

**Town of LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council
Wappinger Creek Restoration Project
2006 Action Award**

The Town of LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council completed a major project to restore a critical section of the Wappinger Creek bank in August, 2006. It required approximately 32 months and more than 500 man-hours of volunteer effort by many organizations including Dutchess County Environmental Management Council, Trout Unlimited, Boy Scout Troop 50, Dutchess Quarry and the Town of LaGrange.

The restoration of the bank section is critical for two reasons: first, the Town of LaGrange Wappinger Creek Greenway Trail is located within a few feet of the bank edge and secondly, erosion is severe at this location since this bank is located on the outside of a 90-degree creek bend.

In the last few years, erosion has accelerated because of housing development upstream with the subsequent increase in storm water drainage. Since the trail easement boundary on the land side has an absolute fixed location, continued erosion could literally cut the town trail in half.

The project was complex since it required a town-wide public hearing, and approvals from the Town Planning Board, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, US Army Corps of Engineers and the private landowner who owned the access path to the creek bend.

The first attempt to restore the bank was through the use of grasses and shrubs with a few feet of rock at either end. This attempt failed. The cause was a nine inch rainstorm in October 2005 and the subsequent flooding which washed away the bulk of the restored bank.

The second attempt at restoration consisted of lining the bank with one hundred and twenty tons of huge boulders, donated by Dutchess Quarry, and planting grass seed and shrubs along the top of the bank. Watering these grass/shrubs was accomplished by use of a special pump specified by CAC that was purchased by Trout Unlimited.

The project demonstrates the leadership of the Town of LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council in all phases of the project including soliciting donation for the huge boulders, obtaining the necessary permits, coordinating the volunteer activities of several organizations and persevering in the restoration effort.