New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Hudson River Estuary Program

Helping people enjoy, protect and revitalize the Hudson River and its Valley

What is the Hudson River Estuary Program?

The Estuary Program protects and improves the natural and scenic Hudson River watershed for all its residents. The program was created in 1987 and extends from the Troy dam to upper New York Harbor. Its core mission is to:

- Ensure clean water
- Protect and restore fish, wildlife and their habitats
- Provide water recreation and river access
- Adapt to climate change
- Conserve the world-famous scenery

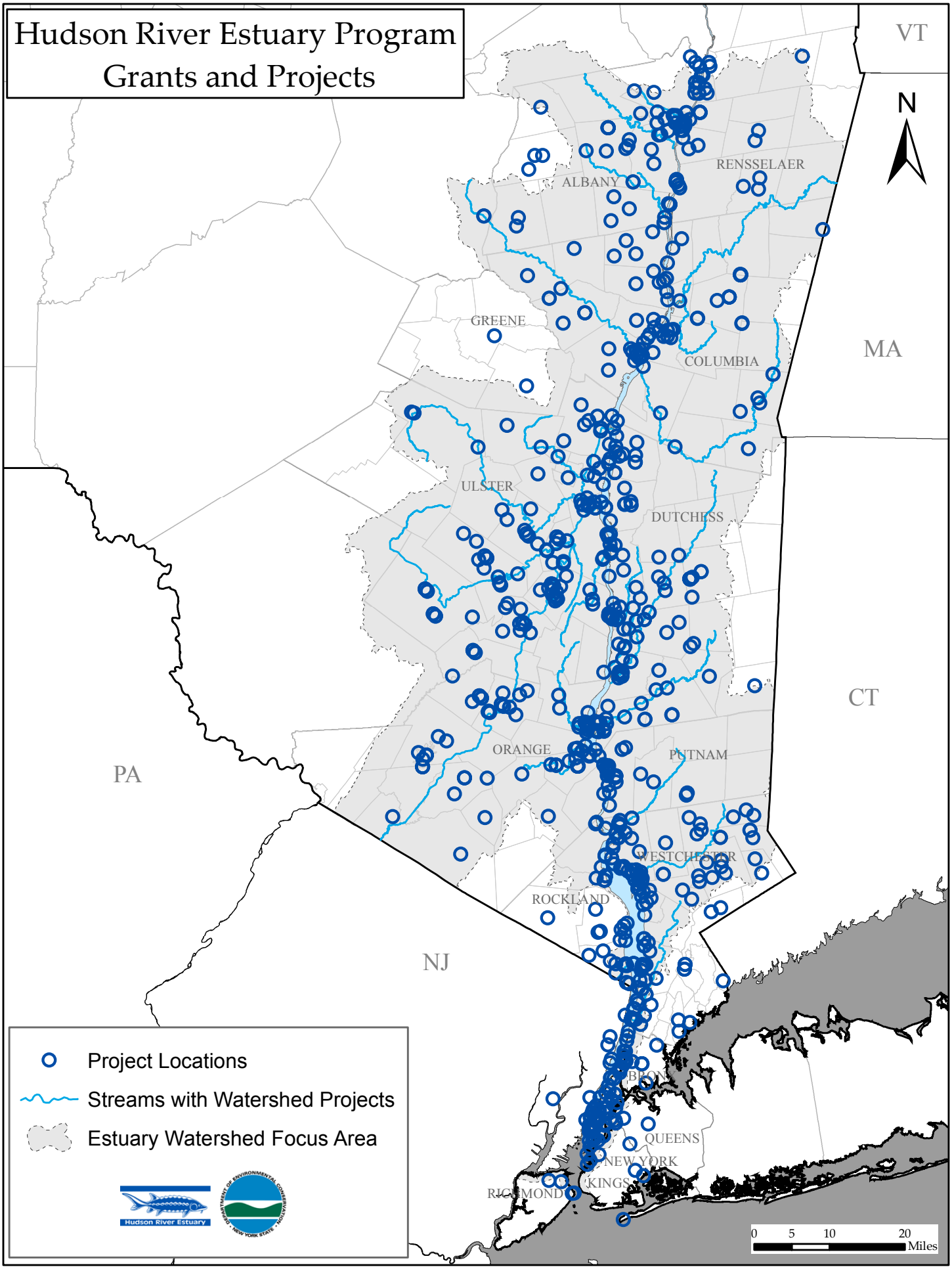
How does the program work?

The program is guided by an Action Agenda—a forward-looking plan, developed through significant community participation up and down the river. The Hudson River Estuary Program achieves real progress through extensive outreach, coordination with state and federal agencies and public-private partnerships. This collaborative approach includes:

- Grants and restoration projects
- Education, research and training
- Natural resource conservation and protection
- Community planning assistance

What are some of the program's accomplishments?

- **Dramatically improved water quality** in target areas of the Hudson River estuary;
- **Awarded more than 300 grants** to local municipalities and non-profits for education, open space, conservation and river access;
- **Protected more than 46,000 acres** of scenic vistas, habitats and farmland;
- **Managed fish populations** which drive $7.5 million in recreation and tourism expenditures;
- **Provided river education to school children** (5,000 annually), trained teachers and developed estuary focused curriculum;
- **Trained more than 5,000 community leaders** to achieve local conservation and land use goals;
- **Revitalized community waterfronts** and enhanced parks, docks, piers, trails and boat launches in nearly every shoreline community;
- **Installed monitoring equipment that reports around-the-clock river conditions** from Albany to New York Harbor for river forecasting, research, regulation, recreation and education;
- **Mapped 91,000 acres of river bottom**, and over 125,000 acres of significant plant and wildlife habitat;
- **Planted more than 18,000 native trees and shrubs** to improve water quality and reduce erosion;
- **Assisted communities that have taken the "Climate Smart" pledge** to adopt emission reduction strategies and prepare for the effects of storms and flooding.


Hudson River Estuary Program
Grants and Projects
VT
N
MA
CT
PA
NJ
RENSSELAER
ALBANY
GREENE
COLUMBIA
ULSTER
DUTCHESS
ORANGE
PUTNAM
WESTCHESTER
ROCKLAND
BRONX
QUEENS
NEW YORK
KINGS
RICHMOND
Project Locations
Streams with Watershed Projects
Estuary Watershed Focus Area
Hudson River Estuary
0 5 10 20
Miles