

About SBMWA

Formed in 1949, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association is the oldest environmental group in central New Jersey. Keeping water clean, safe, and healthy is the heart of our mission.

We work to protect and restore our water and natural environment through conservation, advocacy, science, and education. Our campus provides recreational and learning opportunities, especially to those interested in becoming River-Friendly. Some practices we plan to model for participants in the future include water conservation, rain gardens, green roofs, wastewater management and wildlife habitat.

For more information:

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Executive Director, Jim Waltman, standing in front of our new LEED Platinum Certified Watershed Center

The River-Friendly Programs

The SBMWA works toward certifying businesses, golf courses, schools and residents in the Stony Brook-Millstone River Watershed. The certification process is a cooperative effort between willing participants and SBMWA, and provides an opportunity for landowners to become local stewards of their waterways. Participating landowners will have access to technical support, information and guidance for completing environmental projects tailored to their unique resources, needs and location.

The River-Friendly Certification Programs at SBMWA are under new leadership and undergoing changes to enhance the efficacy of our goals. Current certified participants will go through a re-certification process to update their credentials and regain their celebrated title of a River-Friendly Certified business, golf course, resident or school! By taking actions to reduce stormwater runoff and water usage, while increasing wildlife habitat, participating facilities will undoubtedly contribute to protecting and preserving the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed, a place we call home.

River-Friendly Tips

From the
Stony Brook-Millstone
Watershed Association



**Easy ways to improve
water quality in your
local watershed!**



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Your water. Your environment. Your voice.

River-Friendly Tips

Around Your Home

- Clean up after your pet. Animal waste can contain harmful bacteria, viruses and other nutrients that can pollute waterways.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets.
- Install low-flow shower heads and toilets. Look for the EPA WaterSense label.
- Only run the dishwasher and washing machine when full.
- Use a front-loading washing machine, which reduces water usage by 40%.
- Have your car washed at a commercial washing facility. Washing at home on asphalt allows soap and other pollutants to wash into streams.
- Do not dispose of oil, paint or other chemicals in home or storm drains. Look for your county's hazardous materials events, which occur about twice a year.
- Properly dispose of prescription drugs. Local police departments now have drop boxes, available to use 24 hours a day.



Around Your Yard & Garden

- Install a rain barrel to capture rain water from your roof and use it for bird baths or watering plants.
- Use mulch in your garden and around trees to keep the soil moist and reduce evaporation.
- Water during the early morning or evening.
- Landscape with native, drought resistant plants.
- Use soil tests to determine if fertilizers are necessary.
- Monitor and spot treat any unwanted weeds or pests. Using the right amount at the right time can save you time and money, while reducing runoff into waterways.
- Maintain your septic system properly. Faulty systems can pollute local groundwater. They should be pumped out every 3-5 years.
- Install a rain garden to help capture pollutants carried by rain water and increase groundwater infiltration.



Other Ways to Contribute

- Volunteer for a local stream cleanup to remove litter from and along streams. This is a great way to directly remove pollution and witness the implications of improper disposal.
- Share a water-related activity like fishing or boating with a child or friend. This creates a connection to the water and builds a sense of ownership.
- Volunteer with your local watershed association. Non-profits utilize and rely on help from community members for collecting data and completing stewardship projects.
- Take our River-Friendly Resident Checklist survey at www.thewatershed.org. Click on "Science", then "River-Friendly".



Some very helpful volunteers from our 9th Annual Stream Cleanup on April 11, 2015.