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Stop Polluters

Defending the Hudson. Protecting our Communities

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Preserve Wildlife & Habitat

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Protect the Watershed

Building Communities for Clean Water

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Drink NYC Tap Water

Tap Into the Best

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Our Work > Stop Polluters

Stop Polluters

Defending the Hudson. Protecting our Communities

The level of federal funding for clean water infrastructure has dropped from 78% in 1978 to 3% in 2007.

WHY WE CARE:

A change in the chemical, physical, biological, and radiological quality of water that is injurious to its existing, intended, or potential uses (for example, boating, waterskiing, swimming, the consumption of fish, and the health of aquatic organisms and ecosystems). The term "water pollution" generally refers to human-induced (anthropogenic) changes to water quality. Thus, the discharge of toxic chemicals from a pipe or the release of livestock waste into a nearby water body is considered pollution. Conversely, nutrients that originate from animals in the wild or toxins that originate from natural processes are not considered pollution. [Read more >](#)

CAMPAIGN COMPONENTS:

▼ Sewage & Combined Sewage Overflows (CSO's):

In Brief: Riverkeeper has been leading the fight to keep sewage out of the Hudson River and its tributaries for nearly three decades. As treatment plants and sewer lines fail, water quality suffers, endangering human health and the environment. Today, sewage threatens to become the primary pollutant imperiling the Hudson. [Learn more >](#)

▶ GE PCB's

▶ Newtown Creek

▶ Water Quality Testing

▶ Clean Water National Trust

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▶ More Action Against Polluters

RELATED WORK:

- > Tap Water Campaign
- > Sewage & CSO's Initiative
- > Stop Indian Point Relicensing
- > Clean Water National Trust

Latest Developments in Stop Polluters

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Success Story

LEGAL CASE:
Concrete Polluters Case

COURT DECISION:
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Our Methods in Stop Polluters

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On Issue and campaign work pages, links to relevant methods will be provided

Catch all category

Secondary campaign components are currently represented as "related work", assuming that all of these components are primary for one of the campaigns.

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Our Work > Stop Polluters > Why We Care

Why We Care

A change in the chemical, physical, biological, and radiological quality of water that is injurious to its existing, intended, or potential uses (for example, boating, waterskiing, swimming, the consumption of fish, and the health of aquatic organisms and ecosystems). The term "water pollution" generally refers to human-induced (anthropogenic) changes to water quality. Thus, the discharge of toxic chemicals from a pipe or the release of livestock waste into a nearby water body is considered pollution. Conversely, nutrients that originate from animals in the wild or toxins that originate from natural processes are not considered pollution.

Water pollution can threaten human health when pollutants enter the body via skin exposure or through the direct consumption of contaminated food or drinking water. Priority pollutants, including dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane (DDT) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), persist in the natural environment and bioaccumulate in the tissues of aquatic organisms. These persistent organic pollutants are transferred up the food chain (in a process called biomagnification), and they can reach levels of concern in fish species that are eaten by humans.

LOCAL CONTAMINANTS:

1. PCB's:

In Brief: The major use of PCBs has been as dielectric fluid in electrical equipment, particularly transformers capacitors, electromagnets, circuit breakers, voltage regulators, and switches. PCBs have also been used in heat transfer systems and hydraulic systems, and as plasticizers and additives in lubricating and cutting oils.

PCBs can enter the body through the lungs, gastrointestinal tract, and skin, circulate throughout the body, and be stored in adipose tissue. PCBs have been detected in human adipose tissues and in the milk of cows and humans. Some PCBs have the ability to alter reproductive processes in mammals. There is concern that PCBs may be carcinogenic in humans. [Learn More >](#)

2. Sewage Overflow & Water Contamination

3. Nuclear Waste

Latest Developments in Stop Polluters

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[Our Work](#) > [Stop Polluters](#) > [Sewage & CSO's](#)

Sewage & Combined Sewage Overflows

Riverkeeper has been leading the fight to keep sewage out of the Hudson River and its tributaries for nearly three decades. As treatment plants and sewer lines fail, water quality suffers, endangering human health and the environment. Today, sewage threatens to become the primary pollutant imperiling the Hudson. Wastewater treatment infrastructure in New York has deteriorated due to age, neglect, lack of oversight and enforcement, and the increased pressure of sprawl growth. Hundreds of municipalities are competing for limited and diminishing funds for upgrades and expansions. Both federal and state clean water funding and staffing have been cut. Yet, growth continues unabated. Municipalities often green-light development projects that immediately strain sewer systems.

Riverkeeper has brought suits against municipalities for sewage leaks, commented on developments that would worsen sewage threats, and protested the weak consent order currently under consideration against New York City for decades of dodging the CSO crisis. Click on the links below to learn more about some of the most recent battles.

▼ Learn about the problem

- [> Sustainable Raindrops](#)
Cleaning New York Harbor by Greening the Urban Landscape. Read the report summary or [download the full report \(pdf, 2.3mb\)](#)
- [■ eDesign Source Control Report to Riverkeeper](#)
A report summarizing the recent efforts of eDesign Dynamics to supplement Riverkeeper's report on the potential of Low Impact Development as a means of controlling sewer overflows in New York City. (pdf, 2.3mb)
- [■ Riverkeeper CSO's Fact Sheet](#)
Riverkeeper's CSO fact sheet describing New York City's combined sewer overflow problem (pdf, 2.3mb)
- [■ Open Water CAC CSO Recommendations](#)
Riverkeeper's CSO recommendations (pdf, 2.3mb)

▼ Locations of concern

- [> New Windsor's Sewage Treatment Plant](#)
- [> Beacon's Sewage Overflows](#)
- [> New Paltz Sewage Discharges](#)
- [> Peekskill Sewage Leak](#)
- [> Riverdale Sewage Discharges](#)
- [> West Point Sewage System Failures](#)
- [> Greenpoint-Williamsberg Rezoning](#)
- [> Hudson Yards Redevelopment](#)
- [> World Trade Center Site Rdevelopment](#)

▼ Legal Cases

- TESTIMONY:**
- [■ Artificial Turf Use in City Parks](#)
The use of artificial turf in New York City parks poses serious environmental and public health risks. (pdf, 2.3mb)
- TESTIMONY:**
- [■ NYC Council Testimony 9/24/07](#)
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▶ What you can do

▶ Policy & legislation

▶ Riverkeeper press releases

Please note: documents predating YYYY can be found by using the search box. Contact Riverkeeper for more information.

Latest Developments in Sewage & CSO's

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- [> 09.02.08](#)
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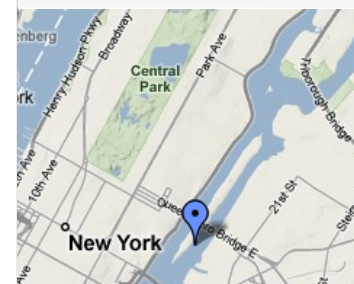
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[Our Work](#) > [Stop Polluters](#) > [Sewage & CSO's](#) > [New Windsor Sewage Treatment Plant](#)

New Windsor Sewage Treatment Plant

Since 1998, sewage effluent has seeped out of two manholes on a small island in the middle of Moodna Creek. The effluent – treated water leaving the New Windsor Sewage Treatment Plant – still contained low levels of organic matter, polluting the Creek with fecal coliform and possibly other organisms, suspended solids, and altered pH levels. In addition to polluting the Creek, the effluent created a ring of muck around each manhole in which no plant life could survive, swampy enough that one person nearly got stuck in the muck. Located in New Windsor, these manholes are hidden from view of the mainland shore and can only be accessed by boat or by wading out to the islands at low tide.

Riverkeeper sued the Town of New Windsor under the Clean Water Act to abate these illegal discharges. The case - led by a law student from the Pace Environmental Law Clinic - was settled on February 25, 2005. New Windsor has agreed to raise and install watertight seals on the manholes, repair any other nearby leaks in the effluent pipe, and remediate all areas of collected sludge surrounding the manholes. In addition, New Windsor will create a canoe launch near the New Windsor Water Department building, allowing citizens to more easily access and enjoy a cleaner Moodna Creek. These actions should all be completed by mid-September, 2005.

▼ Legal Cases

- CASE:
- [New Windsor Case](#)
 - [> Read about the case](#)
 - [Download settlement document \(pdf, 2.3mb\)](#)

▼ Riverkeeper press releases

- MARCH 24, 2005:
- [> Riverkeeper and New Windsor Settle Sewage Case](#)
 - [Download press release \(pdf, 2.3mb\)](#)
- Riverkeeper and the Town of New Windsor have signed a consent order, settling the pending lawsuit brought by Riverkeeper against the Town of New Windsor for two sewage effluent overflows into Moodna Creek. Under the consent order, New Windsor will raise and seal the two manholes, remediate the areas affected by the sewage sludge, and inspect for other potential leaks.

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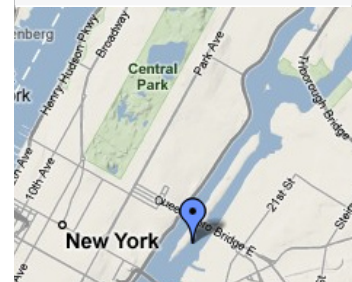
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STATUS LEGEND: ACTIVE CLOSED ON HOLD

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STATUS	CASE	LOCATION	LATEST DEVELOPMENTS	DEFENDER	CAMPAIGN	OUTCOME
■	Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus	Rockland Cty.	09.12.08: Headline lorem ipsum dolor sed ut perpicitias unde... >	GE	Stop Polluters Watershed Protection	
★	Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quia	Hudson Valley	09.12.08: Headline lorem ipsum dolor sed ut perpicitias unde... >	NYCO	Stop Polluters	won
●	Neque porro quisquam est, qui dolorem ipsum	New York City	09.12.08: Headline lorem ipsum dolor sed ut perpicitias unde... >	Exxon	NYC Tap Water Watershed Protection	
■	Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus	Tarrytown	09.12.08: Headline lorem ipsum dolor sed ut perpicitias unde... >	GE	Stop Polluters Watershed Protection	
★	Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quia	Hudson Valley	09.12.08: Headline lorem ipsum dolor sed ut perpicitias unde... >	NYCO	Stop Polluters	settled out of court
●	Neque porro quisquam est, qui dolorem ipsum quia dolor sit amet	Hudson Valley	09.12.08: Headline lorem ipsum dolor sed ut perpicitias unde... >	Exxon	NYC Tap Water Watershed Protection	
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●	Neque porro quisquam est, qui dolorem ipsum quia dolor sit amet	Sleepy Hollow	09.12.08: Headline lorem ipsum dolor sed ut perpicitias unde... >	Exxon	NYC Tap Water Watershed Protection	
★	Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus	New York City	09.12.08: Headline lorem ipsum dolor sed ut perpicitias unde... >	GE	Stop Polluters Watershed Protection	won

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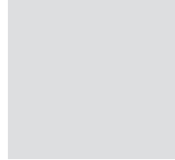
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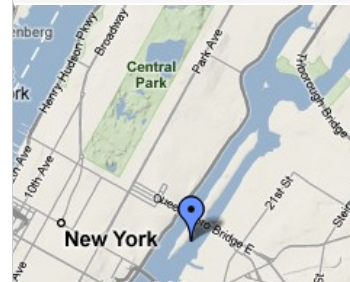
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- Mar. 26, 2008
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About 4 billion PET bottles end up in the waste stream.
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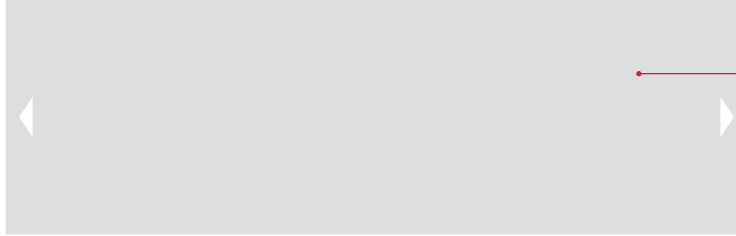
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Riverkeeper successes happen both on an organizational level and on an individual level. Here you will find out highlighted successes stemming from the work of the Riverkeeper legal team as well as the successes of local individuals who have taken their own initiative to make a change in their community.

Riverkeeper Successes

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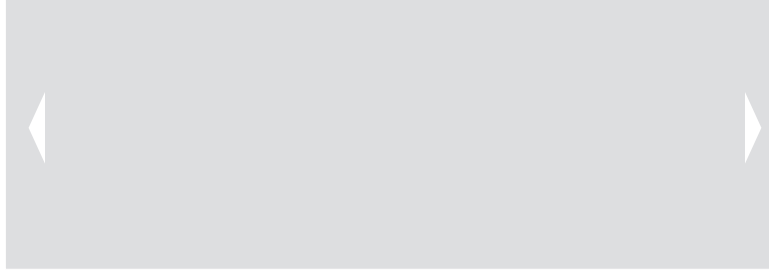
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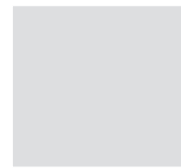
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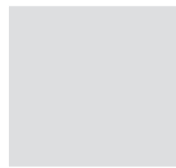
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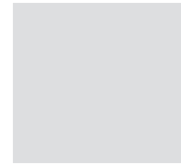
Ann Georges

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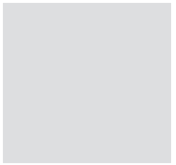
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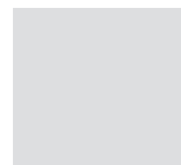
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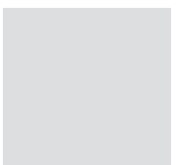
The Town of Fort Edward

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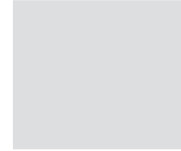
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Ann Georges

By Lisa Rainwater



Position: Senior Legislative Assistant to Congressman Maurice Hinchey
Community: Community Name
Associated Parties: DEP, EPA
Tags: PCBs, Indian Point

A calling to protect the environment came early to Riverkeeper's latest Unsung Hero Anne Georges, Senior Legislative Assistant to Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY, 22nd District). Growing up in Waukegan, Illinois, Anne recalls her first awakening to environmental awareness when, as a teenager, she realized that all was not well in her small Midwestern town: Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) were discovered in the Waukegan Harbor. Around the same time, Anne recalls having vivid nightmares in 1972 about a proposed nuclear power plant that was to be built just north of her hometown, one that was finally shut down in 1998 after problems in the control room. It was at this young age that Anne resolved to continue her environmental education and decided to pursue an environmental studies certificate along with her baccalaureate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Riverkeeper's Unsung Hero title is awarded to an individual who often works behind the scenes to protect the Hudson River and its watershed. It should come as no surprise, then, that Anne Georges calls her job with Congressman Hinchey "extremely rewarding." Working for the Congressman—one of the strongest environmental advocates in New York's Hudson Valley congressional delegation—Anne has her work cut out for her, dealing with many of the same issues that interested her as a teenager, but this time they're New York-based issues: PCBs in the Hudson River, safety issues at Indian Point, and volatile organic compounds such as Trichloroethylene (TCE) poisoning constituents' homes and property. But even at the end of a workday, Anne is always ready to hear of yet another issue affecting the district and is more than eager to start working on a solution.

She chalks it up to her boss, "I genuinely like my boss. He is so active on these issues and not afraid of anybody—the oil and gas industry or General Electric. He's courageous and fights for the people. My motivation has definitely increased since I've been here. It's just such a pleasure to work for somebody who 'truly gets it.'"

For over two decades, Anne has focused on protecting the nation's air, waters and land. She has an impressive background in not-for-profit environmental work, having served as Assistant Director for Government Affairs for the National Audubon Society and Director of Government Affairs for the National Association of Conservation Districts.

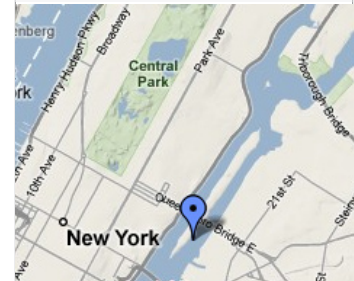
In both positions, she developed policies and secured funding for water quality, land preservation, wetlands protection, and agricultural conservation programming. Anne also worked as Legislative Director for Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT) and as Senior Appropriations Assistant to Congressman David R. Obey (D-WI). This crossover from advocacy work to government has provided her with the acute acumen needed to see an issue from all angles and to make decisive recommendations to both constituents and elected officials.

Following the lead of her boss, Anne Georges is a strong believer in clean energy. Since this is one of Congressman Hinchey's primary issues, she assists in developing policy initiatives that provide for the development of environmentally sensitive energy sources and simultaneously tackle the demand side of the equation by fostering smart energy use emphasizing efficiency and conservation.

While she spends a great deal of time in Washington, D.C., Anne enjoys returning to the district as often as possible. Some of her favorite spots include Ithaca—for the university flair and gorges, the Delaware region for its rustic scenery, and Newburgh for its historical beauty. Living in the nation's capitol can be hectic, so Anne tries to get back to nature as much as possible. An avid horse rider, she serves as a trail guide for tourists in Rock Creek Park, located in the D.C. metro area, one of the first national parks in the country. "I feel fortunate that I can interact with nature while showing off our beautiful national park on horseback nine months out of the year," she explains.

Over the years, Anne has assisted Riverkeeper on many of our key issues – Indian Point, GE's PCB contamination, and hopefully with Congressman Hinchey leading the way, clean, renewable energy will soon become the policy of the day. As is often the case, our Unsung Heroes feel more comfortable remaining behind the scenes, doing what they do best—making things happen. For Anne Georges, she notes that it is invigorating to be a part of Congressman Hinchey's team, "He teaches me a lot about New York and New York politics and about environmental policy. I am lucky—my job focuses on helping to protect the environment and public health in New York and around the country— and that's my pleasure." It's our pleasure as well, Ms. Georges.

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The unsung heroes can have modular call outs in the "Take Action" section

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