

Why Should You Be River Friendly?

A watershed is an area of land draining into a particular body of water, and is defined by the high points of an area, not by municipal boundaries. The use of the land within a watershed directly affects the quality of water within the watershed.

We all live in a watershed and we all contribute to non-point source pollution. Non-point source pollution includes pet waste, motor oil, fertilizers, pesticides and other pollutants that wash off the land in storm water runoff. It is estimated that non-point source pollution accounts for more than 50% of water quality problems in the United States.

The actions we take in our homes and yards affect our families, neighbors and the sources of our drinking water. By using environmentally friendly practices around our homes, we can help protect, preserve and enhance the water resources of our communities.

Partner with NJWSA to help protect our natural resources and preserve the watershed where we live, work and play!



Conserve Water. Fix leaky faucets. Install low flow appliances. Install a rain barrel.

Be a pooper-scooper! Clean up after your pet. Animal waste can contain harmful bacteria, viruses and nutrients that can pollute waterways.



I want to be a River-Friendly Resident!

Fill out the information below, then complete the survey inside and send it to NJWSA.

Name: _____

*Street Address: _____

*City: _____

Zip code: _____

Email: _____

* Required info.

Who usually maintains your property?

You or someone in your family

Property manager

Lawn-care company

Other: _____

About NJWSA

The New Jersey Water Supply Authority was formed in 1981 to manage Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs, Manasquan Reservoir and the Delaware & Raritan Canal as potable water supplies. The Watershed Protection Unit works with stakeholders within the Raritan Basin to protect these water supplies.

For more information regarding the River-Friendly Resident Program, please contact:

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Raritan Basin River-Friendly Resident Program

A Partnership to Protect Our Natural Resources



Stream buffer on Mulhockaway Creek, Hunterdon County

**New Jersey Water Supply Authority
Watershed Protection
Programs
www.njriverfriendly.org**



Please answer the following survey to determine if you qualify as a River Friendly Resident! You must achieve 75% of the applicable actions to qualify.

	Action	Yes	No	NA
Stormwater Management Actions				
1	I pick up after my pet. I dispose of the waste in the ___ toilet or ___ trash.			
2	My gutters are directed away from paved areas onto vegetation or into a rain barrel.			
3	I planted groundcovers or other vegetation or use mulch to cover exposed soil areas.			
4	I dispose of household chemicals properly.			
Lawn & Garden Maintenance Actions				
5	- I never water my lawn OR - I water my lawn early in the morning or later in the evening (not during the heat of the day) OR - I water my lawn only through an irrigation system with a soil moisture sensor.			
6	I mow my lawn at the highest setting.			
7	I perform soil tests at least every other year.			
For questions 8-11 check N/A if you do not use fertilizers/pesticides in your yard.				
8	I use soil test results to guide fertilization of my yard.			
9	I follow the directions on pesticides and fertilizers when I use them.			

	Action	Yes	No	NA
10	I use organic slow release fertilizer or compost on my lawn.			
11	I do not use pesticides or fertilizers within 10 feet of my stream (or other water body). (Check NA if you do not have a waterbody on your property)			
12	There is at least 10 feet of undisturbed-not mowed vegetation along my stream (or other water body).			
13	I leave the grass clippings on the lawn.			
14	I converted a portion of my lawn to garden or natural vegetation using native species.			
15	I apply an integrated approach for controlling unwanted insects, weeds and animals (e.g. pulling weeds, spraying pests of plants with water, using barrier fences).			
Water Conservation Actions				
16	I use water collected in a rain barrel for watering my garden.			
17	I have spray/shut-off nozzles attached to watering hoses.			
18	I have at least 1 low flow toilet in my house, or at least 1 toilet has been modified to function as low flow.			
19	I have at least 1 low flow shower head in my house.			

	Action	Yes	No	NA
20	I have faucet aerators installed on at least 2 faucets.			
Wildlife & Habitat Enhancement Actions				
21	I plant native species of plants on my property.			
22	I remove invasive plants from my property.			
23	I have birdhouses or bathhouses on my property.			
Septic System Maintenance Actions				
24	I know the location of my septic tank and drain field.			
25	My septic system is pumped and maintained every 3-5 years. Date of last pumping:			
Education/Outreach Actions				
26	I participated in a stream or neighborhood cleanup in 2007/2008/2009.			
27	I attended an educational class or hike on a landscape related topic.			
Score				

Maintain your septic system properly.

Faulty septic systems can pollute local groundwater. Septic tanks should be pumped out every 3 to 5 years.



Enhance wildlife habitat.

Installing bird boxes attracts local species such as the Eastern Bluebird