



Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

2016 Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report

February 23, 2017 – Duke Farms Coach Barn

Agenda

- Welcome / Announcements
- Update on restoration candidate watershed data collection
- Preliminary water quality assessment of Raritan region
- Break
- Update on 2017 funding cycle
- Next steps

Welcome to Duke Farms



Stakeholder Engagement

- Review existing information
 - Contribute local perspective and information
 - Weigh in on potential strategies for improving surface water quality
 - Help set overall priorities for the region
 - Contribute to implementation of identified priorities and measures
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- June 30, 2016 – Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association, The Watershed Institute, Pennington
 - November 9, 2016 – Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, Rutgers Douglass Campus Center, New Brunswick
 - February 23, 2017 – Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, Duke Farms

Update

State of the Raritan, Volume 1

Status and trends of the Raritan River basin

www.raritan.rutgers.edu

The screenshot shows the website header with the Rutgers logo and navigation menu. The main content area features a title '2016 State of the Raritan Report' and a thumbnail image of the report cover. The text describes the report's purpose and findings, including a comparison with the 2002 report and a link to a PDF. A sidebar on the right contains an 'INITIATIVE MENU' and a 'Calendar' for February 2017.

2016 State of the Raritan Report

Rutgers University's Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, with input from watershed partners, has developed a new report that updates the New Jersey Water Supply Authority's *Raritan Basin: Portrait of a Watershed* that was an earlier assessment of the Raritan basin focusing on key indicators for water quality and quantity. This new report employs similar methodology but with more recent data from 2002, 2007 and 2012. The report provides an assessment of how and where the Raritan watershed is changing with important implications for planning, policy and decision-making at the federal, state and local levels.

Eleven key indicators were assessed for this report including: population; housing units; urban land use; impervious surface cover; forested, coastal and emergent wetlands; upland forest cover; prime agricultural land; groundwater recharge; fish and macroinvertebrate bioassessments; riparian area integrity; and known contaminant sites and groundwater contamination.

Overall comparison of this updated analysis with the prior 2002 report shows that trends were increasing for population, housing units, urban land use and impervious surface cover. An increasing trend for these indicators adds stress on water quality and supplies with potential negative impacts for the watershed. Trends were declining for all of the wetland land covers assessed as well as for upland forest, prime agricultural land and groundwater recharge. Downward trends for these indicators suggests that the watershed is losing its natural filtering capacity with attendant negative impacts to water quality. The bioassessment and riparian areas trends were mixed and there was not sufficient data to determine trends for the known contaminated sites and groundwater contamination indicators.

This report is the first in a series that will eventually assess a broad array of metrics of watershed health for the Raritan Basin. The intent is to inform watershed management planning in concert with remediation, restoration and protection efforts at the federal, state and local levels.

A PDF of the report can be accessed [here](#).

Be sure to sign up for e-Newsletter & Announcements (bottom right of the website) if you would like to stay informed of efforts to develop subsequent volumes of the *State of the Raritan*. Contact Sara Malone at raritan@ejb.rutgers.edu if you have questions.

INITIATIVE MENU

- About the Initiative
- Who We Are
- What We Do
- Key Focus Areas

INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES

- 2016 State of the Raritan Report
- Stakeholder Engagement for NJDEP 2016 Integrated Water Quality Report

Calendar

February 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25

Ongoing Work

- 1) Compiling geospatial location and attributes of past water quality mitigation, restoration, best management practices undertaken in the Basin to inform NJDEP Integrated Report effort.
- 2) Collaborating with watershed associations to analyze relationship between land use change and biotic/habitat quality indicator data at sub-basin scales across the entire Basin

Relate 1 and 2 above. Are past practices showing evidence of halting or reversing water quality/biotic degradation?

Answered the call for GI and restoration data

- Duke Farms
- Federal Business Center/Raritan Center
- Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership
- Middlesex County
- New Jersey Water Supply Authority
- North Jersey RC&D (pending)
- NY/NJ Baykeeper
- NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program
- Raritan Headwaters
- Rutgers Water Resources Program/NFWF
- Somerset County
- Tewksbury Township
- The Land Conservancy
- USDA-NRCS
- *Others? Contact Sara Malone – sara.malone@rutgers.edu*

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Save the Date!

9th Annual Sustainable Raritan River Conference and Awards Ceremony

Friday, June 9, 2017

Trayes Hall, Douglass Student Center, New Brunswick

Call for Lightning Talks

Call for Award Nominations

Will offer CEUs

Sponsorships welcome (independently funded Initiative)



For more information:

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