

Overview:

Watershed Stewards are volunteers who assist in protecting the resources of the NYC Water Supply system. They will act as ambassadors to recreation users and encourage the responsible and sustainable use of New York City reservoirs and recreation lands.

Where:

- Pepacton Reservoir in Delaware County and Kensico Reservoir in Westchester County to start.

Who can be a Watershed Steward?

- All individuals who are 18 years of age or older and have a current NYC DEP Access Permit are eligible to participate as a Watershed Steward.

Why:

- Give back your experience and passion to others so they can enjoy the outdoors as you have.
- Protect the relationship between recreation users and the water supply system so that future generations can enjoy the privilege of access to the world's largest water supply.

Duties of a Watershed Steward:

- Attend NYC DEP training for Watershed Stewards
- Commit to spending at least 40 hours of service (including any time spent on the water or fishing) over the course of the year.
- Assist in cleaning up garbage and notify NYC DEP contact that the trash is ready to be picked up.
- Keep any eye out for any activities that might pose a risk for the reservoir.
- Interact with recreational users.
- Help organize and participate in annual reservoir clean-up day in October.
- Notify NYC DEP of any tree hazards, erosion problems, boat issues, illegal activity, trash accumulation, etc.
- Maintain an NYC DEP Watershed Steward Activity Journal.

Training:

- Watershed Steward training will include a primer on the recreation rules, invasive species, and level of interaction with users.

How do I get involved?

- Contact Lydia Lewis at (845) 340-7855 or llewis@dep.nyc.gov.