

About the NJWSA

NJWSA's Watershed Protection Programs Division was formed in 1999, and served as project lead for the Raritan Basin Watershed Management Project, resulting in a comprehensive characterization and assessment report and management plan for the Raritan Basin. NJWSA established a customer-funded Source Water Protection Fund to provide support for projects that result in the protection of drinking water sources. The River-Friendly Business, Golf Course and Resident Program combine Education and Outreach with actions that can reduce the impacts of nonpoint source pollution. For more information on the River-Friendly programs or any of the tips in this brochure, contact:

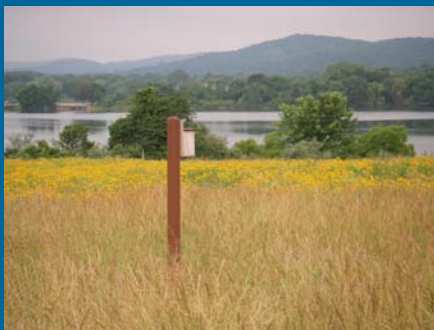
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Native grass restoration at NJWSA
Administration Facility

The River-Friendly Programs

NJWSA implements three River-Friendly certification programs for Businesses, Golf Courses and Residents in the North & South Branch and Lower Raritan watersheds. The certification process is a cooperative effort between the participants and NJWSA and provides an opportunity for landowners to become stewards of their local waterways. Participating landowners receive technical information, support and guidance for implementing environmental projects tailored to their unique location, resources and needs.

Participants include the five golf courses in the Somerset County Parks system and Heron Glen Golf Course in Hunterdon County. Business participants include New Jersey American Water, Ethicon and Raritan Valley Community College. By taking actions such as decreasing pesticide and fertilizer use, or increasing the vegetated buffer along streams, the facilities are decreasing the amount of pollutants getting into waterways. Other actions include reducing water usage and increasing wildlife habitat.



Pond Buffers at Neshanic Valley Golf Course.

River-Friendly Tips from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority



Easy ways to improve
water quality
in your local
watershed!

NJWSA
Watershed Protection Programs

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River-Friendly Tips

Around Your Home

- Fix leaky faucets and toilets.
- Install low-flow shower heads and toilets.
- Only run the dishwasher and washing machine when full.
- Use a front-loading washing machine, which reduces water usage by 40%.
- Have your car washed at a commercial washing facility. Washing at home on asphalt allows soap and other pollutants to wash into streams.
- Don't dispose of oil, paint or other chemicals in home or storm drains.
- Properly dispose of prescription drugs.



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

Around Your Yard & Garden

- Install a rain barrel to capture rain water from your roof and use it for watering plants, in birdbaths, or washing the car.
- Use mulch in your garden and around trees to keep the soil moist and reduce evaporation.
- Water during the early morning or evening.
- Landscape with native, drought resistant plants.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides properly. Using the correct amount at the right time can save you time and money and help reduce their impact on local waterways.
- Use soil tests to determine if fertilizers are necessary.
- Maintain your septic system properly. Faulty septic systems can pollute local groundwater. Septic tanks should be pumped out every 3 to 5 years.
- Install a rain garden to help capture pollutants carried by rain water and to increase infiltration of groundwater.



A rain barrel collects water from a downspout.

Other Ways to Get Involved

- Participate in a local stream cleanup to remove litter from along streams. Stream cleanups are a great way to not only remove litter, but also show that what is disposed of on the land can end up in a stream.
- Share a water-related activity like fishing or boating with a child, showing the importance of clean water.
- Volunteer with a local watershed association. Non-profits utilize volunteer help for collecting data and assisting at community events.
- Take our River-Friendly Resident Survey at www.njriverfriendly.org.
- For more information, visit www.raritanbasin.org.



Stream cleanup volunteers pose with the day's haul.