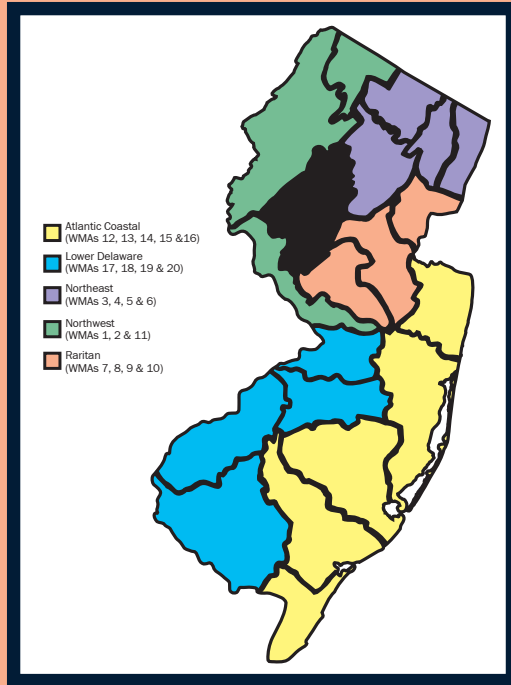


Watershed Management Area 8 North and South Branch Raritan



Watershed Management Area 8 (WMA 8) includes the North and South Branches of the Raritan River and their tributaries. Large parts of Somerset, Hunterdon and Morris Counties are included in this area.

The South Branch is 51 miles long and flows from western Morris County through central Hunterdon County and into western Somerset where it joins the North Branch. Major tributaries include the Neshanic River, Spruce Run Creek, Mulhockaway Creek and Cakepoulin Creek. Major impoundments are the Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs.

The land use in the South Branch Raritan River is mostly agricultural, but suburban and industrial development is increasing at a quick rate. The overall water quality is regarded as good. Warm summertime temperatures threaten the aquatic life, especially in the trout maintenance portions of the river. Elevated lead levels may be threatening the aquatic life support use in the river.

The tributaries of the South Branch Raritan River indicate there is good water quality with slight nutrient enrichment.

The North Branch of the Raritan River is 23 miles long and flows from northwestern Morris County through Somerset County to the confluence with the South Branch between the towns of Branchburg and Raritan. Major tributaries include the Peapack Brook, Rockaway Creek, and Lamington River and the only major impoundment is Ravine Lake. Land use in the North Branch Raritan River Watershed is primarily rural, woodland and agriculture with scattered areas of commercial and residential but there is intense development along the major road corridors of Routes 24 and 206 and interstate highways 22, 287 and 78.

This watershed is experiencing a trend common around the state. There is a decline in farm activity and a rapid increase in suburban nonpoint sources, contributing to the excessive loading of nutrients and sediments to the waterway.

WMA 8 Partnerships:

- ▶ Raritan Basin Agricultural Committee
- ▶ Raritan Basin Education and Outreach Committee
- ▶ Raritan Basin Public Advisory Committee
- ▶ Raritan Basin Stormwater Management Plan Committee
- ▶ Raritan Basin Technical Advisory Committee
- ▶ Raritan Basin Watershed Alliance Steering Committee
- ▶ South Branch Watershed Association
- ▶ Upper Raritan Watershed Association



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Watershed Management
Bureau of Watershed Planning

Watershed Management Area 8 North and South Branch Raritan

This factsheet is a snapshot of the workplan for Watershed Management Area 8.

Watershed Plans are regional/areawide in scope (i.e. not a study of one location); detail specific projects or management measures to be implemented to achieve the goals of the plan; and set forth a prioritization of the projects or measures identified in the plan. The Department has identified a **Priority Segment for Restoration** in each watershed management area. Funding was provided to conduct a basic characterization and assessment of the segment and to identify restoration projects to address a specific parameter of concern (i.e. fecal coliform). Since 2003, the Department has prepared and adopted hundreds of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) documents to address the impaired waters of the state. **TMDL Implementation Priorities** represent the Bureau of Watershed Planning's focus for implementing the adopted TMDLs. **Active Grant Projects** represent current projects with which the Bureau of Watershed Planning is actively involved. Many of these projects are funded through the Federal 319(h) Nonpoint Source Program.

Watershed Plans:

- ▶ Mulhockaway Creek Watershed (under development)
- ▶ Pleasant Run/Holland Brook Watersheds (under development)
- ▶ Sourland Mountain Watershed (under development)
- ▶ Budd Lake Watershed (under development)
- ▶ Neshanic River Watershed (under development)
- ▶ Sidney Brook Watershed (under development)
- ▶ Manalapan Lake Watershed (under development)

Priority Segment for Restoration:

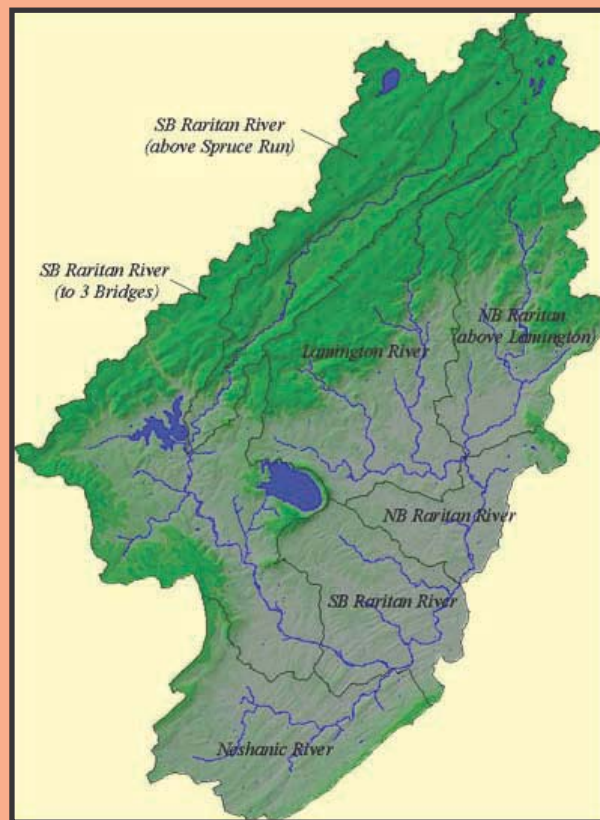
- ▶ Spruce Run/Rocky Run in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County

TMDL Implementation Priorities:

- ▶ Round Valley Reservoir Eutrophication
- ▶ Raritan Phosphorus
- ▶ NB and SB Raritan River Fecal Coliform
- ▶ Spruce Run Fecal Coliform
- ▶ Mulhockaway Creek Fecal Coliform
- ▶ Neshanic River Fecal Coliform
- ▶ Lamington River Fecal Coliform
- ▶ Rockaway Creek Fecal Coliform
- ▶ Chambers Brook Fecal Coliform

Active Grant Projects:

- ▶ Design and Implementation of NPS Pollution Control Measures in the Peapack Brook Subwatershed
 - Upper Raritan Watershed Association
- ▶ Stormwater Management Plan for the Mulhockaway Creek Watershed
 - New Jersey Water Supply Authority
- ▶ Improving the Upper Raritan Water Quality Management Plan: Highlands Region
 - New Jersey Water Supply Authority
- ▶ Regional Stormwater Management Plan for the Pleasant Run and the Holland Brook Watersheds
 - Readington Township
- ▶ Action Plan Presentations to Communities to Address NPS Pollution
 - South Branch Watershed Association
- ▶ Watershed Management for the Raritan River Basin: Phase 2 Management Plan Development and Interim Protection/Restoration Projects
 - New Jersey Water Supply Authority
- ▶ EPA Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant for the Raritan Basin
 - Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association and New Jersey Water Supply Authority
- ▶ Budd Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan
 - Mount Olive Township
- ▶ Regional Stormwater Management Plan for the Sourland Mountain Watershed
 - East Amwell Township
- ▶ Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for the Sidney Brook Watershed
 - Union Township Environmental Commission
- ▶ Developing a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Neshanic River Watershed
 - New Jersey Institute of Technology
- ▶ Raritan River Basin TMDL Study
 - TRC Omni Environmental Corporation



For more information on Watershed Management Area 8, contact Nick Zripko,
WMA 8 Area Manager at (609) 633-3812 or email Nick.Zripko@dep.state.nj.us.

Or visit the project's website at www.raritanbasin.org

For more information on New Jersey's 20 Watershed Management Areas visit www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt