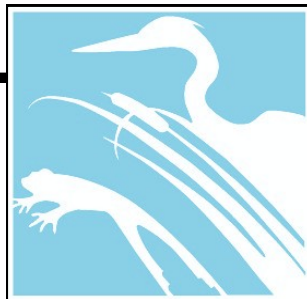


The Whippany River Watershed Action Committee



2009
Annual
Report

**The Whippany River
Clean it! Protect it! Enjoy it!**



Parsippany Troy Hills Municipal Building Rain Garden

Whippany River Watershed
Action Committee, Inc.
PO Box 223
Morristown, NJ 07963-0223

Mission: As stewards of the Whippany River Watershed, the Action Committee's purpose is to preserve, protect and maintain the land and water resources of the watershed. This is accomplished through broad-based community action, implementation of projects, on-going assessment and promotion of resource conservation.

Learn more about the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee at www.wrwac.org or contact us at : info@wrwac.org

Educational Meetings

At the start of the monthly Action Committee meetings, speakers offer informative talks open to the public:

Native Plant Society
With speaker Bill Young

Passaic River Institute
Speaker Kirk Barrett: "Is Flooding Worse in NJ?"

Passaic River Coalition
Speaker Eugene Reynolds: " The Passaic River: Still Waters Run Deep"

Hanover Township Historian Donald Kiddoo

Summary of Two 319h Grants Received from NJDEP: Non-Point Source Pollution Control & Management and Implementation of Troy Brooks Management Plan (in partnership with Rutgers University)

Pat Rector, NJDEP/Rutgers Extension
Dr. Steve Souza, Princeton Hydro Engineering
Dr. Chris Obropta, Rutgers University
Jennifer Noblejas, NJDEP

Recognized both statewide and nationally with two awards—the New Jersey DEP's *2002 Environmental Excellence Award* and the United States EPA's *2001 Environmental Quality Award for Region 2*.

Support and Funding in 2009

In addition to its member municipalities and Morris County freeholders, WRWAC received support and/or funding from:

- *NJ Department of Environmental Protection*
- *Rutgers University Cooperative Extension*
- *Trout Unlimited*
- *Morris County Park Commission*

Additional support has been provided by:
Morris County Soil Conservation Service — Burnham Park Association — Lake Pocahantas — AmeriCorps — Scout Troops — Morristown High School — The Land Conservancy of New Jersey



River Assessment Site "#7"
for Non Point Source Grant, located on So. Beverwyck Road in Parsippany Troy Hills

The Vision

The **Whippany River Watershed Action Committee** will continue to be a vibrant organization, known for getting things accomplished with its active members and multiple ongoing projects. The Action Committee will be



Action Committee members
put up a watershed awareness sign on Columbia Turnpike in Florham Park

widely supported by its municipal members, Morris County and other stakeholders, including residents, businesses, conservation groups, and regulators, who participate through the **Whippany River Watershed Management Group**.

www.wrwac.org

The Watershed

The **Whippany River Watershed** is an area of 69.3 square miles in north central New Jersey. It lies within Morris County and encompasses streams and lakes that flow into the Whippany River. This 16-mile long river is a tributary to the Passaic River and a sub-watershed of the Greater Passaic Watershed, one of the sources of drinking water for more than a million people in northern New Jersey.

The Committee

The **Whippany River Watershed Action Committee** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit grass roots organization whose members represent twelve municipalities and the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Established in 1999 as a result of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's first watershed management program, the committee is responsible for implementing the Whippany River Watershed Management Plan.

2009 Members

- East Hanover Township
- Florham Park Borough
- Hanover Township
- Madison Borough
- Mendham Borough
- Mendham Township
- Morris Plains Borough
- Morris Township
- Town of Morristown
- Mountain Lakes Borough
- Parsippany-Troy Hills Township
- Representatives of the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders

"The best of all things is water." Pindar 460 B.C.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

Programs

- Continued working on our 319h grant from the New Jersey DEP for \$553,975 for Non-Point Source Pollution Control and Management to study fecal coliform contamination in the Whippany River, monitor and document water quality throughout the watershed, develop recommendations for stormwater retrofits and upgrades and construct a specific pollution control project for which \$250,000 has been budgeted. The pollution control project is planned as the first in a series of implementation projects throughout the watershed.

- Continued to work with Rutgers University on the Implementation of the Troy Brook Regional Stormwater Management Plan. Rutgers University, through the 319h grant from the New Jersey DEP in the amount of \$471,000.00

- Continued to seek funding for a Black Brook restoration and protection plan

Outreach

Achieved through partnerships with member towns, local non-profits, companies and volunteers:

- Conducted our fourth annual canoe/kayak trip down the Passaic River from East Hanover to Fairfield, past the confluence of the Rockaway/Whippany rivers
- Conducted a spring clean-up in partnership with Trout Unlimited in Hanover Township
- Held our third annual Earth Day Watershed Jeopardy event in partnership with the Morris County Park Commission at Sunrise Lake in Lewis Morris Park
- Provided an outreach booth at Parsippany's fall town festivals

- Gave a rain garden seminar in partnership with Rutgers University and the town of Parsippany
- Created a Speedwell Lake Power Point presentation to illustrate to surrounding municipalities our past work and future plans for the improvement of Speedwell Lake
- Designed and installed watershed signs through our outreach program to identify where the river meets the road
- Members attended a workshop and participated in spring egg addling outings to reduce the geese population in partnership with Geese Peace
- Sponsored a workshop on stream visual assessment protocol in connection with the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control and Management grant
- Established eight stream teams to conduct river segment assessments throughout the watershed and completed one sampling event in October
- Continued to provide professional development provider status from the NJ Dep't of Education
- Promoted the committee with a display at the Morris County Library
- Celebrated the Action Committee's Tenth Anniversary at Willow Hall
- Volunteers constructed a Rain Garden in Parsippany with Rutgers University



Action Committee members at monthly meeting held at Morris County Library
photo by Art Catalusci

Make a difference, make a donation.

Please join the Whippany River Watershed today with a donation of:

- \$500 Gold - name will be posted on watershed roadway sign
- \$250 Silver \$100 Bronze \$50 Patriot
- \$32 Pindar Other

Please send your check to: All contributors will receive a window decal.
WRWAC, Inc.
PO Box 223
Morristown, NJ 07963-0223

The Whippany River Watershed Action Committee is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation and is registered with the State of New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs as a charitable organization. We are organized for the purpose of preserving, protecting, and maintaining the land and water resources of the Whippany River Watershed.

The Action Committee needs the help of individuals and officials to:

- Adopt water conservation practices,
- Keep grass clippings, leaves, pet droppings, and trash out of storm drains and roadways,
- Minimize use of lawn and other chemicals,
- Practice natural landscaping,
- Dispose of oil and other petroleum products in approved facilities,
- Promote no-feeding of waterfowl,
- Support local storm water management policies, and
- Volunteer for river stewardship such as stream visual assessments.