

For Immediate Release
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Public Meeting to Discuss Progress in Restoring the Neshanic River

The Neshanic River Restoration Project Team is hosting an important public meeting to discuss a project to restore the Neshanic River Watershed on Wednesday evening, March 16, 2011, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the East Amwell Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202/31, in Ringoes. The project, "Developing a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Neshanic River Watershed" is being led by the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), under a Clean Water Act section 319(h) grant from the former Division of Watershed Management of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

The project area is the Neshanic River upstream of the Neshanic/Back Brook confluence and is a 31 square mile drainage basin of mixed land uses within Raritan River Basin. It includes the First, Second, and Third Neshanic Tributaries as well as a part of the Neshanic Main branch. It encompasses Flemington Borough and portions of Raritan Township, Delaware Township, and East Amwell Township.

The objective of the project is to develop a watershed restoration plan that will detail the management measures needed to

- Achieve the necessary reduction in fecal coliform,
- Attain water quality standards for total phosphorus and total suspended solids (TSS),
- Reduce the aquatic life impairments to a non-impaired level, and
- Outline the possibility of restoring the base flow of the Neshanic River in late summer.

The other project team members include the South Branch Watershed Association, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council, the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District, and the former Division of Watershed Management (now the Office of Policy Implementation and Watershed Restoration) of NJDEP. The project team has been working hard for the past three years collecting land use and stormwater infrastructure data, sampling water quality, assessing stream conditions, and identifying strategies to develop a restoration plan for the Neshanic Watershed.

At the evening public meeting on March 16th, the project team will summarize their work in the past three years, present their findings and discuss the actual watershed restoration plan. The public meeting offers an important opportunity to local stakeholders

such as residents, businesses, municipal officials, and environmental and any other organizations to be engaged in the watershed restoration planning process by offering their own observations, concerns, and ideas. The draft Neshanic Restoration Plan can be reviewed online at <http://ims.njit.edu/neshanic/index.html>, after March 2, 2011. The project team is looking forward to your participation.

For more information on the public meeting, please contact Bill Kibler, executive director of the South Branch Watershed Association at 908-782-0422, extension 11. For more information on the Neshanic River Watershed Restoration Project, please contact Dr. Zeyuan Qiu from New Jersey Institute of Technology at 973-596-5357.