and collecting other data in the watershed. The Onesquethaw-Coeymans Watershed Council was incorporated in 2000 as a nonprofit organization with collaboration from four founding organizations: Trout Unlimited, Audubon Society of New York, the Albany County Water Quality Coordinating Committee and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. After applying for a Hudson River Estuary Program grant in 2005, a Watershed Study was completed by 2008 for the Onesquethaw-Coeymans Watershed, with several recommendations for municipalities on land use,

development, pollution prevention and land conservation. By 2014, the Onesquethaw-Coeymans Watershed Council, with few remaining active members, was forced to disband.

The Coeymans Heritage Society is a group of concerned citizens that has emerged in the last couple of years in the Town of Coeymans and Coeymans Landing. In 2013 and 2014, the Town of Coeymans authorized rezoning from agricultural lands to heavy industry in the Port of Coeymans, including portions of the lower Coeymans Creek near its confluence with the Hudson River.

As a result, several groups have filed a lawsuit against the Town of Coeymans and Port of Coeymans, which has yet to be resolved.



Aerial photo of the Port of Coeymans on the Hudson River, with Coeymans Creek in the foreground. Credit: R. Lamberton



Coeymans Falls. Credit: L. DeGaetano

Upcoming Activity

The Historic Coeymans Landing Neighborhood Association, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and Coeymans Heritage Society have planned *A Celebration of Coeymans on the Hudson*, a family-friendly event to kick off Memorial Day Weekend in Coeymans Landing on **May 22, 2015 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm** with hotdogs, refreshments, music, kids activities and river education featuring Riverkeeper Captain John Lipscomb.

Contact

Barbara Heinzen, Coeymans Heritage Society, barbara@barbaraheinzen.com

Maureen Cunningham, Hudson River Watershed Alliance, mcunningham@hudsonwatershed.org