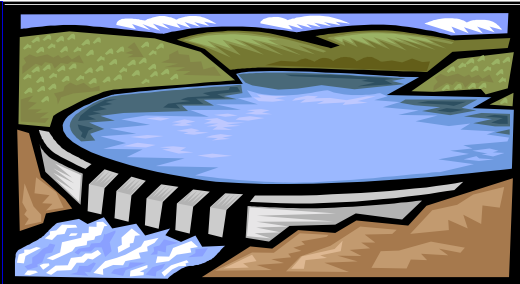




# Every Drop Counts!



*Sharing Freshwater information important to our health*

Vol. 1 Issue 2

## **North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) Awarded EPA Grant .**

NJDWSC has been given a grant to identify “Wetland Acquisition Priorities for the Purpose of Source Water Protection in the Wanaque River Watershed Basin.”

The **purpose** of the project is to develop a land acquisition plan in which priority wetland and transition areas would be held as open space by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC), in cooperation with state, county or local agencies. This project will focus on, and also include an analysis of the role of wetlands in controlling NPS runoff, analysis of existing state and local wetland regulations and a public education program.

### **Seminar Planned for Wetlands Preservation**

**Stephen J. Souza Ph.D., President of Princeton Hydro, LLC., will be conducting a seminar which will take place on October 4, 2004.**

Visit our website for more details @  
[www.njdWSC.com/prbwmp/wapp/index.htm](http://www.njdWSC.com/prbwmp/wapp/index.htm)

Important source water “open space” properties will be prioritized using maps, databases and some fieldwork. Sites will be examined for aquatic resources and wetland functional values. In addition to assisting NJDWSC with its acquisition priorities, the information will be provided to adjacent municipalities, land trusts, etc. in the watershed who wish to acquire land for protection.

The **intent** of the project is to prioritize lands for acquisition, protection and control, and to educate area residents, businesses and others about Best Management Practices (BMP’s) to protect the Wanaque River Watershed’s water quality from further degradation.

Specific **tasks** will include:

**Task 1:** Develop a wetland/water resource priority based open space acquisition list using criteria developed in consultation with the stakeholders for Watershed Management Area 3 (of which the Wanaque River Watershed is part). This will be used to facilitate open space land acquisition/protection and source water/watershed protection planning and management for NJDWSC as well as interested stakeholders within the region. The criteria was developed and funded by the State of New Jersey’s Watershed Management Program.

**Task 2:** Conduct three public seminars utilizing qualified and experienced speakers to educate local municipal personnel about the use of the above information for open space land acquisition/protection and source water/watershed protection planning and management. Emphasize prioritizing open space /wetland areas for acquisition or preservation and evaluate options for improving storm drainage system performance in protecting water quality.

**Task 3:** Prevent or reduce pollution in the watershed through a website that educates watershed residents, businesses and others about practical non-structural BMPs. For example, information presented will address the specific household and business practices that will mitigate impacts to the source water. The website will be available through NJDWSC to the municipalities and general public to convey information and news regarding the different stages of progress and work.

**Task 4:** Produce and make available newsletters documenting progress and the availability of information. These newsletters would be published quarterly over a two-year period.

### **Project Goals:**

**Long-term:** This project is consistent with EPA’s goal of working with the states and stakeholders to develop long-term protection programs to ensure that drinking water sources do not become contaminated. EPA has placed an increased emphasis on watershed based environmental protection. This is also consistent with NJDWSC’s comprehensive approach in addressing source water protection for water supply sources. NJDWSC has been taking proactive

**(Continued on Page 3 )**



**View of a wetland in the Wanaque River Basin**



### What Is The EPA Doing to Protect Wetlands?

The EPA has a number of programs for wetland conservation, restoration, and monitoring. The EPA, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), establishes environmental standards for reviewing permits for discharges that affect wetlands, such as residential development, roads, and levees. Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Corps issues permits that meet environmental standards (after allowing the public to comment).

### EPA: Working Together to Protect and Restore Wetlands

In addition to providing regulatory protection for wetlands, EPA works in partnership with states, tribes, and local governments, the private sector, and citizen organizations to monitor, protect, and restore these valuable habitats.

EPA is helping states and tribes incorporate wetland monitoring, protection, and restoration into their watershed plans. EPA is also working to develop national guidance on wetland restoration, as well as constructed wetlands used to treat storm water and sewage. Nationally, EPA's Five-Star Restoration Program provides grants and promotes information exchange through community-based education and restoration projects.

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A picturesque view of the Wanaque Reservoir

#### Project Mission Statement:

*“NJDWSC will document the progress and availability of information to the stakeholders of the Wanaque River Watershed of its project to develop a land acquisition plan in which priority wetland and transition areas would be held as open space for source water protection.”*

EPA works with a variety of other federal agencies to protect and restore wetlands, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. EPA is working with these agencies and others to achieve a net increase of 100,000 acres of wetlands each year by 2005. EPA also partners with private interests and public organizations like the Association of State Wetland Managers, the National Association of Counties, the Izaak Walton League, local watershed associations, schools, and universities to advance conservation and restoration programs.

### What Can You Do To Help Protect Wetlands?

You can do many things to help protect wetlands in your area. First, identify your watershed and find the wetlands in your neighborhood. Learn more about them and share what you learn with someone you know! Encourage neighbors, developers, and state and local governments to protect the functions and values of wetlands in your watershed.



A scene from the Wanaque River Watershed

To prevent wetland loss or degradation, follow these simple guidelines:

- Invest in wetlands by buying duck stamps. Proceeds from these \$15 migratory bird hunting stamps support wetland acquisition and restoration. The stamps are available on-line at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's web site ([www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)) or at your local post office.
- Rather than draining or filling wetlands, find more compatible uses that would not damage the wetlands, such as waterfowl and wildlife habitat.
- When developing your landscaping plan, keep wetlands in mind. Plant native grasses or forested buffer strips along wetlands on your property to protect water quality.
- “Get into” your wetland by participating in a volunteer monitoring program.

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- Plan to avoid wetlands when developing or improving a site. Get technical assistance from your state environmental agency before you alter a wetland.
- Maintain wetlands and adjacent buffer strips as open space.
- Support your local watershed association.
- Plan a wetland program or invite a wetland expert to speak at your school, club or professional organization.
- Build a wetland in your backyard. Learn how by visiting the U.S. Department of Agriculture's web site at: [www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/Backyard.html](http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/Backyard.html).

**Glossary Of Terms:**

**Best Management Practices (BMP)** – Management practices or techniques used to guide design and construction of new development or infrastructure improvements to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

**EPA Five Star Restoration Program** – Brings together citizen groups, corporations, youth conservation corps, students, landowners and government agencies to undertake projects that restore stream banks and wetlands. The program provides challenge grants, technical support, and peer information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects.

**Habitat** - The sum of the physical, chemical and biological environment occupied by individuals of a particular species, population or community.

**Open Space Preservation** – is a tool of smart growth that provides many amenities including water resource protection, wildlife habitat, recreation, agriculture and tourism.

**Source Water Protection** – Source water is untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes or underground aquifers which is used to supply private wells and public drinking water.

**Wetlands** – Lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface.



**Male and female Wood Ducks can be found in the Wanaque River Watershed**

**(Continued from Page 1)**  
measures and responsibility to assure a long-term safe, sufficient and reliable portable water supply for the served communities in northern New Jersey. One of these measures is implanting an active program to purchase land for source water and wildlife habitat protection.

**Short Term:** Short-term goals of the project are to obtain permanent protection of significant open space/wetlands and adoption for the purpose of source water protection, new local laws by local watershed stakeholders.

**7 Ways You Can Benefit Your Wetland**

1. Use water wisely, Wasting it at the faucet drains our natural water supply.
2. Dispose of household waste properly, Contact your local waste management authorities for proper handling of batteries and toxic chemicals.
3. Plant native plants along stream banks to help prevent erosion and invasion by harmful non-native species.
4. Avoid cutting trees or shrubs away from the stream bank, the root structures help to keep soil in place and the trees provide shade to help keep the water cool. .
5. Maintain your car properly or they may leak brake fluid oil and anti-freeze.
6. Remember that some weeds and insects can actually be beneficial. Overusing chemicals and fertilizer can be more harmful than helpful in the long run.
7. Pick up trash along the stream bank. Chemicals found in waste could leak into the water.



**A view of the forests in the Wanaque Watershed**



Credits:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
N.J. Department of Environmental Protection  
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program  
United States Geological Survey  
North Jersey District Water Supply Commission

Answers: WATER, CLOUD, FRESH, DRINK, GALLONS, SHOWER



*Did You Know:*

How much water do we use a day?

- Bath or shower- 15-30 Gallons
- Watering the lawn- 180 Gallons
- Washing the dishes- 15-60 Gallons
- Washing clothes- 30 Gallons
- Flushing the toilet- 4-7 Gallons
- Brushing Teeth- 1 Gallon
- Drinking- 1/2 Gallon

**Kids Corner**

Put the letters in the right order to complete the sentence:

All living things need \_\_\_\_\_(TAWER) to live.

When water evaporates, it travels into the air and becomes part of a \_\_\_\_\_. (DLOCU)

Less than 1% of all the water on Earth is \_\_\_\_\_ (SEFRH) water.

We \_\_\_\_\_ (IKRDN) water in liquid form.

Check for leaks and save hundreds of \_\_\_\_\_ (GLLOANS) of water a day.

You'll Save water by taking a quick \_\_\_\_\_. (HOWSER)

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**For more information on the Wetlands Acquisition Priorities Program:(WAPP)**

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