

Table 16 - NJDEP Natural Heritage Priority Sites of the Raritan Basin

Watershed Management Area	County	Municipality	Site Name	Biodiversity Rank	Site Description	Site Boundaries	Biodiversity Description
Upper Raritan	Hunterdon	Delaware Twp	Abraitys Pine Stand Site	B4	Second growth woods on low ridge.	Includes extent of upland habitat for rare plant species.	Only occurrence of a state listed endangered plant.
Upper Raritan	Hunterdon	Delaware Twp	Sand Brook	B5	Roadside wooded thicket adjacent to driveway.	Encloses endangered plant plus buffer.	Single known New Jersey occurrence for state listed plant species.
Upper Raritan	Hunterdon	Readington Twp	Solberg Airport	B5	Solberg-Hunterdon Airport property and surrounding open space.	Boundaries drawn to include nesting habitat for bird species.	Site contains one State endangered and three State threatened bird species.
Upper Raritan	Hunterdon	Tewksbury Twp	Hell Mountain	B5	Steep sloped rocky mountain with both wetland and upland habitats.	Includes extent of habitats for rare plant species.	Historical location for federally listed plant and extant site for state listed endangered plant species.
Upper Raritan	Morris	Chester Twp	Chester Railroad Site	B3	Abandoned RR corridor along the ecotone of a wooded slope and Lamington River.	Includes wetland and upland habitats for rare plant species.	One State listed plant species.
Upper Raritan	Morris	Chester Twp ; Randolph Twp ; Roxbury Twp	Black River Macrosite	B5	A large forested/emergent wetland complex adjacent to the Black River, surrounded by a drainage basin that is largely forested or under agriculture, but with some residential development.	Bounds drawn to include a large contiguous forested patch for a State Threatened forest interior nesting raptor. Bounds follow watershed boundaries for this portion of the Black River.	Contains a large contiguous forested patch which provides habitat for a State Threatened forest interior nesting raptor. Also provides additional buffer for two standard sites with high significance.
Upper Raritan	Morris	Mount Olive Twp	Budd Lake Bog	B3	An open canopy swamp of Acer/Picea/Larix with a very dense shrub layer of Vaccinium corymbosum, Rhododendron viscosum, and other species. Occurs on muck soil, with large hummocks supporting the scattered trees and closed shrub layer. Sphagnum common thro	Primary boundary: Includes wetlands hydrologically connected to the wetlands supporting a globally rare plant and minimum upland buffers needed to prevent direct impacts. Secondary boundary: Additional buffers extending to roads, developed areas, or the wa	This site contains the northern most stand of a federally threatened plant species, a state imperiled natural community (black spruce swamp), and a number of state rare and endangered plant species.
Upper Raritan	Morris	Mount Olive Twp	Budd Lake Outlet	B5	Boggy woods along outlet stream; also adjacent roadside ditch.	Includes wetland habitat for rare plant species.	Two extant state listed endangered plant species plus additional historically documented species.
Upper Raritan	Morris	Randolph Twp ; Roxbury Twp ; Chester Twp	Ironia	B3	Includes wooded swamp, open woodlands, and abandoned sand pit.	Includes extent of wetland and upland habits for endangered plants.	Contains two globally imperiled plant species and a state significant collection of plant species.
Upper Raritan	Somerset	Bedminster Twp ; Branchburg Twp	Burnt Mills	B5	The site contains a large mature floodplain forest community associated with the Raritan River. Bordering the mature forest are additional younger forests and cleared areas associated with runways at Somerset Airport.	Primary bounds drawn to include mature floodplain forest with trees having girths > 20-24" dbh. Secondary bounds include an area to serve as a forest buffer for the older forest within the primary bounds.	The site contains a good quality mature floodplain forest community. Perhaps the best remaining floodplain forest stand on the Raritan River.
Upper Raritan/Lower Raritan	Somerset	Hillsborough Twp	Orchard Drive Grasslands	B4	Located in the Piedmont Lowlands geological province, this site includes open, forested, and developed land. Agricultural use includes row crops such as corn and strawberry, wheat & rye. Hay fields. Site is bordered by roads: River Rd. to the north & wes	Boundaries drawn to include habitat for rare bird species.	Contains 2 State endangered bird species and 3 State threatened bird species.
Lower Raritan	Middlesex	East Brunswick Twp	Riva Avenue Site	B5	The site is a sandy mowed field adjoining a wooded thicket.	The site bounds are drawn to include known habitat for a Plant Species of Special Concern and adjacent buffer.	The site contains one Plant Species of Special Concern.
Lower Raritan	Middlesex	East Brunswick Twp	Beaverdam Branch	B5	Red maple swamp.	Includes extent of wetland habitat for rare plant species.	One federally listed plant species.
Lower Raritan	Middlesex	Helmetta Boro ; East Brunswick Twp ; Spotswood Boro	Helmetta	B4	Large pond and associated wetlands in pine barren habitat.	Includes both upland and wetland rare plant habitats.	One state listed endangered plant plus special concern plant species.
Lower Raritan	Middlesex ; Monmouth	Old Bridge Twp ; Marlboro Twp	Browntown	B4	Pitch pine lowland, wooded swamp and pine/oak uplands in pine barren outlier.	Includes extent of rare plant wetland habitat plus additional upland buffer in the watershed.	One state listed endangered plant.
Lower Raritan	Monmouth	Freehold Twp ; Millstone Twp	JCPL Swamp	B4	Hardwood swamp forest (Acer/Nyssa dominant) surrounds stream channel, spreading wetland, and small tributaries. Incredibly dense understory of shrubs, greenbriar, and some multi-flora rose (many areas impenetrable).	Primary boundary includes the known extent of the wetland habitat containing a Federally-listed threatened plant along with the surrounding lowland habitat and the upland-lowland boundary (the slope down to the lowland from the upland). The secondary bou	Scattered, but widespread occurrence of a federally-listed threatened plant species.
Lower Raritan	Somerset	Bridgewater Twp	Chimney Rock	B2	The site contains two hilltops with steep sloped traprock cliffs that descend to two branches of the Middle Brook below. Open glade communities form just above the steep cliffs. Elsewhere, the site is largely covered by hardwood forest, with the exceptio	Primary bounds contain traprock glades and cliffs known to be of significance to rare plants. Secondary bounds contain additional cliffs and uplands draining towards the cliffs, as well as an open meadow that provides habitat for an endangered plant spec	The site contains a good occurrence of a traprock glade natural community and occurrences of several State Endangered and Special Concern Plant Species.
Lower Raritan	Union	Scotch Plains Twp ; Berkeley Heights Twp	Seeleys Pond	B2	Dry mixed oak woods over traprock with several openings on the steeper slopes.	Boundary encloses the glades and cliffs of the natural community which includes habitat for the rare plant species.	A diversity of rare elements, including one state critically imperiled element.
Millstone/Upper Raritan	Hunterdon ; Mercer ; Somerset	East Amwell Twp ; Hopewell Twp ; Raritan Twp ; Hillsborough Twp ; Delaware Twp ; Flemington Boro ; Hopewell Boro	East Amwell Grasslands Macrosite	B4	The site is an agricultural landscape with many acres of open farmland, broken in the center by the forested Sourland Mountains.	Bounds drawn to include agricultural lands with a concentration of grassland bird sightings. Bounds will be revised in the near future to capture additional habitat and to exclude areas that are no longer considered to be good habitat.	The site contains good quality occurrences of at least five state endangered or threatened grassland bird species.

Source: NJDEP GIS web page, July 2001

Notes: Text in this table has been copied directly from the NJDEP Natural Heritage Site GIS database. Authors of this technical report are aware of and not responsible for incomplete text descriptions.

Green shading = priority plant species

Peach shading = priority wildlife species

Biodiversity ranks:

B1 = Outstanding significance

B2 = Very High Significance

B3 = High Significance

B4 = Moderate Significance

B5 = Of general biodiversity interest