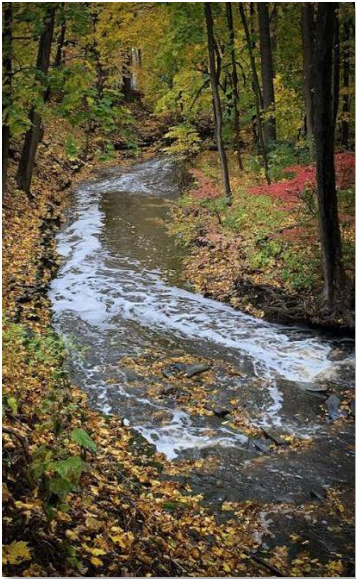


Social Justice Action Team (SJAT)



Maximizing the power of UUSchenectady to promote justice and equity in the congregation, the wider community, and the world.

Downstream Justice for the Hans Groot Kill

Advocating for cleaning up the creek. Working with the community and the City of Schenectady leadership to modernize sewage pipes along the creek to stop raw sewage from polluting the creek and all points downstream.

Right now: Pollution in the Kill is at an all-time high.

Right now: The City is beginning to take this seriously.

Right now: Money is in the Infrastructure Bill for modernization.

- ◆ The HGK is a highly impaired creek that is undoubtedly affecting the Mohawk River.
- ◆ Nearly 100,000 people downstream in Colonie and Cohoes rely on the Mohawk for their water.
- ◆ Enterococcus is a fecal indicator bacteria.
- ◆ Over the last three years, the HGK has been analyzed for Enterococcus 306 times with a failure rate of 9.7% (EPA BAV).
- ◆ In May 2021, the City of Schenectady established definitively that the high fecal contamination was of human origin.
- ◆ 100% of the samples failed the EPA BAV for enterococci in the Winter and Spring 2022 from the sentinel site on Union Campus.
- ◆ Gastrointestinal outbreaks have occurred in Schenectady three times in the last two years, which may be linked to sewage contamination.
- ◆ Aging infrastructure appears to be underfit to handle the 50% increase in intense or extreme precipitation and extreme events that occurred in the northeast over the last 20 years.
- ◆ Without direct intervention, we are facing a public health crisis due to sewage in our waterways.

Thank you Chris Walcek for the beautiful picture of the HGK!

Show up for justice!

Education—events, papers, panels, presentations

Direct Service—water testing, trash clean up, cutting back various overgrowth

Advocacy—letters to the editor, City Hall meetings, meetings with elected officials

Witness—walking the creek, rallies, be present for creek testing, press conferences

Community Organizing—rally with other organizations, engage the GE Plot Neighborhood workgroups

Leadership Development—Side with love Skill-ups, mentors for first time hosts

And much more . . .

Where would you like to grow, make a difference?