

From: Masser, Michelle
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 10:35 AM
To: Harris, Laura
Cc: Melissa Velez-Morales
Subject: FW: [Sustainable_raritan_river] NEWS from the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative--October 2016
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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Initiative--

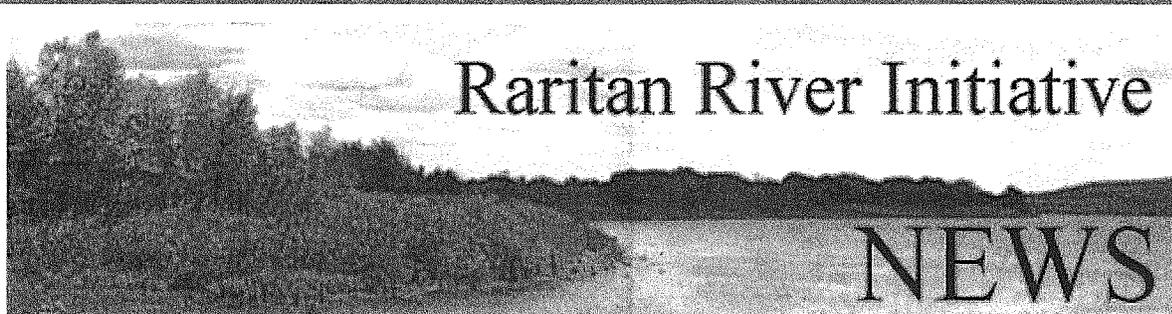
Correspondence

Michelle Masser
Township Clerk
Mount Olive Township
PO Box 450
204 Flanders Drakestown Road
Budd Lake, NJ 07828
clerk@mtolivetwp.org
973-691-0900 X7291

From: Sustainable_raritan_river [mailto:sustainable_raritan_river-bounces@email.rutgers.edu] **On Behalf Of** Sara Malone
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:32 PM
To: sustainable_raritan_river@email.rutgers.edu
Subject: [Sustainable_raritan_river] NEWS from the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative--October 2016

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NEWS FROM THE SUSTAINABLE RARITAN RIVER INITIATIVE - October 2016

News and Information

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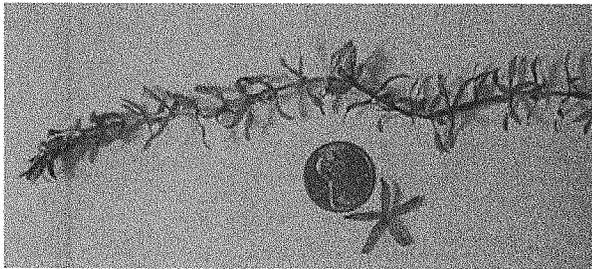
Regional Collaborative Activities

[Check out the full calendar and all details by clicking here!](#)

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Invasive Hydrilla Found in D&R Canal

The noxious weed hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) has been found in the Delaware & Raritan canal. According to the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Bulletin on hydrilla (No. E352), in the southeastern U.S., hydrilla has altered water quality and fish communities, reduced canal flows, clogged water pumps, impeded recreational uses and boat navigation, displaced native aquatic plants, and reduced aesthetics and associated economic impacts.



Know what it looks like and help prevent the spread of this invasive and troublesome plant. The bulletin notes that simple tactics can prevent the spread of hydrilla to other water bodies and include removing all visible mud, plants, fish or animals from boats, equipment, trailers, clothing, boots, and buckets. Clean all trailers, boats and other equipment that have come in contact with the plant with hot or salt water, and allow the surfaces to completely dry.

Please take care to stop the spread of hydrilla. Read more about hydrilla at: http://www.raritanbasin.org/Projects/factsheets/rutgers_hydrilla.pdf. Contact your local county Rutgers Cooperative Extension office for identification of suspect plants in your ponds or streams at <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/county>. (Photo and details from raritanbasin.org)

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Public Hearing for Possible Drought Warning - October 20

The Department of Environmental Protection has scheduled an Oct. 20 public hearing in anticipation of designating a formal drought warning for 12 counties in the northeastern, central and northern coastal regions of New Jersey, a step that will enable the DEP to work with suppliers to balance storage among reservoir systems.

The hearing, scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Millburn Free Public Library, 200 Glen Avenue, Millburn, Essex County, is a required step prior to the DEP issuing formal drought warning measures for the following counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset and Union.

A drought warning, which could officially take effect shortly after the hearing unless more abundant rainfall occurs, will establish a formal process for the DEP to work with

NEW JERSEY
Regional Drinking-Water-Supply Indicators & Declared Water-Supply Status
October 16, 2016

Region	Status	Drinking-Water-Supply Indicator					Water-Supply Status
		90-day precipitation	90-day stream-flow	N.J. reservoirs	Del. R. reservoirs	Unconf. ground water	
North-west	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Central	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
North-east	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
South-west	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Coastal North	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Coastal South	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency

The number in each colored dot is the number of weeks the specific indicator in that region has been in that status. For indicators which changed status this evaluation cycle the arrow indicates the direction of change. It points from the previous status to the current. A water drop (A) means the indicator has been green for more than a year.

Subject to revision and update. This summary shows regional drinking water supply indicators for New Jersey. Local water supply conditions may vary. Water supply status is based on professional judgment of water supply characteristics and indicators in each region. Indicators are shown only for those water reservoirs significant for each region. The indicators are described at <http://njdep.state.nj.us>.

suppliers to ensure no region faces a significant shortfall should dry weather and high customer demand continue. The goal is to avert a drought emergency declaration, which would necessitate mandatory restrictions on water use by the public.

The purpose of the hearing will be to gather information from the general public, water suppliers and other stakeholders on the current status of water supplies and to discuss steps that can be taken to mitigate water use and manage those supplies, while enhancing public awareness. The DEP has already been consulting with major water suppliers to discuss cooperative transfers among systems.

On July 25, the DEP had issued a drought watch for Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties.

The DEP utilizes a number of indicators to gauge the impacts lack of precipitation has on water supplies, including reservoir levels, stream flows, and levels in shallow groundwater sources, also known as unconfined aquifers.

Reservoir systems in the northeastern and northern coastal parts of the state have been grappling with below-normal precipitation for much of the year. Reservoir storage typically declines at this time of year due to heavy usage and normal summer weather patterns.

Major reservoir systems, however, are below their normal levels for this time of year, and may need management of interconnections to balance storage in if significant rainfall does not occur by the time of the hearing.

These are the current conditions in sections of the state that rely on reservoirs:

- The Northeast Combined Reservoir System - 12 reservoirs operated by four water suppliers serving the most densely populated region of the state - is 11 percent below its normal storage level of approximately 45 billion gallons for this time of year.
- The New Jersey Water Supply Authority's Raritan Basin reservoirs - serving densely populated central parts of the state - are 22 percent below their normal storage level of approximately 64 billion gallons for this time of year.
- The combined storage in reservoirs serving portions of Monmouth and Ocean counties are 16 percent below their normal storage of seven billion gallons.

The DEP offers the following tips to reduce this use:

- At this time, it is appropriate to just let your lawns go dormant. If you decided to water lawns, do so sparingly. Two times per week for 20 minutes is sufficient.
- Use a hose with a hand-held nozzle to water flowers and shrubs.
- Avoid watering lawns and plants during the heat of the day, since much of this water will evaporate without helping the lawn.
- Use a broom to sweep the sidewalk, rather than a hose.
- To save water at home, fix leaky faucets and pipes. Consider replacing your toilet with a low-flow version; this can save around 11,000 gallons per year.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth and shaving.
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only when full.
- Upgrade your showerhead to low-flow versions; they can save some 7,700 gallons per year.
- Upgrade your faucets or install faucet aerators; this can save some 16,000 gallons per year.

For more state water supply status information, visit: www.njdrought.org/status.html. For more detailed information on water conservation technologies and interesting facts, visit:

www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/conserves.htm.

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The Sustainable Raritan River Initiative is working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Division of Water Monitoring and Standards to engage Raritan stakeholders to participate in a prioritization process and strategy for restoration, protection and enhancement of waterbodies in the Raritan Water Region to inform the 2016 New Jersey Integrated Water Quality Report (Integrated Report).

The State of New Jersey encompasses twenty watershed management areas that are grouped into five water regions. Every two years the NJDEP provides the EPA with an Integrated Report on water quality across the state with a focus on one of the five water regions. **The 2016 Integrated Report will focus on the Raritan Water Region that includes the Elizabeth, Rahway and Woodbridge River watersheds (WMA 07),**

North and South Branches of the Raritan River watersheds (WMA 08), the Lower Raritan, South River and Lawrence Brook watersheds (WMA 9) as well as the Stony Brook and Millstone River watersheds (WMA 10). The Integrated Report will highlight efforts underway and prioritize areas within the Raritan Water Region that will help guide grant funding and restoration and protection efforts over the next ten years with the goal of improving water quality throughout the Region.

At an informal stakeholder meeting at Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association's Watershed Institute in June, the NJDEP began the discussion of their long-term vision for water quality in the Raritan Water Region. This upcoming meeting will build on that discussion by taking a closer look at specific waters including waterbodies on the edge (bubble or barely impaired), 5R listed assessment units (nonpoint source impaired waterbodies), 319(h) nonpoint source grant-funded projects, and will combine these layers with information about local restoration efforts and local knowledge of impairments to capture a current picture of the Raritan and to develop an action plan to guide local and state efforts going forward.

Please watch this newsletter and our calendar for information about upcoming workshops where the NJDEP will gather input on this prioritization process and discuss key topics that emerged from the June workshop when participants identified impervious surfaces, riparian protection and restoration, and green infrastructure projects (how many and what kind) as areas for further discussion. The outcome of this process will be a prioritization of waterbodies and recommended best management practices that will inform restoration, enhancement and protection projects for the Raritan Water Region to improve regional water quality. The NJDEP will prioritize these projects for funding and engage stakeholder groups to target their work in support of this strategy.

For more information, contact Sara Malone at sjmalone@ejb.rutgers.edu.

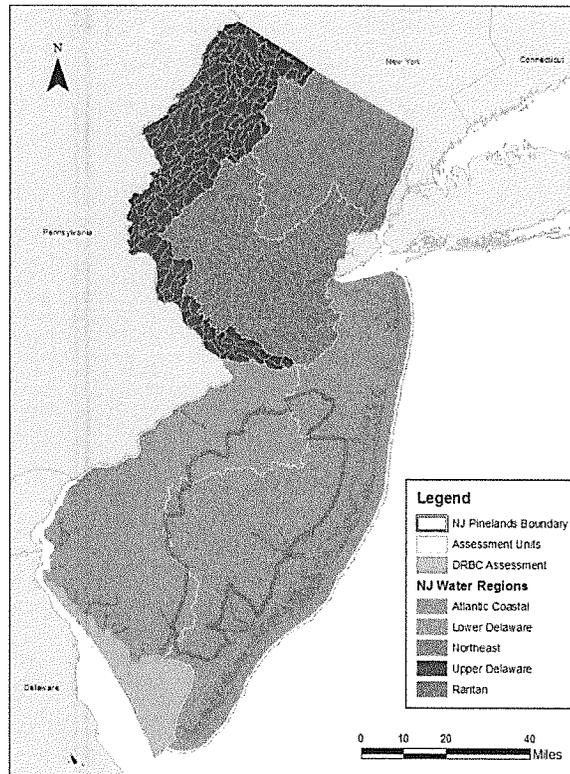
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Public Comment Period for Dam Removal and Fish Passage Restoration

The NJDEP has published the second of a two-part public notice seeking comments on the restoration work planned for both the removal of the Weston Mill Dam on the lower Millstone River Mile 1.5 and the design of enhanced fish passage at Island Farm Weir at Raritan River Mile 22.0. The draft Restoration Plan that underwent public comment last June was approved by both the State and federal



Trustees; this public notice relates to implementing that approved Restoration Plan, which was not changed



or altered.

Letters commenting on the implementation of the Restoration Plan are due to the NJDEP by December 16, 2016 and should be addressed to:

John N. Sacco, Chief
NJDEP, Office of Natural Resource Restoration
501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-1
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

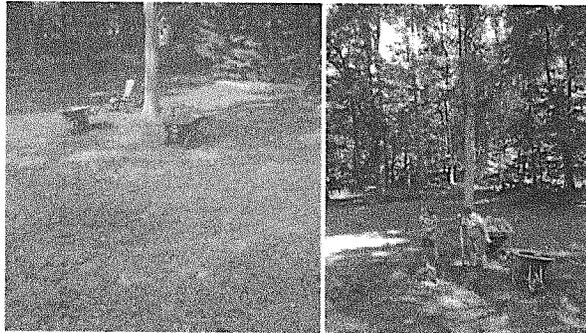
Click here to [view the Consent Decree](#). For background information, follow this link to the [RP/EA prepared by NOAA](#) in May 2016 or read the [article by Mike Deak](#) in [myCentralJersey.com](#). (Photo by Mike Deak, [myCentralJersey.com](#))

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Rain Garden Rebate Program

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program partnered with the [New Jersey Water Supply Authority](#) (NJWSA)

Watershed Protection Program in 2013 to launch the [Rain Garden Rebate Program](#). To date, the Rain Garden Rebate Program has educated over 130 attendees about rain gardens, created 99 unique rain garden designs for 84 properties, and as a result 31 rain gardens have been installed on



26 properties within the eligible rebate area of Bridgewater, Hillsborough, Raritan Borough and Somerville. In 2016, rebates for properties in the Royce Brook Watershed have been awarded by a 319(h) grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Under a National Fish and Wildlife grant, the RCE Water Resources Program was able to provide an educational and design session in Berkeley Heights. The Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission received a grant from Sustainable Jersey to provide rebates to those Berkeley Heights attendees who installed their rain gardens. Our first homeowner to install a rain garden in Berkeley Heights hired young entrepreneurs Plow Mow Yard (PMY), who came knocking on the door looking to mow the homeowner's lawn. The boys in return gained more than they were looking for; knowledge of stormwater management and hands on education on how to install a rain garden. The transfer of knowledge is a beautiful thing! (Article and pictures from RCE Water Resources Program.)

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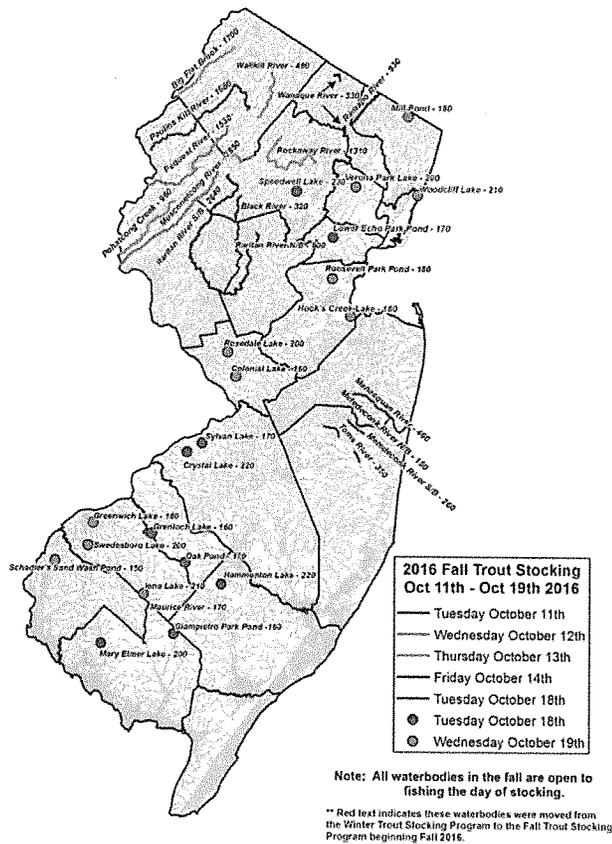
Fall Trout Stocking in the Raritan

Fall trout stocking started in the Raritan on October 11 and continues through October 19. The North and South Branches of the Raritan will be stocked with 2 year old trout averaging 14 to 22 inches from Pequest State Trout Hatchery.

Some areas originally slated to be stocked were cancelled due to low stream flows. This includes the South Branch upstream of Route 513/Route 517 Bridge in Long Valley. Fish allocated for this area will be stocked in the South Branch between Long Valley and the Red Mill Dam in Clinton Township. Also, fish originally targeted for the Black River will be released in the South Branch between the Red Mill Dam and the confluence with the North Branch.

You can read more about the stocking program and see the actual fish counts at

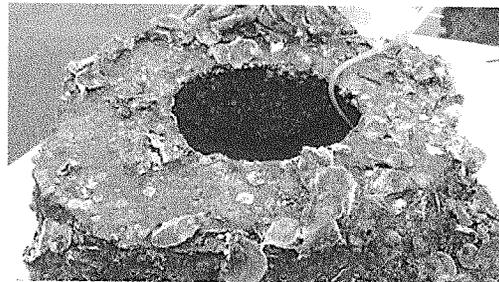
<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/flstk16.htm#update>. (Map and article details from NJDEP website)



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Urban Living Shoreline Installed in Raritan Bay

In late August, NY/NJ Baykeeper and partners, including Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability, began the installation of a first of its kind urban living shoreline. Located at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Monmouth County, NJ, the 0.91 acre living shoreline will consist of an artificial reef using live oysters and concrete structures known as oyster castles to fortify and protect the coast along the Raritan Bayshore. The oyster castles will provide the necessary hard surface that oysters can attach and grow on. This project is one of the first times groundbreaking oyster castles will be used in New Jersey.



After Hurricane Sandy, it became clear that coastal resiliency should have become an immediate priority. NY/NJ Baykeeper and its partners expect the living shoreline to provide data to tackle the impending threats of climate change and shoreline erosion. The project will determine if a living shoreline can stabilize the mouth of Ware Creek, protect the surrounding environment, improve water quality, and create aquatic habitat in the urban NY-NJ Harbor Estuary.

As a bi-state restoration leader, NY/NJ Baykeeper is excited to construct a living shoreline and thankful for all the help the Navy has provided over the years through our unique partnership. Protecting our vulnerable urban coasts using natural mechanisms is critical to address shoreline erosion and improve coastal resiliency.

The US Navy and NY/NJ Baykeeper have been partners since 2010 when the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection banned all shellfish research, restoration, and education activities in waters deemed too contaminated or waters classified as "Restricted" or "Prohibited" for shellfish harvest. The United States Navy at Naval Weapons Station Earle provides property, guidance, and supports our oyster restoration activities.

Oysters are a powerful species with unique capabilities to filter and clean water, provide habitat for other sea creatures, improve resiliency to storm surge and erosion. Oysters once thrived in the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary, so much so that Ellis Island was previously called Little Oyster Island. However, overharvesting,

pollution and sedimentation of reefs resulted in a sharp population decline. There is no longer a sustainable oyster population in the NYNJ Harbor area today, which is why NY/NJ Baykeeper works to restore them.

The living shoreline project has received permits from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Additional restoration activities occurring at Naval Weapons Station Earle this summer include setting oysters at NY/NJ Baykeeper's aquaculture facility, monitoring the oysters and structures in the ¼ acre experimental restoration plot to assess survival and growth, repeating a successful biodiversity study, and continuing to collect water quality data. This project is funded, in part, by the Marta Heflin Foundation.

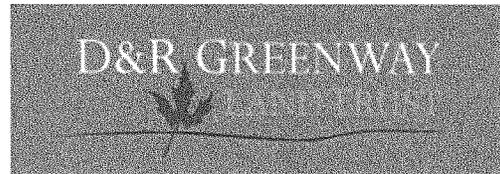
For more information, contact Meredith Comi, Restoration Program Director, at meredith@nynjbaykeeper.org.

Also see the related article and video on CBS New York: [Oyster Castles in Raritan Bay Intended to Protect Coastline from Intense, Frequent Storms](#), and visit <http://cues.rutgers.edu/oyster-restoration/> to follow Rutgers' CUES research on oyster reintroduction in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary. *(Photo from CUES)*

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D&R Greenway Seeks Public Comments for Reaccreditation

D&R Greenway Land Trust is seeking to renew accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. The program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.



"D&R Greenway is seeking reaccreditation because it recognizes the importance of matching the highest standards of accountability in land preservation and stewardship, administration and fundraising" says D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead. "We are proud to have earned accreditation for our best practices in 2012, and must go through the reaccreditation process every five years to ensure we continue to meet national quality standards."

The Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. A public comment period on D&R Greenway's application is now open. The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how D&R Greenway complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust and include responsible organization governance, ethical operations, protection of the public interest, accountability to donors and the public and compliance with all laws. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>.

Comments on D&R Greenway's application are due November 11, 2016.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or e-mail your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring St., Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

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Fall Community Well Test Program

What's in your water? If your water comes from a private well, it's up to you to make sure it is safe to drink!

Raritan Headwaters is approaching the end of its Fall Community Well Test program. You can view the schedule of remaining dates, types of test they are conducting, test price list, and instructional videos on their website at <https://www.raritanheadwaters.org/protect/well-testing/community-well-testing/>. If your town is not on the schedule, you can still have your well water tested at reduced rates through their [Individual Well Testing Program](#).



For more information about the Community Well Test program, please contact Raritan Headwaters via email at welltesting@raritanheadwaters.org or by calling (908) 234-1852 ext. 401. (Info and image from raritanheadwaters.org)

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Are You Eating Fish, Crab and Lobster from the Raritan?

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of Health have reissued their "Fish Smart, Eat Smart" (July 2016) guide to health advisories for eating fish and crab caught in New Jersey waters.



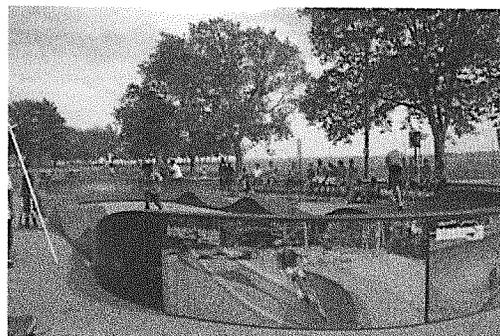
The consumption advisory is available in PDF form and as an interactive map and is arranged by marine and coastal advisories and freshwater advisories for the general population and for high risk individuals including infants, children, pregnant women, nursing mothers and women of childbearing age. The site also contains helpful information about cleaning and cooking your catch for the most healthful meal.

Visit the Fish Smart, Eat Smart webpage for more information or to print a brochure (multi-lingual brochures available). <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/njmainfish.htm>

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Perth Amboy and MCIA Advance Waterfront Public Spaces

Since our last update on Second Street Park, the Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA), City of Perth Amboy Economic and Community Development Department, City of Perth Amboy Recreation Department, and the NJDEP Community Collaborative Initiative furthered this complex waterfront brownfields redevelopment project. Youth input on a skate park facility element at a "pump-up track" outreach event led to a more than 8,000 square-foot urban street plaza style street design (see



www.2ndstreetpark.blogspot.com). A skate element was the top preference in the extensive public outreach and concept planning effort conducted by Rutgers Bloustein School and School of Environmental Sciences. Both initiatives were facilitated by the MCIA and funded with its \$1M Brownfields Assessment Coalition Program. Meanwhile, the partners have been working on the challenging goal to gather enough funding for an unrestricted cleanup (contributions welcome).

Bolstering the Second St. Park project is the City's recent 'Build It Green' award from New Jersey Future to integrate green and complete street infrastructure and CSO planning along the Second St. corridor. Stay tuned to news on the Second St. Park area, a key western link in Perth Amboy's border-to-border waterfront public access chain.

The partners also have furthered seven other brownfield-to-greenfield properties, including the Rudyk Park Expansion near the Arthur Kill, and potential pocket park sites proposed by the City's Green Collaborative as pollinator gardens, community vegetable gardens, segments in a citywide bike trail, and other neighborhood parks. All these sites received Preliminary Assessments, with two having no identified areas of environmental concern. A site investigation is underway on the future Rudyk property.

Finally, the MCIA, City and Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability worked together on a city-wide brownfields inventory of non-legacy sites. Communities can earn Sustainable Jersey points for such surveys. The MCIA seeks to develop a low cost, simple to implement model for communities to follow to conduct these inventories. Findings from the inventory pilot will be shared in a future Sustainable Raritan River Initiative newsletter. For more information, contact Denise Nickel, Sr. Project Manager, MCIA, 609.409.5002 or denise.nickel@mciauth.com. *(Photo by Denise Nickel)*

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Preserving Land Makes Cents for All

D&R Greenway Land Trust and Princeton Adult School team up, in a partnership with Princeton Public Library, for a four-session lunch-and-learn series, Preserving Land Makes Centers for All. The four sessions will take place October 13, 20, 27 and November 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Johnson Education Center, 1 Preservation Place, Princeton. Bring a brown-bag lunch, soft drinks will be provided. Walking opportunities available at end of each session (one-hour talk, one-hour walk). Planned and organized by D&R Greenway President and CEO Linda Mead. For registration and fee info, please call 609-924-4646 or visit www.princetonadultschool.org



What would New York City be without Central Park? What would the Princeton region be without D&R Greenway? D&R Greenway has protected 20,000 acres in New Jersey, an area larger than the two smallest countries in the world (Monaco and Vatican City). Learn from D&R Greenway's 27 years of experience why protecting land is so important for clean water, air and life, and hear the behind-the-scenes stories about the land and the local people who have preserved it.

Thursday, October 13, Land for Life. Hear from experts about the medical, economic and spiritual reasons for having green space near the place where you live. Learn how community members can ensure these special places remain green.

Thursday, October 20, Preserving Princeton's Last Large Estates. Linda Mead will tell the story of how neighbors and the community joined with D&R Greenway to turn two of Princeton's largest estates, Coventry Farm and the former Robert Wood Johnson Estate, now known and enjoyed as Greenway Meadows, into public parks

Thursday, October 27, Urban Agriculture at Capital City Farm. Listen to the story of Capital City Farm from acquisition through remediation to the first growing season. End this session with a visit to Capital City Farm.

Thursday, November 3, A Greenbelt around Hopewell. Linda Mead will speak about the history of St. Michaels Farm Preserve and how more than 900 people came together with D&R Greenway to permanently protect the land and open it to the public as a community resource. End this session with a

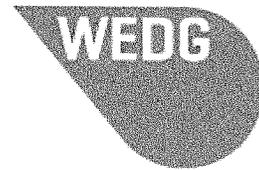
visit to St. Michaels Farm Preserve.

Join D&R Greenway's celebration of 10 years at the Johnson Education Center! The programs offered at D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center help foster relationships and build a conservation ethic. To learn about more events, visit www.drgreenway.org. (Article and photo from D&R Greenway.)

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Congratulations to Waterfront Alliance's WEDG Program

The Waterfront Alliance's WEDG program received The Leadership Award at the 2016 World Canals Conference in Inverness, Scotland on September 21. This prestigious award recognized the best of five projects submitted from around the world, and was chosen by an international panel of waterway experts, business leaders, and global professionals.



The incentive-based ratings system that defines WEDG—[Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines](#)—was celebrated for its broad impact in championing more resilient, environmentally healthy, accessible, and equitable waterfronts.

The World Canals Conference at Inverness joins an illustrious list of past World Canals Conferences hosts including the Grand Canal in China, Montreal in Canada and New York. The conference addressed four themes of Technical Challenges and Innovation; Safeguarding the Heritage of our Waterways; Waterways as a Driver for Regeneration; and Growing Tourism & Commercializing Waterway Assets. Visit [Waterfront Alliance](#) and [Scottish Canals](#) for more information.

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DEP Receives Endangered Species Act Grant

In late September, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded the Department of Environmental Protection an \$850,000 grant under the federal Endangered Species Act Grants Program. The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) Recovery Land Acquisition grant for New Jersey will go toward the future acquisition of hundreds of key acres of habitat for the bog turtle, which is found predominately in the northern half of New Jersey.



New Jersey is one of 20 states to receive funding to support projects that conserve at-risk species and their habitats.

The bog turtle is native only to the eastern United States and is found in the northern half of New Jersey. The species, considered threatened at the federal level and endangered at the state level, congregates in small colonies often of fewer than 20 individuals. They prefer calcareous wetlands (areas containing lime), including meadows, bogs, marshes, and spring seeps, that have both wet and dry regions.

Once the purchases of the properties are completed, the preserved lands will be managed by the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust in cooperation with the DEP's Endangered and Nongame Species Program,

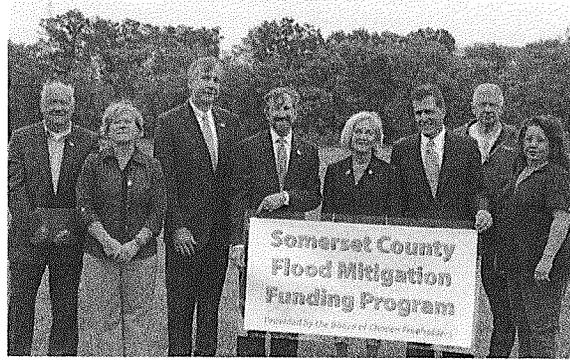
To read the full article (also photo source): [9/23/16 Press Release](#)

To learn more about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ecological Services Program visit: www.fws.gov/Endangered. For more information on the state's Threatened and Endangered species, please visit: www.nj.gov/dep/fqw/ensphome.htm. For more information on turtles in New Jersey, please visit: www.nj.gov/dep/fqw/ensp/fieldguide_herps.htm#turtles. For more information about the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust, please visit: <http://www.njnlt.org/>.

Somerset County Flood Mitigation Funding Program Announced

On September 29, the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced approval of a Flood Mitigation Funding Program to assist flood-prone municipalities.

"Manville was one of the towns hardest hit by Hurricane Irene in 2011," said Freeholder Director Patricia Walsh. "The Freeholder Board is committed to assisting towns that have suffered repeated losses in major storms." She credited Freeholder Mark



Caliguire, liaison to the county Open Space Advisory Committee, for proposing the use of county open space funds to help with buyouts in flood-ravaged areas.

The Somerset County Flood Mitigation Funding Program will consider grant applications from municipalities for the acquisition of residences that have experienced severe, repetitive flooding, or sustained substantial damage of greater than 50 percent. Only acquisition projects will be considered for this program. All 21 Somerset County municipalities are eligible for the program.

The program has two components: a Match Funding Program where Somerset County will provide matching funds to municipalities in partnership with FEMA Blue Acres, up to a maximum of 25 percent of total project cost; and a Primary Funding Program where Somerset County will take the lead funding role. Somerset County will consider properties outside the federal and state programs, with the requirement that the municipality provide the matching acquisition funds for projects not fully funded by this program. These matching funds may not be derived from the traditional Somerset County Open Space programs.

Grant applications may be filed throughout the year on a rolling basis. All applications are to be submitted to the Somerset County Department of Public Works, Division of Engineering and will be reviewed by County staff for eligibility and completeness before they are presented to the Open Space Advisory Committee, which will assess each application according to established criteria. The committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the Board of Chosen Freeholders, who will determine grant awards.

Goals of the program include providing natural open space areas for floodwater storage; decreasing the risk of potential loss of life to both citizens and emergency response personnel; lower relief and recovery costs for local governments; creating a buffer area that will protect inland homeowners and their property; and lower property losses after storm events.

To be eligible, a property must be located in Somerset County; must be residential (commercial, industrial, vacant or government properties are not eligible); and must have a history of repetitive loss or must have sustained substantial damage (greater than 50 percent) in a single flood event. The property owner must be a willing seller. Properties in the process of foreclosure or currently held by a bank post-foreclosure must meet the preceding criteria.

For further information about the program, contact Tom Boccino at the Somerset County Engineering Division at 908-231-7509.

PHOTO CAPTION: Members of the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders were joined by Manville officials as they announced a new Somerset County Flood Mitigation Funding Program at the Lincoln Avenue ball fields in the Lost Valley section of the borough. Pictured left to right are Councilman Michael Kassick, Borough Administrator Andrea Bierwirth, Mayor Richard Onderko, Freeholder Brian Levine, Freeholder Director Patricia Walsh, Freeholder Mark Caliguire, Council President Stephen Szabo and Councilwoman Dayna Camacho.

Deadline for Fall Lawn Fertilizer Application by Consumers - November 15

Did you know that a dense healthy lawn can absorb rainwater runoff and help keep soil and other pollutants from entering NJ waterways? Some lawns benefit from annual fertilizer applications, and using the right amounts of fertilizer and applying it at the right times can save you money AND protect our waterways.



The New Jersey Fertilizer Law was signed into law on January 5, 2011, to establish statewide fertilizer standards, require training and certification of professional fertilizer applicators, limit the times fertilizers can be applied to prevent applications prone to runoff, and restrict the amount of nitrogen and other fertilizer content.

This law was devised to protect our waterways from excess phosphorus and nitrogen that can promote algae and weed growth in our streams in ponds. The algae and weeds reduce sunlight, deplete oxygen and negatively impact aquatic life including fish.

Do your part, educate yourself, learn to apply fertilizers properly and/or ensure your lawn maintenance company is trained and certified in fertilizer application. Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection have resources to help.

Review this [Quick Facts Sheet](#) on the 2011 NJ Fertilizer Law from Rutgers Cooperative Extension, read this "[Healthy Lawns = Health Water](#)" flyer, and go to the [Healthy Lawns Healthy Water website](#) for helpful tips and more information. Your lawn and our streams will thank you!

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Volunteers Opportunities – Will You Heed the Call?

Volunteers are needed for these programs around the Raritan basin. For details, see the calendar listings at the top of this newsletter or follow the below links to more information.

[American Littoral Society](#) needs volunteer Spill Spotters and horseshoe crab tagging volunteers. Visit their website and click on "how you can help" for more information.

[Bayshore Regional Watershed Council](#) has a number of Fall cleanups including Natco Park in Hazlet on November 12 and River Gardens Park in Aberdeen Township's Cliffwood Beach section on November 19. See our calendar at the top of the newsletter or their website for details.

[Central Jersey Stream Team](#) needs volunteers for their Saturday, October 22nd clean-up in Green Brook near Thomae Park. They usually have in-stream and dry-land volunteer activities. Visit our calendar or their website for more information.

[Clean Ocean Action](#) offers several volunteer opportunities from beach sweeps, outreach, office work, advocacy, education, social media, fundraising and more. Check out their volunteer page to sign up.

[D&R Greenway Land Trust](#) needs Land Stewardship volunteers, Trail Building and Maintenance volunteers, help in their native plant nursery, and more!

[Duke Farms](#) needs volunteers to help monitor and maintain areas that have already been cleaned up and restored, including work on the Japanese Garden, Old Foundation, and Orchid Range. They also need



volunteers to assist with habitat regeneration by planting seedlings of native grasses, trees and shrubs. Visit the Duke Farms Volunteer page for more information or fill out a volunteer application form at www.dukefarms.org/en/Volunteer/.

Hunterdon County Parks needs volunteers for a wide variety of programs and events including Public Land Days, and adopt-a-trail and nests monitoring programs. Visit <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/volunteers.htm> for the most current listing and contacts for more information.

[Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership](#) has a variety of event-specific volunteer opportunities available throughout the year, including stream clean-ups, community outreach/tabling at events, water quality monitoring and other environmental assessment activities, as well as help with computers, public relations, accounting and other general concerns.

[NJ Audubon](#) needs help with marketing, direct mail, and public outreach; fundraising; education & research and property maintenance. Make new friends and learn more about birds while you help NJAS.

[NJ Invasive Species Strike Team](#) is looking for "detectors" to report emerging invasive species on your smart phone or tablet, "strikers" to work on local eradication projects, and "ambassadors" to help with public outreach at community events. They also need help creating outreach materials and in the office.

[NY/NJ Baykeeper](#) has posted volunteer opportunities related to oyster monitoring, volunteering at the Living Shoreline Project at Fresh Kills Park, Staten Island, and a cleanup event (River Gardens Park) and tabling at community events.

[Pequest Trout Hatchery](#) needs volunteers to assist with fishing instruction, visitor services, trail maintenance, bird house maintenance, gardening, teaching programs and more! All volunteers are members of the [NJ Wildlife Conservation Corps](#) (WCC). Anyone 18 years of age and older is welcome to join the Division of Fish and Wildlife as a volunteer.

The [Raritan Headwaters](#) needs stewardship volunteers to help with trail creation and maintenance, invasive plant removal, site surveying, photography and more. And they have an ongoing need for River Ambassadors.

[Schiff Natural Lands Trust](#) needs volunteers to help with publicity, photography, wildlife monitoring, with programs and events, and more.

The [Sourland Conservancy](#) has posted a volunteer wish list that describe types of skills needed as well as specific events for which they need help.

The [Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association](#) needs volunteers for all sorts of things from front desk reception, office assistance and English/Spanish translation to conservation and trail watch volunteers who will help monitor and maintain buildings and trails throughout the 930-acre reserve.

Does your organization need volunteers to work on projects in the Raritan basin? Let us know and we will post your needs here. Send requests to raritan@ejb.rutgers.edu.

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Job Postings in the Raritan Region

[American Littoral Society](#) is looking for a Delaware Bayshore Program Director. Go to their Jobs page for a full description and information on how to apply.

Green Jobs

Duke Farms has two open positions. They need a full-time (seasonal) [Environmental/Landscape Technician](#) and a full-time [Environmental Technician](#). Click on the links for more information.

East Coast Greenway is looking to hire a [River Relay Program Manager](#) to help raise the profile of the East Coast Greenway. Click on the link for details and application deadline.

[New Jersey Audubon](#) has three open positions: they are looking for a Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed Intern in their Trenton office, a Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations in their Bernardsville location; and a Stewardship Project Director in Cape May, NJ. You can learn more about these positions on the NJ Audubon website.

The [New York - New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program](#) at the Hudson River Foundation is looking for a talented professional to work on a variety of habitat and public access issues. A Master's Degree or Doctorate in the fields of biology/ecology/natural resource or environmental sciences, environmental engineering, or related field; a strong background in estuarine or coastal science and urban ecosystems; and at least five years of professional experience are expected. Send inquiries to resume@hudsonriver.org.

[Raritan Headwaters](#) is looking for an Environmental Educator to teach a traveling stream ecology program called WaterWays. Job descriptions and application details are on the RH website at <http://www.raritanheadwaters.org/about-us/employment/>.

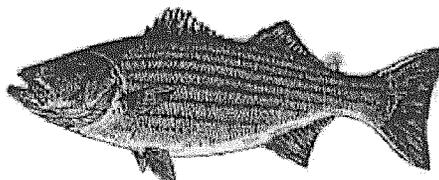
[Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association](#) has two open positions. They are seeking a full-time Watershed Institute Coordinator and a part-time STEM Education Specialist. Detailed job descriptions and directions for applying are on their website at <http://thewatershed.org/about-us/employment/>.

Want to find more listings? [The Watershed Institute](#), a Program of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association has an Environmental Jobs Board. Check out the listings on their website at <http://thewatershedinstitute.org/jobs/>.

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What to do if you Catch a Tagged Fish

If you catch a fish with a yellow dorsal loop tag, the tag belongs to the American Littoral Society. They need the tag returned along with the recapture information. To make it easy for you to respond, you can download a tag return form. Complete the form, tape the tag to it and mail it to the address on the form. [Download Form](#)



When the Society receives your form, they enter the data into a database. In return, you and the person who originally tagged the fish will receive

- The history of your fish (where it was tagged, how much it has grown)
- An American Littoral Society fish tagger's jacket patch
- Information about the tagging program
- The knowledge that you have made a contribution to marine fisheries science
- If you are interested in becoming a tagger contact Jeff at 732-291-0055 or e-mail jeff@littoralsociety.org.

Become an American Littoral Society fish tagger. You can learn how fish grow and where they go. Plus you will contribute data needed to protect and preserve fish for your generation and generations to come. Fish tagging memberships include one year membership in the Society, and two tagging starter kits (10 tags, 10 data cards, 1 applicator needle in each) and all the instructions you need to start tagging fish. Once you get the hang of it, you'll be able to purchase multiple tag kits without needles for \$6 each. Membership and tag kits are tax deductible.

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Report Dumping in the Raritan River

Stop dumping in the Raritan! Call the NJDEP Hotline at 877-WARN-DEP (877-9276-337) to report dumping.

After you report the illegal activity to the NJDEP, call your local watershed group and tell them about it as well. They can help follow-up on the problem. There are several wonderful organizations working in the Raritan who can help. Following is a list of which group covers what area. You can get more information about these organizations and the other Collaborative partners on our [Website](#) on the [Collaborative](#) tab.



- The [Raritan Headwaters](#) should be notified for activity in the North and South Branches or Upper Raritan River watershed that includes Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs, and the Neshanic and Lamington Rivers
- The [Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association](#) will help with activity in the Millstone watershed that includes Carnegie Lake and the Stony Brook
- The [Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership](#) will assist with any activity in the Lawrence Brook watershed, and
- The [Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership](#) should be notified for any activity in the Lower Raritan that includes the region from Piscataway to Sayreville
- The [NY/NJ Baykeeper](#) and the [Raritan Riverkeeper](#) should be notified for any activity in the Lower Raritan that includes the South River and Manalapan and Matchaponix Brooks as well as the Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, and Arthur Kill

Again, contact the NJDEP first and then call your local group. *(Photo credit: Woodfern Floodplain Clean-up by Central Jersey Stream Team)*

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Sustainable Raritan Newsletter and Facebook Page

Is your organization doing anything related to five key areas of the Sustainable Raritan River [Action Plan](#)? Do you have projects or events – past or future related to:



- Hazardous sites and sediment cleanup
- Water quality, stormwater and infrastructure
- Habitat Preservation and resource stewardship
- Greenways, recreation and public access to the Raritan and tributaries
- Balanced redevelopment and restoration

We'd be happy to post your information in our next newsletter. Send your articles or event notices for our Newsletter or Calendar via email to raritan@ejb.rutgers.edu.

You can also share your events with us by posting your photos and stories directly to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/raritancollaborative.

The deadline for the next newsletter is October 26, 2016.

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PLEASE BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE:

raritan.rutgers.edu

You can visit us on [Facebook](#) too!

**Please email [Sara Malone](#) with any subscription changes
(email address change, unsubscribe, or new requests)**

[Check out our Google calendar and all details by clicking here!](#)

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The Sustainable Raritan River Initiative is a joint program of the [Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy](#) and the [School of Environmental and Biological Sciences](#) at [Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey](#) that partners with other Rutgers schools, centers and programs to ensure the best contributions from the sciences, planning and policy for a more sustainable Raritan River, basin and bay.

The Initiative works with the Sustainable Raritan River Collaborative, which is a network of over 130 organizations and agencies in the Raritan River region working together to promote the integration of sound planning and a vision for the Raritan Basin that balances social, economic and environmental objectives.

For more information, visit our [Website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).



title image courtesy of Michael Catania

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You are receiving this email at the discretion of Sara Malone.

Tuesday, October 18, 2016
All Day 2016 NJ Association of Floodplain Management Conference
9:30 AM Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2016
All Day 2016 NJ Association of Floodplain Management Conference
5:00 PM Its' a Jersey Shore Thing Benefit Night for COA

Thursday, October 20, 2016
All Day 2016 NJ Association of Floodplain Management Conference
11:00 AM Preserving Land Makes Cents for All - session 2
7:00 PM Rally for the Navesink

Saturday, October 22, 2016
8:00 AM Central Jersey Stream Team Cleanup - Green Brook
9:00 AM Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps
9:00 AM Schiff Nature Center Volunteer Work Day
10:00 AM Sourland Conservancy Stewardshop

Monday, October 24, 2016
6:30 PM Framing the Future: Environmental Leadership in the 21st Century
7:30 PM Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority
7:30 PM Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 2016
6:30 PM Watershed Sculpture Gallery Opening
7:00 PM Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership Meeting & Annual Dinner

Wednesday, October 26, 2016
7:00 PM Raritan & Millstone Regional Flood Control Commission Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 2016
11:00 AM Preserving Land Makes Cents for All - session 3
7:00 PM Hopewell Train Station Lecture Series - Owls

Saturday, October 29, 2016
10:00 AM LRWP Stream Clean-up with Esperanza Project - Mile Run Brook
6:30 PM D&R Greenway Moonlight Masquerade at the Down to Earth Ball

Tuesday, November 1, 2016
8:30 AM Green Technology at Duke Farms: Constructed Wetlands for Wastewater Tre

Wednesday, November 2, 2016
All Day Save the Date - NY/NJ Baykeeper Fall Awards Event

Thursday, November 3, 2016
11:00 AM Preserving Land Makes Cents for All - session 4
5:30 PM Hunterdon County Parks - Composting 101
6:00 PM Plan Smart NJ's 48th Annual Dinner

Saturday, November 5, 2016
9:00 AM Seasonal Tree ID Walks

Sunday, November 6, 2016
All Day Daylight Saving Time Ends

Tuesday, November 8, 2016
All Day Election Day - VOTE!

Thursday, November 10, 2016
7:00 PM NJ's Own Bats, Bobcats & Kestrels
7:30 PM Bayshore Regional Watershed Council Meeting

Friday, November 11, 2016
All Day Veterans Day
All Day Comments Due for D&R Greenway Reaccreditation

Saturday, November 12, 2016
10:00 AM Natco Park Clean-up

Sunday, November 13, 2016
All Day Save the Date - Central Jersey Stream Team Cleanup

Monday, November 14, 2016
All Day 101st Annual NJ State League of Municipalities Conference
7:30 PM Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
All Day 101st Annual NJ State League of Municipalities Conference
All Day Deadline for Fall Lawn Fertilizer Application by Consumers
9:30 AM Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership Meeting
7:00 PM Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
All Day 101st Annual NJ State League of Municipalities Conference

Thursday, November 17, 2016
All Day 101st Annual NJ State League of Municipalities Conference
8:00 AM Morning Call with Bill Kibler - Raritan Headwaters

Saturday, November 17, 2016
8:00 AM Surf Fishing Clinic at Sandy Hook
10:00 AM Cleanup River Gardens Park in Cliffwood Beach

Sunday, November 20, 2016
8:00 AM Middlesex County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off
9:00 AM Volunteer Work Day at Schiff Nature Center

Thursday, November 24, 2016
All Day Thanksgiving Day

Monday, November 28, 2016
7:30 PM Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority

Tuesday, November 29, 2016
9:00 AM Urban Innovation Conference

Wednesday, November 30, 2016
9:00 AM Urban Innovation Conference

Sustainable Raritan River Initiative · c/o Rutgers' Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy · 33
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