



New Jersey Water Supply Authority Watershed Protection Programs Fact Sheet #1

River-Friendly Programs: Golf Course, Business, Resident & Farm

In 2003, NJWSA began implementing River-Friendly programs with four groups of landowners:

- ✓ Golf Courses
- ✓ Businesses
- ✓ Residents
- ✓ Farms

River-Friendly Golf Course & Business Programs

The Golf Course & Business programs are based on those developed by SBMWA. Through these programs, NJWSA works with landowners to improve water quality by implementing actions in four categories:

- ⇒ Water Quality Management & Nonpoint Source Pollution Management
- ⇒ Water Conservation
- ⇒ Native Habitat & Wildlife Enhancement, and
- ⇒ Education & Outreach.

The certification process is a cooperative effort between the participants and NJWSA and provides an opportunity for landowners to become local stewards. Landowners can showcase positive environmental actions they have already taken while working with NJWSA to develop actions and implement new practices. Participating landowners will receive ongoing technical information, support and guidance for implementing environmental projects tailored to their unique location, resources and needs.

The Golf Course & Business Certification Programs provide the following advantages:

- Protects natural resources and preserves and restores New Jersey's native landscape
- Provides public recognition for achievements.
- Creates healthier turf
- Reduces costs and worker exposure by decreasing use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides
- Lowers operating costs due to decreased use of equipment in "no-mow" zones and "no-spray" zones
- Decreases water use
- Increases natural habitat and attracts beneficial wildlife



Birdhouse at NJWSA Administration Complex

Native Grass Restoration at NJWSA Administration Complex



No-mow area at Quail Brook Golf Course



No-mow area at Neshanic Valley Golf Course
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Butterfly garden at NJ American Water Co.
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River-Friendly Resident Program

Residents can fill out a self-certification questionnaire at www.njriverfriendly.org to receive recognition as a River-Friendly Resident. The questionnaire includes questions about lawn management practices, water conservation and septic system management. This quick and easy questionnaire is a resident's pledge to manage their property in a responsible manner to help protect our drinking water resources and the environment. Technical assistance is available to residents who wish to implement River Friendly actions on their property. Certified residents receive a River-Friendly Resident reusable shopping bag to acknowledge their commitment to protecting water resources.



River-Friendly Farm

In 2004, NJWSA began working with producers in the Raritan Basin to implement conservation practices that are protective of water resources. North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development Council implements the River-Friendly Farm program with the Raritan Watershed Agricultural Committee (a group of soil conservation districts, Rutgers extension agents, county agricultural board members, producers and State and federal agency staff).

River-Friendly Farm designation is given to those that manage their farms to protect and enhance the water resources that provide drinking water to millions of people. River-Friendly farms do all of the following:

- Reduce soil erosion so sediment does not enter waterways
- Reduce fertilizer to minimum amounts needed to prevent leaching into water
- Provide essential vegetative habitat along water bodies to help protect aquatic organisms
- Apply pesticides and other control methods at appropriate time based on crop need, and
- Irrigate crops only when necessary to help conserve water.



Greg and Chris Manners of Terraceland Farm

The first farm, Terraceland, was certified in July 2006. Several other farms were certified since that time and the program has expanded to the entire Raritan Basin.

www.njriverfriendly.org

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