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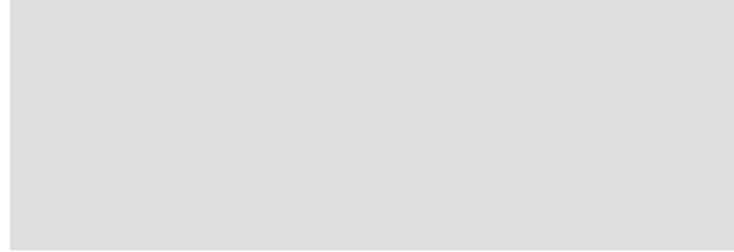
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The Hudson is a world-class river. It travels over 300 miles from its source in the Adirondacks through the Appalachian Mountains in the Hudson Highlands, and into 150 miles of tidal estuary to the mouth of New York Harbor. [Learn more about the Hudson River:](#)

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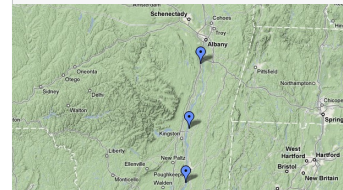
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 - [> Last Action: 09.12.08](#)
[Case title](#)
 - [> Last Action: 09.12.08](#)
[Case title](#)
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- SUCCESSIONS
- [> 09.12.08](#)
[The Storm King Case](#)
 - [> 09.12.08](#)
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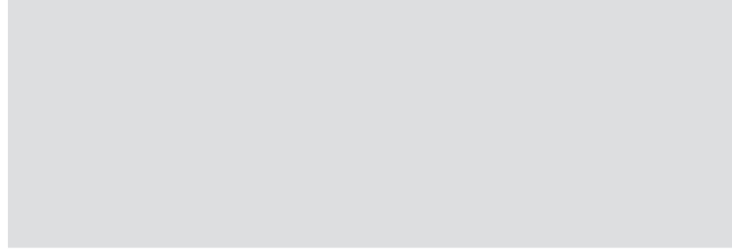
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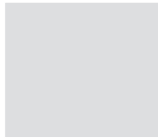
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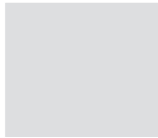
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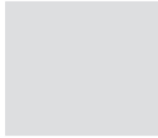
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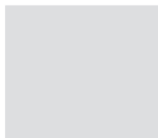
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- [Basics >](#)
- [History >](#)
 - [American Revolution](#)
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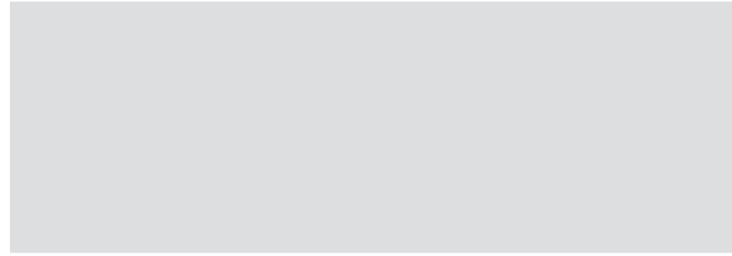
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History



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Henry Hudson first came upon the Hudson River by accident in 1609. Hired by the Dutch East India Company to find a short passage to India, the Englishman sailed his ship Half Moon 150 miles up the Hudson to Albany before realizing that it was not the route he was seeking. At that time, there were approximately 10,000 natives living on both sides of the river. The tribes were part of the Algonquin Confederacy which included the Delaware, Mohican (aka Mohegan) and Wappinger tribes. The Mohican tribe was friendly and peaceful, but Hudson's crew distrusted them and fighting followed. As Dutch and other European settlers arrived in the Hudson Valley, they struggled with the natives for land. By the end of the century, most of the native tribes had been forced west or were destroyed by war and small pox brought in by the Europeans.

▼ River Plays a Key Role in the American Revolution

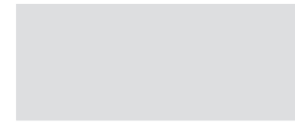
During the 1700s, the colonists realized that the river was essential for the transport of troops and supplies and that if the British gained control of it, they would be able to divide and conquer the American forces. West Point, Fort Montgomery, Fort Clinton and Fort Constitution had all been built in the Bear Mountain region to prevent the British from advancing up the river. In 1778, colonists created the Great Chain, two-foot long iron links which stretched across the river between West Point and Constitution Island to prevent the British from sailing upriver from New York City. The British, however, never came that far up the river so the chain was never put to the test. General Benedict Arnold, in command of West Point, was offered 20,000 pounds sterling by the British if he would help them take control of the Hudson and in 1780, he attempted to surrender the fort to the British. Fortunately for the colonists, the plot was discovered when the American forces captured Major John André, the British officer to whom Arnold had passed plans for West Point. Arnold narrowly escaped to a British war ship. [Learn More >](#)

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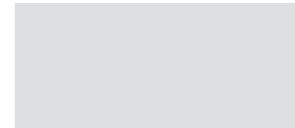
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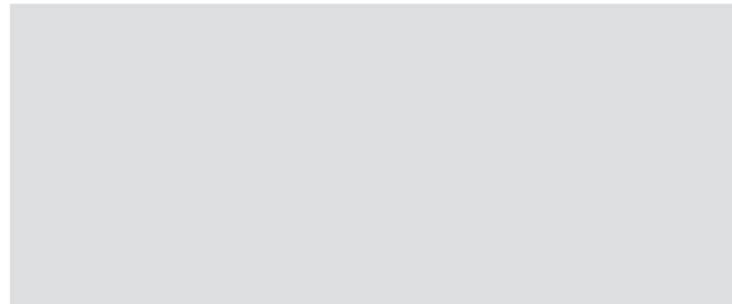
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River Plays a Key Role in the American Revolution

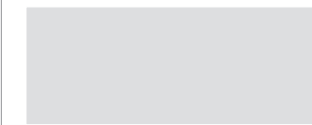


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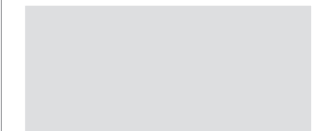
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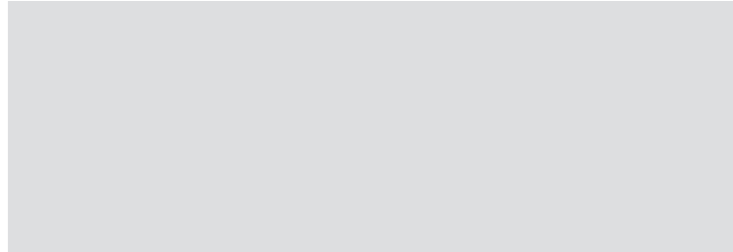
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Protection



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Riverkeeper believes that access to clean, affordable drinking water must be a human right. In the interest of protecting human health and preserving freshwater ecosystems, filtration of public drinking water supplies should be considered as a last resort to be employed only when an unfiltered water supply poses an imminent threat to public health. Sound watershed protection programs not only safeguard human health and aquatic life but also are vastly more economical than filtration.

Lorem Ipsum Header

As a chief architect of the 1997 New York City Watershed Agreement, Riverkeeper managed to leverage a \$1.4 billion government program designed to protect a vast 2,000 square mile landscape. This plan was a coup, and a bargain for the City, as estimates for a filtration plant ranged to \$8 billion in capital construction costs alone.

Although the 1997 Watershed Agreement is an historic accomplishment with the potential to permanently protect New York's drinking water from decline, the agreement is not self-enforcing. Absent aggressive efforts by New York City and the other signatories to implement and enforce its provisions, the agreement will fail. As a signatory to and author of the agreement, Riverkeeper has a unique public role to ensure that the agreement succeeds and special authority to enforce and oversee its implementation.

▼ Lorem Ipsum Title

The Watershed is protected by the historic 1997 Watershed Memorandum of Agreement, which was negotiated by New York City, New York State, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, watershed municipalities, and five environmental groups: Riverkeeper, New York Public Interest Research Group, Catskill Center, Trust for Public Land and Open Space Institute. The Watershed Agreement provides a framework by which the City can meet the requirements of the FAD. It is divided into three components: watershed regulations, land acquisition, and partnership programs. To download the full text of the agreement [Visit the Environmental Facilities Corporation >](#)

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New York City's watershed protection efforts demand full funding to protect this valuable resource for this and all future generations. Compared to the expense of a filtration plant, the City's watershed protection expenditures are a bargain. To date, the City's approximate \$1.5 billion investment in watershed protection has paid off: New York continues to enjoy some of the cleanest and least expensive drinking water in the world.

If New York City fails to demonstrate that it can continue to successfully protect the source of 90% of its water supply, the Catskill/Delaware (Cat/Del) system, then EPA will likely order New York City to build a filtration plant. And the price is steep: the cost of filtration for the Catskill/Delaware water supply is estimated at \$8-12 billion for construction with operating costs around \$350 million a year (\$1 million a day!). The practical consequences of that decision will be that water rates will rise even higher, and badly needed funds will be drained from essential City services such as police, infrastructure, health care, education, and transportation. And, worst of all, if a filtration plant is ever built, the City's watershed protection efforts will most likely fall by the wayside.

As part of the Clean Drinking Water Coalition, Riverkeeper advocates for City spending – for the City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), DEP police force, and watershed protection programs – that is necessary to fully protect source waters throughout the NYC Watershed.

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 - [> Last Action: 09.12.08](#)
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- [History >](#)
- [Ecology >](#)
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