

## END OF YEAR 2021 NEWSLETTER

As 2021 comes to an end, we at the Saw Mill River Coalition would like to share with you some of what we've been working on.

We would like to start with saying

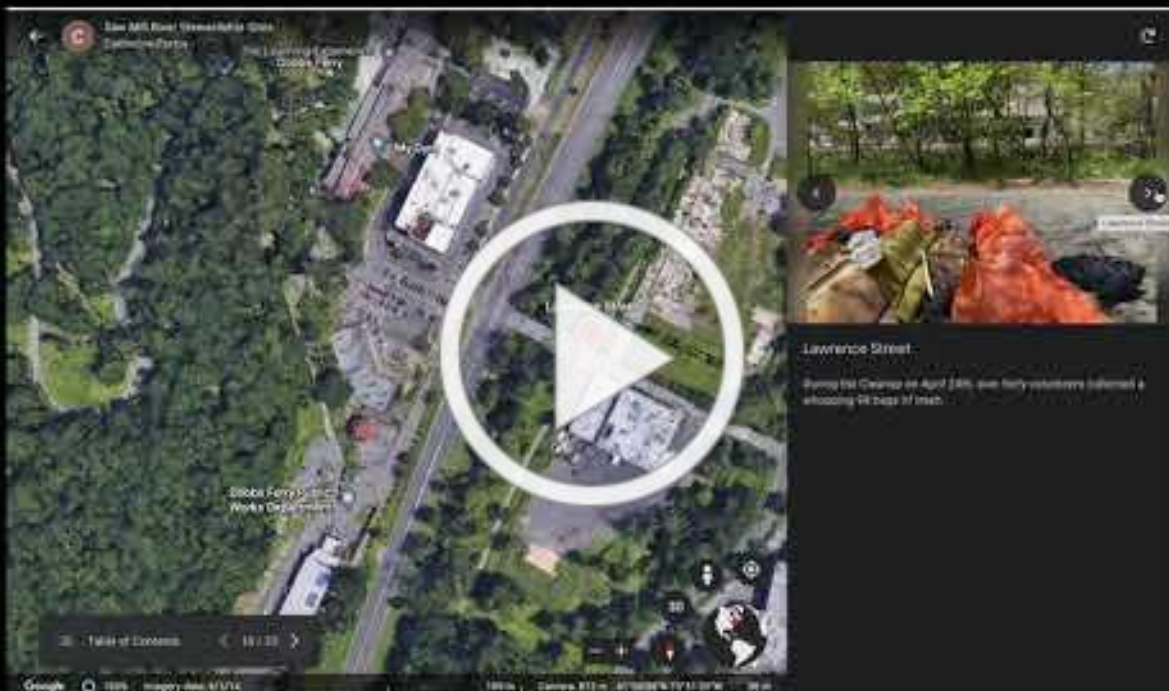
**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the stewardship groups and volunteers who worked on restoring the floodplain of the river, cleaning up the trash and creating new opportunities for access and recreation.

**Click on the image below to take a video tour  
through our different restoration sites  
throughout the watershed!**

**OR**

Follow this [link](#) for a self-guided tour of the different sites!



## Restoration and Stewardship Program

The Saw Mill River Coalition and Groundwork Hudson Valley are working together with local Conservation Advisory Councils and dedicated volunteers to restore the natural habitat along the river's floodplain. Over the last year, with community groups all throughout the watershed, **thousands of square feet of floodplain** were restored and **over 1000 trees and shrubs** were planted to combat invasive species, support native habitat and stabilize the river bank.

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If you're interested in supporting the work we do, please donate down below.

**DONATE NOW**

## Focus on Flooding: Hurricane Ida



Hurricane Ida caused an estimated **140 million dollars** in damages across the state. The storm has been called a **10% storm or 10 year storm**. Storm intensity is increasing nowadays, leading to more storms of this severity. Storms of Ida's magnitude or greater in the past include Sandy, Henri, and Irene.

## Impacts of Hurricane Ida



Flooding on the Sprain Parkway Southbound in Southern Westchester County



Abandoned cars and sediment on the Saw Mill River Parkway once the flood waters had receded



Flooding near the daylighting sites



View over the walkway at Daylighting One

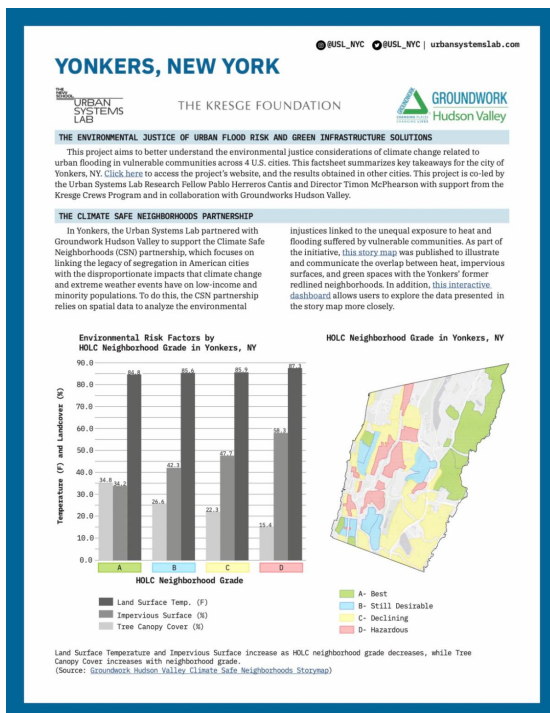
All the rain falling within the 26.5 square miles of the Saw Mill River (SMR) watershed ends up at the SMR Daylighting Parks in Downtown Yonkers, right before joining the Hudson River. The Daylighting Parks, reaching full capacity and diverting access water to the underground flume, suffered minimal damage. The Daylighting Parks and other mechanisms successfully protected the area surrounding them from flooding, proving the importance of large scale Green Infrastructure projects in dense urban areas.

Local and county governments are taking infrastructural measures to protect residents from flooding.

**Groundwork Hudson Valley and the Saw Mill River Coalition have been working on promoting and implementing Nature-Based Solutions for flood mitigation.**

## Addressing the Increasing Risk of Flooding

### Addressing Stormwater Solutions through Flood Modeling



Groundwork Hudson Valley is addressing the risk of urban flooding due to the increase in extreme rain events caused by climate change. Over the last summer, our region experienced an unprecedented frequency of extreme rain events with large amounts of rain falling within a short amount of time. In dense urban areas with vast impervious surfaces, these rain events challenged our existing stormwater infrastructure, flooding inland areas which never flooded before. We recently concluded a project in collaboration with **The New School Urban Systems Lab** of modeling such events. Through this model, we are able to identify Urban Sinks—low lying areas which are prone to inland flooding. Project leader, researcher Pablo Herreros-Cantis, modeled the impact of implementing Green Infrastructure at four selected urban sinks. This showed how using natural features for increasing permeability could help detain excess water and reduce the stress on the urban drainage system. **Click on the image to learn more about the results of the study.**



## Green Infrastructure

**Green infrastructure** solutions are sustainable and cost-effective ways to address this flooding. The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers has partnered with Groundwork Hudson Valley to implement some of these solutions in several properties across the city of Yonkers.

Check out this **feasibility study** we developed for MHACY with our friends at MKM Landscape Architecture, to assess feasibility for implementation of Green infrastructure throughout their properties.



Rainwater garden used to capture runoff and help storm water management

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



**Hudson River Estuary Program**

A Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



**MHACY**  
Municipal Housing Authority  
for the City of Yonkers



**GROUNDWORK**  
**Hudson Valley**

*Saw Mill River*  
COALITION