

The Watershed and BRASS

The Boquet River watershed drains 280 square miles, starting in the High Peaks of the Adirondack Mountains, and is entirely within the Adirondack Park. Major tributaries include: the North Branch, The Branch, Spruce Mill Brook and Lincoln Pond/Black River. The watershed is 82.4% forested, 7.5% wetland, 6.4% agriculture and 3.6% urban.

Boquet River Watershed



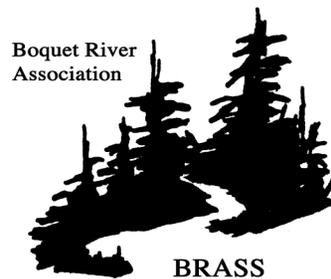
BRASS serves the watershed populations, including visitors and residents of the Towns of Elizabethtown, Essex, Lewis, Willsboro and Westport. Local landowners, organizations and businesses make up its membership. Its Board of Directors is composed of appointees from the five watershed towns, as well as Directors elected by the membership. BRASS relies on member contributions and grant funding from various state and federal agencies, regional organizations and trusts.

MEMBERSHIP

BRASS is dedicated to enhancing the quality of water and life in the Boquet River watershed and membership is open to any individual or group supporting this goal. Members are entitled to newsletters, a vote in BRASS affairs, and are encouraged to participate in BRASS activities and help make decisions that will affect the future of the watershed.

Full Creel — <i>Sponsor</i>	> \$100
Atlantic Salmon — <i>Association/Business</i>	\$50
Brown Trout — <i>Family</i>	\$35
Speckled Trout — <i>Individual</i>	\$25
Minnow — <i>Student</i>	\$10

The membership year runs from June 1st to May 31st. Membership dues and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Make check payable to 'Boquet River Association' or become a member online at www.boquetriver.org.



Boquet River Association
P.O. Box 782
Willsboro, NY 12996

Tel/Fax: 518-873-3250
e-mail: info@boquetriver.org
www.boquetriver.org
"Like" BRASS on facebook

Boquet River Association



The Boquet River Association (BRASS) is a small, membership-based, volunteer-oriented 501c(3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to enhance the quality of water and life in the 280-square mile watershed. Formed in 1984, the Boquet River Association acts on issues related to point and nonpoint source pollution, in-stream and riparian species and habitats, wetlands, water quality and recreation, as well as the local economy and the quality of life for watershed residents.

BRASS is known for accomplishing projects through education and by coordinating strategies that combine the skills and services of volunteers, North Country organizations, local governments, and state agencies.

Boquet River

The Boquet River begins in the Dix Mountain Wilderness Area of the Adirondacks, winds through Essex County's woodlands, hamlets and farms and empties into Lake Champlain. It is recognized as one of New



York State's important Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Systems, and has been identified as an outstanding river by the National Park Service's Nationwide Rivers Inventory.

Despite its scenic vistas, sport fisheries, canoe waters and natural areas, the Boquet River has many problems. It is the steepest river in New York, descending more than 2,700 feet in 47 channel miles to Lake Champlain, making the river flashy and prone to streambank erosion.

Sediment from erosion destroys fish habitat, exacerbates flood conditions, loads excess nutrients into the river and Lake Champlain, and muddies the waters used for recreation. In addition, heavy rainfall and ice jams cause flooding, the river carries a high load of phosphorus and there are limited recreational facilities and river access sites for the public.



Volunteers planting and watering tree and shrub seedlings along the river in Wadhams.



Participants launching their canoes into the Boquet for a BRASS-led trip to the mouth of the river.



Volunteers getting ready to clean up trash along the riverbanks in Elizabethtown. (photo by Alvin Reiner)

BRASS PROJECTS

Since its inception, BRASS has:

- ◆ Planted >270,000 seedlings along the river for erosion and flood control
- ◆ Conducted studies in water quality, sediment embeddedness, aquatic insects, and native mussels with trained volunteers
- ◆ Hosted "Rambles" to encourage people to explore the Boquet River watershed
- ◆ Constructed over 1,200' of low-cost cribs, spillways, and terraces to control erosion
- ◆ Partnered with local road departments to develop runoff controls
- ◆ Worked with farmers to stem erosion and increase buffer zones and wildlife habitat
- ◆ Implemented pilot projects for invasive plant control and rain gardens for storm-water runoff control
- ◆ Designed riverside public access parks totaling over 600 acres
- ◆ Developed a bike/auto historical tour map and an erosion control booklet titled *How to Hold up Banks: Using All the Assets*
- ◆ Helped towns in alternative sewage disposal methods
- ◆ Conducted the annual Boquet River Clean-up and Trashy Art Day
- ◆ Facilitated the development of a Watershed Management Plan and is currently engaged in efforts to update it
- ◆ And much more!