



**Grantee Organization Name:** North Jersey District Water Supply Commission

**Grant Number:** X7 -982727-00-0

**Project Title:** Wetland Acquisition Priorities for the Purpose of Source Water Protection in the Wanaque River Watershed Basin

**Project Period:** 01/01/2004-12/31/2005

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FINAL REPORT: March 31, 2006

## Executive Summary

- Project Description:** The objective of the project was to develop a land acquisition plan in which wetlands, associated transition areas, and other lands important to water resources are identified as preservation priorities with the intent of acquiring open space for the purpose of source water protection. Such land preservation might be accomplished solely protection solely by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) or in cooperation with state, county or local agencies. This project included an analysis of the role wetlands play in controlling NPS runoff, a summary of the impacts of existing state and local wetland regulations, and a public education program.

**Task 1:** Our goal was to develop a wetland/water resource priority based open space acquisition list for the Wanaque River Watershed using criteria developed in consultation with the stakeholders for Watershed Management Area 3 (WMA 3) {of which the Wanaque River Watershed is part}.

WMA 3 is defined as:

- Covers approximately 238 square miles in New Jersey
- Includes additional watershed area of approximately 140 square miles in NY state
- Contains the Wanaque and Monksville Reservoirs – sources of drinking water for over two million New Jersey residents.
- Includes nine surface water reservoirs
- Spans 21 municipalities in four counties in NJ
- The watershed extend into two counties in NY

The Wanaque River Watershed has a total drainage area of 115 miles, including 36 square miles in New York and 79 square miles in New Jersey. The headwaters of the river lie within New York State as a minor tributary to Greenwood Lake (located half in New Jersey and half in New York). The New Jersey part lies in West Milford, Passaic County. Municipalities included in the Wanaque River Watershed are: Bloomingdale, Mahwah, Oakland, Pompton Lakes, Ringwood, Wanaque and West Milford. The Wanaque River joins up with the Pequannock River in Riverdale Township. The Wanaque River is 27 miles in length. Some of the major impoundments and lakes within this watershed are the Wanaque Reservoir, Monksville Reservoir, Greenwood Lake, Arcadia Lake and Lake Inez. Most of the land in this watershed is undeveloped, consisting of vacant lands, reservoirs, parks and farms.

- A) Tax maps that had previously been scanned for Ringwood were georeferenced, rectified and digitized. This allowed us to analyze all the properties identified by the Ringwood Open Space Committee using the water resource mapping developed by the stakeholders of WMA 3.
- B) The analysis that had been completed for those undeveloped parcels in West Milford larger than ten acres was expanded to include all parcels larger than five acres.
- C) We have continuously communicated with all the stakeholders and municipalities in the Wanaque River Watershed. We recently acquired open space and recreation plans from West Milford, Ringwood, Wanaque, Bloomingdale and Pompton Lakes to supplement the feedback we received from the stakeholders and communities.
- D) Tax maps were obtained from Wanaque and Bloomingdale as needed to scan, georeference, rectify and digitize the properties that were identified through the open space and recreation plans.
- E) **ACTION ITEM:** Construct metadata and write final report.

**Task 2:** Public Seminars:

- A) Stephen J. Souza, Ph.D., president of Princeton Hydro, LLC, conducted three Seminars at the the Passaic County Community College(PCCC), Wanaque Academic Center, in Haskell, N.J. The first seminar titled, “**An Integrated Approach to Stormwater Management**”, emphasized the importance of integrating environmental objectives and regulatory requirements. The second seminar, titled “**Vegetative Best Management Practices (BMPs)**”, emphasized the design, function and performance of Vegetative BMPs. The last of three seminars was titled, “**Stormwater Management Infiltration and Recharge Practices**”, and reviewed development related stormwater problems as well as stormwater impacts caused by improper stormwater management.

Elected and appointed officials as well as the general public were invited. Representatives from West Milford, Ringwood, Wanaque, Pompton Lakes and Mahwah attended. Participants representing Ridgewood, Roxbury, Lake Hopatcong Commission, Skylands Clean and the Greenwood Lake Commission also attended.

**Task 3: Website:**

A) A web page entitled “The Wetland Acquisition Priorities for the Purpose of Source Water Protection in the Wanaque River Watershed Basin” has been established. The address is:

<http://www.njdwsc.com/prbwmp/wapp/index.htm>.

The site contains topics that NJDWSC will communicate to the Wanaque River Watershed stakeholders as well as dates and details about upcoming seminars and events.

B) A mailbox ([wappinfo@njdwsc.com](mailto:wappinfo@njdwsc.com)), for the purpose of sending and receiving information through the site has been created.

C) A GIS link to direct Web Page users to the “Maps and downloads” section of the Passaic River Basin Watershed Management Program website

<http://www.njdwsc.com/prbwmp/maps.htm> has also been created.

D) The Wetlands Acquisition Project Newsletter in PDF format has been made available at: <http://www.njdwsc.com/prbwmp/wapp/newsletter.htm>.

**Task 4: Newsletter:**

Volume 1, Issues 1, 2 and 3 and Volume 2 Issues 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of “Every Drop Counts” have been published and circulated to local municipalities and libraries within the Wanaque River Watershed Region.

**2) Location:** County: Passaic  
Watershed: Wanaque River

**3) Contact Information:**

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