

The Maurice River Watershed



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.

Seining with local youths and family members



Collection of dragonfly larvae for national air quality study



Banding Purple Martins



South Jersey's Leading Watershed Organization

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Maurice River Watershed Stewards

Wildlife-Friendly Property Designation

APPLICATION FORM



South Jersey's Leading Watershed Organization

Eligibility

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

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 regeneration
- 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-Cohansey Aquifer 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
fixing faucet, pipe, and toilet leaks immediately	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
replacing older fixtures with low flow models.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
updating dish and clothes washers with eco-friendly models.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
reducing lawn cover by steadily increasing the use of native flora....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
harvesting water from downspouts in rain barrels and reusing it in the garden.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
taking household vehicle(s) to a car wash that recycles water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
teaching younger family members the importance of water conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
reforesting clear-cut areas with native shrub and tree species.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ceasing to water lawn space and other exotic flora	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
disposing of medicines at official drop-off points	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
identifying the types of contaminants potentially washing off my property.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
replacing hard, impermeable surfaces with porous ones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
extending downspouts into garden beds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
using landscape contours to keep storm water on the property....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
installing native plant rain garden(s) to promote infiltration vs. run-off.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
reforesting a clear-cut area with native shrubs and trees.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
restoring a stream/river bank to its natural condition by removing rubble or hardscaping and/or by planting a native buffer.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
maintaining the health of mature native trees and shrubs.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ending the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides (insecticides/herbicides) by replacing them with all-natural alternatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
composting and using the organic material to fertilize vs. applying engineered fertilizers.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
combating mosquitoes and harmful pests using integrated pest management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
refraining from using chemical de-icing products and salts after snowfall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
monitoring my septic tank annually and servicing it every 3-5 years.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
eliminating the use of manufactured fertilizers and pesticides completely.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Applicant's Name:

Property Address:

_____ City: _____

3. Creating Stopover Habitat

Between Natural Areas (PAGES 14-16)

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

SHELTER

	Yes	No
re-creating the characteristics of nearby natural habitat on my property.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
building a brush pile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
installing, maintaining and monitoring avian nesting boxes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
leaving leaf litter and dried plants on the property over winter as mulch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
adding and maintaining a beneficial insect hotel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
maintaining or planting a layered arboretum.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
leaving dead and/or fallen trees to decay when safe.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FOOD

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

WATER

building a fish-less pond that resembles natural ponds in the area...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
creating a vernal pond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
managing storm water to create backyard aquatic habitat.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
incorporating a container pond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
maintaining a variety of birdbaths throughout the year, changing water every 5 days to avoid mosquito breeding.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
creating a puddling spot for butterflies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ERADICATING INVASIVE SPECIES

buying only native flora species and no exotic species.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
researching the native range, benefits and disadvantages of each new flora species incorporated into my garden.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
removing invasive flora species.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
supporting native plant nurseries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
keeping cats and exotic pets inside.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
keeping gutters clean and avoiding standing water so as not to support exotic mosquitoes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TALLY OF "YES" ANSWERS: _____

Contact Information:

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____