CU Maurice River is dedicated to protecting the watershed of the Maurice River and the region known as Down Jersey, enabling current and future generations to enjoy the environmental, recreational, cultural and scenic resources of this Wild and Scenic global treasure.

CU Maurice River empowers individuals, organizations and neighboring communities to promote the region’s enduring well-being and quality of life. We support education, awareness, and informed decision-making utilizing field work, research, and advocacy.

Become a member, make a donation and/or learn more about us by visiting www.cumauriceriver.org.

Eligibility

Do you live within the perimeters of the Maurice River Watershed shown in this map?

If you answered yes, your residence or property is eligible for wildlife-friendly designation. Read the instructions and find out how to apply.
The Maurice River Watershed has remarkable water quality, abundant open space, and plentiful biodiversity: no small feat for a region in America’s most densely populated state. However, poor land-use practices can compromise the health of the watershed.

When the workings of a watershed are impaired, it causes serious problems:
- flooding
- water shortages
- surface run-off
- soil erosion
- change in water flow
- water contamination
- invasion by exotic plants
- loss of habitat
- property damage from storm surges

The condition of streams and rivers is a reflection of the diverse land uses within the watershed. Land management decisions made on residential properties ultimately impact the health of the entire river basin and community. Poor land use leads to dirtier water, less water, and damaged habitats, while good land use has positive impacts on:
- water quality
- water regenerations
- healthy habitat

This Wildlife-Friendly Designation Application recognizes residents who implement best management practices. Awardees are making a concerted effort to promote healthy habitat in the Maurice River Watershed by reducing the amount of water they withdraw from the Kirkwood-Complemems Auger and minimizing the quantity of non-point source pollution stemming from their property. They also manage their property to create a stopover or link for wildlife between preserved natural areas. These stewards accomplish this by providing a natural landscape that supports native plant communities and offers wildlife these three essentials: food, shelter, and water.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Respond “yes” or “no” to whether you have included the actions from the following list into your management routine.
   - Each yes answer is the equivalent of one stewardship point, while no responses represent opportunities to expand on your best management practices.

2. Tally your stewardship points. If you amass 40 points you are eligible for designation.

3. Return the application to CU Maurice River for review (P.O. Box 474, Millville, NJ 08332).

4. Approved applicants will be awarded a plaque recognizing their best management efforts.

Page numbers correlate to CU Maurice River’s publication Protecting Down Jersey Rivers: A Guide to Eco-alternatives for Maurice River Watershed Residents. You can download it for free from the www.CUMauriceRiver.org home page.

1. Reducing Withdrawals from the Aquifer (PAGES 4-6)

   I protect river and wetland habitats as well as drinking water reserves by…

   Yes No
   - taking pointed actions to curb overall water waste indoors
   - fixing faucet, pipe, and toilet leaks immediately
   - replacing older fixtures with low flow models
   - updating dish and clothes washers with eco-friendly models
   - reducing lawn cover by steadily increasing the use of native flora
   - harvesting water from downspouts in rain barrels and reusing it in the garden
   - taking household vehicle(s) to a car wash that recycles water
   - teaching younger family members the importance of water conservation
   - reforesting clear-cut areas with native shrub and tree species
   - ceasing to water lawn space and other exotic flora

2. Minimizing Non-Point Source Pollution (PAGES 7-13)

   I protect water quality by…

   Yes No
   - switching to biodegradable and/or organic personal hygiene products and cleaning agents
   - disposing of medicines at official drop-off points
   - identifying the types of contaminants potentially washing off my property
   - replacing hard, impermeable surfaces with porous ones
   - extending downspouts into garden beds
   - using landscape contours to keep storm water on the property
   - installing native plant rain garden(s) to promote infiltration vs. run-off
   - reforesting a clear-cut area with native shrubs and trees
   - restoring a stream/river bank to its natural condition by removing rubble or hardscaping and/or by planting a native buffer
   - maintaining the health of mature native trees and shrubs
   - ending the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides (insecticides/herbicides) by replacing them with all-natural alternatives
   - composting and using the organic material to fertilize vs. applying engineered fertilizers
   - combating mosquitoes and harmful pests using integrated pest management
   - refraining from using chemical de-icing products and salts after snowfall
   - monitoring my septic tank annually and servicing it every 3-5 years
   - eliminating the use of manufactured fertilizers and pesticides completely

3. Creating Stopover Habitat Between Natural Areas (PAGES 14-16)

   I provide shelter, food and water for native wildlife communities by…

   SHELTER
   - re-creating the characteristics of nearby natural habitat on my property
   - building a brush pile
   - installing, maintaining and monitoring avian nesting boxes
   - leaving leaf litter and dried plants on the property over winter as mulch
   - adding and maintaining a beneficial insect hotel
   - maintaining or planting a layered arboretum
   - leaving dead and/or fallen trees to decay when safe

   FOOD
   - planting native flora species that are hosts for specialized butterflies and moths
   - reducing lawn cover vastly by replacing it with a garden area complete with native nectar plants
   - incorporating a variety of native vines, trees, and bushes that bear fruits
   - planting native flora species that provide a source of seeds and nuts, and letting them stand through the hard winter months
   - planting a variety of native food sources for wildlife

   WATER
   - building a fish-less pond that resembles natural ponds in the area
   - creating a vernal pond
   - managing storm water to create backyard aquatic habitat
   - incorporating a container pond
   - maintaining a variety of bird baths throughout the year, changing water every 5 days to avoid mosquito breeding
   - creating a puddling spot for butterflies

   ERADICATING INVASIVE SPECIES
   - buying only native flora species and no exotic species
   - researching the native range, benefits and disadvantages of each new flora species incorporated into my garden
   - removing invasive flora species
   - supporting native plant nurseries
   - keeping cats and exotic pets inside
   - keeping gutters clean and avoiding standing water so as not to support exotic mosquitoes

TALLY OF “YES” ANSWERS: