The NYC Water Supply System

Otsego County

Schoharie County

Albany County

Schoharie Reservoir

Columbia County

Delaware County

Greene County

Cannonsville Reservoir

Pepacton Reservoir

Esopus Creek

Ulster County

Catskill/Delaware Watershed

West Delaware Aqueduct

West Delaware Aqueduct

Ashokan Reservoir

Neversink Reservoir

Neversink Tunnel

Rondout Reservoir

Catskill Aqueduct

Dutchess County

CT

Delaware Aqueduct

Croton Watershed

PA

Sullivan County

West Branch Reservoir

Putnam County

Orange County

New Croton Reservoir

NJ

Rockland County

Hudson River

Croton Aqueduct

Kensico Reservoir

Westchester County

Long Island Sound

USA

NY

New York City Watershed Region Shown

Harlem River

Bronx

Queens

Brooklyn

Staten Island

New York Bay
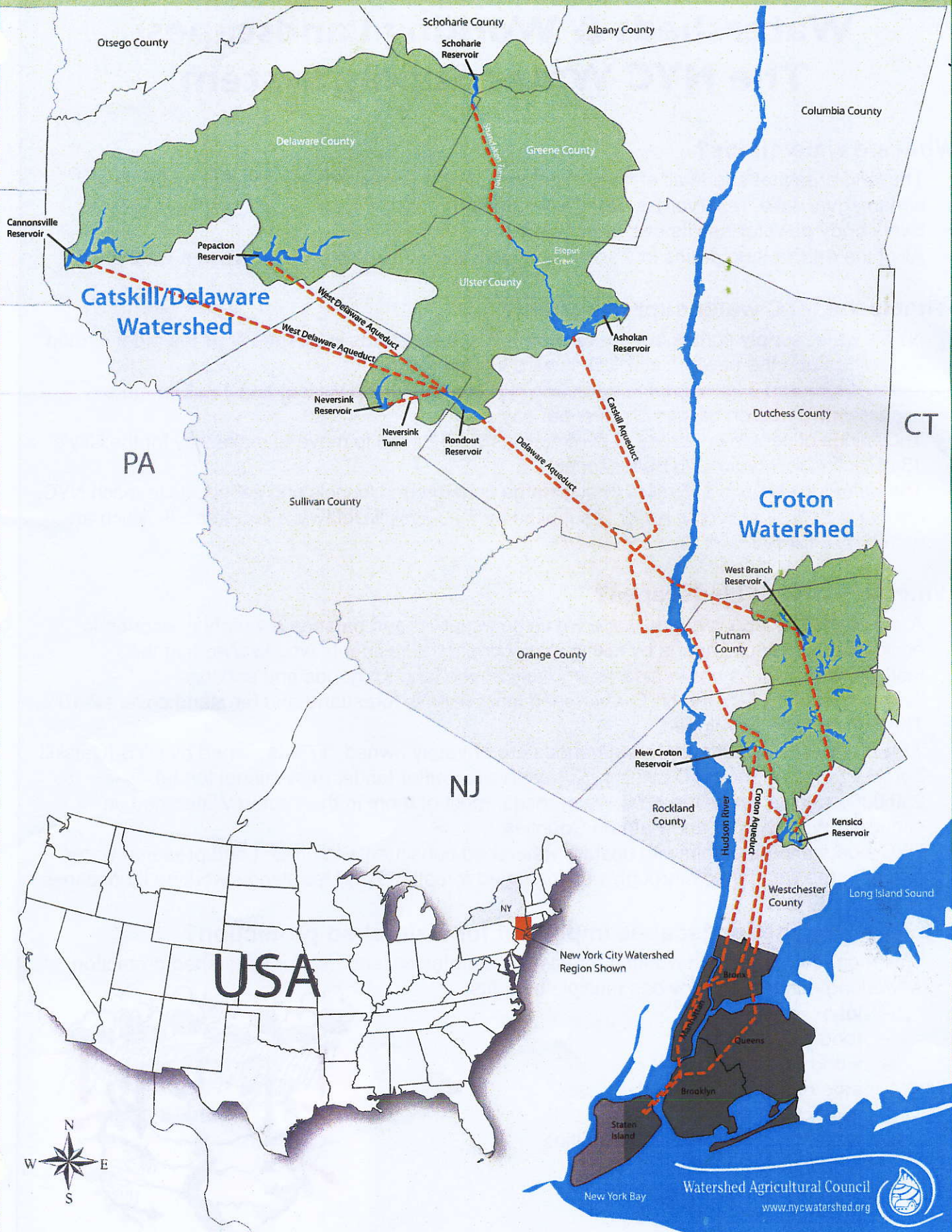
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Watersheds & Working Landscapes: The NYC Water Supply System

What are watersheds?

- The land area that sheds all of its surface water into a common body of water (such as a stream, river, lake, reservoir) is called a watershed.
- Every body of water has its own watershed.
- All of the earth's land drains into some body of water ... therefore we all live in a watershed.

What is the NYC water supply system?

- NYC's water supply comes from reservoirs within watersheds in upstate NY - the older Croton Watershed and the newer Catskill/Delaware Watersheds.
- 19 reservoirs and 3 lakes supplies 8 million NYC residents and visitors and 1 million more upstate with 1+ billion gallons of water per day.
- Thousands of people in dozens of communities were forced to move to make way for the City's 13 collecting reservoirs and buffer zones.
- The water travels up to 125 miles through large underground tunnels and aqueducts to reach NYC.
- On average 90% of NYC's water is supplied by the Catskill/Delaware Watersheds which are currently unfiltered.

What are working landscapes?

- A working landscape is a landscape which can support and balance a variety of economic, ecological, and social needs by taking into account the residents who live/work in the landscape as well as non-residents who rely on the land for goods and services.
- Approximately 75% of the NYC watershed landscape is forestland and farmland covers 7-10%. The remainder is developed.
- 71% of the NYC water supply watersheds are privately owned. 17% is owned by NYS (Catskill Forest Preserve) and NYC owns 12% (reservoirs, buffer lands, recreational lands).
- 250,000+ people live in the NYC Watersheds, most of them in the Croton Watershed, in suburban Westchester and Putnam Counties.
- NYC works in partnership with upstate watershed consituents to protect and preserve water quality in the watersheds through well managed forestland and farmland - working landscapes.

Why are working landscapes important for watershed protection?

- Well-managed farms and working forests are a preferred land use for watershed protection.
- A "working" landscape provides multiple benefits:
    - jobs
    - food
    - wood products
    - safe drinking water
    - rural character
    - recreation & tourism opportunities
    - biodiversity
    - community economic viability
    - open space