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What is the NJ Plastic Ban ?

Effective **May 4, 2022**, the [NJ Law](#) will ban all retail and grocery stores plus food-service businesses, from using single-use plastic and paper bags, Styrofoam food-service products, and single-use plastic straws. The purpose of the law is to reduce the harm of plastic pollution and health hazard on the land and water.

Consider locating your reusable bags in the front seat of your car, purse, or backpack so May does not catch you by surprise!

Winter 2022

Official Quarterly Newsletter

of the NJ River-Friendly Programs

Learn more at: www.njriverfriendly.org

Or contact us at: njriverfriendly@gmail.com

Congratulations New River-Friendly Schools!

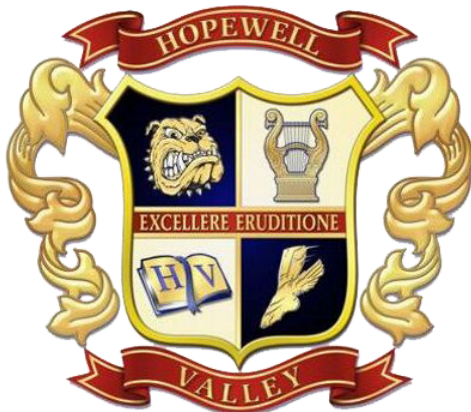
Schools are required to complete three water-based lessons and host an outreach event to achieve certification.



Congratulations to **The Bridge Academy of New Jersey** for gaining certification as a River-Friendly School at the *River Level*! We commend the school's creativity and ability to engage students in their local environment. The students and teachers did hands-on investigating macro-invertebrates in the local stream and also hosted a campus cleanup.

Awesome education and stewardship!

First River-Friendly School District in New Jersey



Let's give a round of applause for the **Hopewell Valley Regional School District**, which is the first school district in New Jersey to have all schools certified as River-Friendly!

We thank the Hopewell Valley teachers and students for their



Congratulations to **Hopewell Valley Central High School** for becoming certified as a River-Friendly school at the *River Level*.

We want to give tribute to two environmentally minded students who ran a two-hour workshop through the Biomimicry Institute, which promotes nature-inspired innovation. Participants were asked to tackle the issue of improving green roofs to absorb more rain (thus reducing

amazing hard work and passion for the environment!



Congratulations to **Hopewell Elementary School** for becoming a River-Friendly School! In a creative lesson, students talked about water conservation while also expressing their feelings for water through poetry. This was an engaging way to call attention to topics that are sometimes only viewed through the lens of “Data Analysis” or facts and figures.

Look forward to seeing what Hopewell Elementary has in store for Advanced Stewardship!



Congratulations to **Toll Gate Grammar School** for becoming certified as a River-Friendly School at the *River Level*! Toll Gate established a Green Team in October 2020, which consists of 15 students who meet twice a month during

stormwater runoff) while minimizing the roof's heaviness.

This was a great initiative!



Congratulations to **Bear Tavern Elementary School** for becoming a River-Friendly School! We applaud Bear Tavern for using the Trout in the Classroom initiative in a partnership with the New Jersey Department of Fish and Wildlife. Every fall, students nurture trout eggs and learn about the importance of clean water.

We look forward to seeing what Bear Tavern has in store for Advanced Stewardship!



Congratulations to **Stony Brook Elementary School** for becoming a River-Friendly School at the *Stream Level*! This past year, Stony Brook's PTO hosted a virtual science fair with a theme of "Protecting Our Water". Students were

the school year. Students work with teachers to make the area around Toll Gate more “green” including campus clean-up walks, planting pine trees, clearing out space for new pollinator garden, and much more.

Keep up the good work!

encouraged to choose a science investigation focusing on water quality and conservation.

This was a great outreach event and we hope it continues in the future or the theme spreads to more schools!

Upcoming River-Friendly Events!



River-Friendly Resident Challenge!

February - October 2022

Become a River-Friendly Resident and be entered into a raffle! Prizes include:

1st Place Prize- A Stormwater Assessment OR \$250 voucher The Watershed Institute Summer Camp / Academy 2023

2nd Place Prize - Four Tickets to Select Watershed Programs

2 Runner-Up Prizes- \$25 Nature Shop Gift Certificate

For more information visit:

<https://thewatershed.org/2022-river-friendly-resident-challenge/>



Woodcock Watch at Fairview Farm Friday Evenings, March 4 and 18

Enjoy a night watching the American Woodcock in their annual sky song-and-dance at Fairview Farm! Director of Education Lauren Theis will start us off with an outdoor presentation on these quirky birds, and then guide participants to two of Fairview Farm’s meadows, which serve as popular Woodcock singing fields.

Two nights to choose from: Friday, March 4 at 6 pm or Friday, March 18 at 7 pm
Registration is required. [Click here to register!](#)

For more info, contact Lauren at ltheis@raritanheadwaters.org

Second Saturday Hike: Amphibians! At Fairview Farm

Saturday, March 12 from 10:30 am to 12 pm

Fairview Farm is home to many amphibians including spring peepers, green frogs, bull frogs, two-lined salamanders and more. Spend the morning exploring our wetland areas and turning over logs to see who is waking up for spring! Wear water proof boots or sturdy shoes, the trails may be muddy.

Registration required. [Click here to sign up!](#)

For more info, contact Lauren at ltheis@raritanheadwaters.org



Rain Barrel Workshop at Fairview Farm

Saturday, March 19 from 10 to 11:30 am

Join Raritan Headwaters to make a rain barrel to bring home or join us to learn more! In addition to constructing our barrels, we will review the basics of rain barrels and rain gardening, discuss how this feature might be used in your landscape, and learn about the importance of saving rain water.

Cost: \$60 per rain barrel, \$5 suggested donation if you'd like to attend but do not want to build a rain barrel

Registration is required! [Click here to register](#)

For more info, contact Lauren at ltheis@raritanheadwaters.org

What to expect in upcoming newsletters:

- Highlights for new River-Friendly facilities
- Upcoming events
- River-Friendly tips

Is there a topic you would like us to feature in a future newsletter?

Email us at : njriverfriendly@gmail.com



