



# ***BOQUET RIVER ASSOCIATION***

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## **Why do Watershed Management Planning?**

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Having a Watershed Management Plan in place demonstrates that we, as a watershed community, have a vision for our future and a roadmap to get there. Most funding agencies require that a Plan be in place to be eligible for funding to help us achieve our watershed goals.

The Boquet River Association (BRASS) is managing the NYS Department of State grant and facilitating the process to update the Plan on behalf of the five watershed communities.

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## **Watershed Management Planning is a Locally-Driven Process**

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- Step 1: Build Partnerships: Establish a Project Advisory Committee
- Step 2: Prepare a Community Outreach Plan
- Step 3: Prepare a Draft Watershed Management Plan
  - > Assemble existing information about the watershed
  - > Hold public meetings to solicit input from residents on water quality issues and concerns
- Step 4: Identify Management Recommendations
- Step 5: Develop an Implementation Strategy and Schedule
- Step 6: Draft the Watershed Management Plan
- Step 7: Hold Public Meetings to Gather Feedback on the Draft Plan and Management Recommendations
- Step 8: Incorporate Changes and Prepare the Final Watershed Management Plan
- Step 9: Seek Community Acceptance to Implement the Plan

*"This document was prepared for the New York State Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund."*





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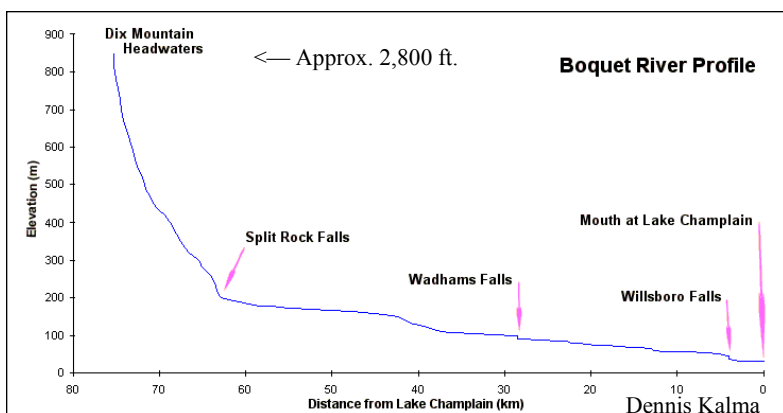
THE BOQUET RIVER ASSOCIATION (*BRASS*) IS DEDICATED TO ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF WATER AND LIFE IN THE BOQUET RIVER WATERSHED.

## OUR WATERSHED

- The main stem of the Boquet River originates on Dix Mountain in Keene; is 47 miles long; and empties into Lake Champlain in the Town of Willsboro.
- Major tributaries include: the North Branch; The Branch (aka The Little Boquet); Spruce Mill Brook and Lincoln Pond / Black River.
- The Boquet River is the steepest river in NYS, descending more than 2,700 feet in 47 miles, making it prone to flash floods and erosion. Sediment from erosion destroys fish habitat, exacerbates flood conditions and loads excess nutrients into the river and Lake Champlain.



- The Boquet River watershed drains 280-square miles and largely includes the towns of Elizabethtown, Essex, Lewis, Westport and Willsboro.



- Important watershed resources include sport fisheries, fertile agricultural and timber lands, recreational opportunities, scenic vistas and bluffs, critical natural areas, as well as significant cultural and historical sites.

- According to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Boquet River watershed is 82.4% forested, 7.5% wetland, 3.6% urban and 6.4% agriculture.

**A watershed is the area of land that delivers water, sediment, and other materials to a waterbody, like a stream, river or lake.**

**The Boquet watershed is one of many sub-watersheds in the Lake Champlain basin.**