

## Walton Flood Commission Fosters Repairs to Third Brook

The stream corridor management program of the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD), in concert with the Walton Flood Commission, completed further repairs to Third Brook in December 2014. Four problem areas were stabilized along the middle section of the Third Brook stream corridor. This work primarily utilized federal Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) funds through Delaware County office of Watershed Affairs to install rock riprap, rock walls and other structural measures to help stabilize failing slopes, channel bed and banks and reduce flood-related damages downstream in the Village of Walton. Partial financial and technical assistance was provided by the NY City Department of Environmental Protection. The work is an outcome of Walton's Third Brook Stream Corridor Management Plan that was developed in response to the 2006 flood.

The Walton Flood Commission enabled completion of the Third Brook Management Plan in late 2013, which effectively combined public input with science to provide engineering solutions, and from which this project was implemented only one year later. A total construction cost of \$457,034 was spent to repair about 1,000 feet of stream, which included removing 3500 cubic yards of earth and importing over 4500 tons of quarried rock and boulders. Project design was by Milone & MacBroom, Inc. of Cheshire, CT, construction by LaFever Excavating of Bovina Center with construction oversight by staff of DCSWCD and the design contractor. The design firm was also responsible for completing the Third Brook management plan, which identified priority areas for repair and provided further recommendations for stream corridor improvements.

Initial plantings of trees, shrubs and grass seed occurred at the close of the project last year to help reduce soil erosion and sediment entering the stream. More tree and shrub planting is scheduled in late April with the help of BOCES conservation students as part of their science curriculum and community service and as part of the overall stream corridor restoration.

As further funding becomes available, remaining unstable slopes upstream from the recently completed project area will be scheduled for similar improvements. This and related stream corridor projects continue the mission of the Walton Flood Commission as they coordinate efforts to increase Walton's flood resilience.



Portion of bank failure in early 2014, looking upstream.



Slope failure after stabilization in December, looking downstream.