

Environmental Commission Report of Activities for 2017

Testing of well water

We worked with Raritan Headwaters to provide well water testing for the township residents.

May 13, Saturday, handed out flyers at the municipal depot.

May 20, Saturday, sold kits at the municipal building.

May 22, Monday, kits were returned at the municipal building.

The turnout was excellent.

**THE ONLY SURE WAY
TO KNOW YOUR
DRINKING WATER
IS CLEAN:
TEST IT.**

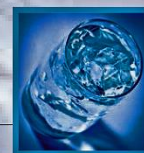


**Raritan
Headwaters**

Protecting water, and so much more.
www.raritanheadwaters.org

The Environmental Commission of West Amwell Township is providing access to this inexpensive well test program for Township residents.

This program provides an inexpensive and convenient method for residents to have their water analyzed for different water quality parameters. We will be working with Raritan Headwaters Association for this well-testing program. These tests are for private use only.



Here's how you can take advantage of this program.

Testing kits (including a container and easy-to-follow directions) will be available for sale (see chart below for pricing) on **Saturday, May 20 from 8:00 am until 12:30 pm at the Township municipal building**. Then participants will return the completed kit to the municipal building on the following **Monday, May 22 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am**. The kits will be picked up by Raritan Headwaters Association and taken immediately to Garden State Laboratories, a NJ certified lab. Your test results will be sent to you in about 14 days.

TEST	REASONS TO TEST	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Basic Kit (includes total Coliform and Fecal Confirmation) - \$60	Recommended by HC Health Dept. to test annually. Cloudy water. Recurrent gastrointestinal complaints from people drinking water.	Cracks in well casing, faulty seal or seepage near well. Septic system problems. Storm runoff
Nitrate - included in the Basic Kit	Cloudy water. Recurrent gastrointestinal complaints from people drinking water. High levels are harmful to infants and pregnant women.	Cracks in well casing, faulty seal or seepage near well. Septic system problems. Seepage from fertilized land.
Iron - \$15	Discoloration of laundry or plumbing fixtures, rust stains. Bitter or metallic taste.	Naturally occurring deposits. Industrial wastes.
Manganese - \$15	Discoloration of laundry or plumbing fixtures, rust stains. Bitter or metallic taste.	Naturally occurring deposits. Manufacturing and agricultural runoff.
Lead - \$25	Can cause physical or mental development problems in infants, children. Kidney problems or high blood pressure in adults. Harmful to children and pregnant women.	Corrosion of household pipes, fittings, solder. Soft water may be more corrosive.
Arsenic - \$35	Can cause increased risk of cancers, gastrointestinal ailments, diabetes and cardiovascular impacts.	Naturally occurring deposits. Wood preservative.
Volatile Organics (62 chemicals) - \$95	High levels can cause liver, nervous system disorders, irregular heartbeat, high blood pressure, anemia and cancer.	Underground storage tanks, gas stations, landfills, hazardous waste sites, and septic systems.
Pesticides (18 chemicals) - \$135	High levels can cause birth defects, cancer and damage to the nervous system.	Farm, golf course, residential runoff.
Radon - \$50	Exposure to radon in drinking water can lead to lung cancer. Can be ingested or inhaled as gases are released from the water into the air.	Naturally occurs, produced by the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. Can enter the home through well water.
Gross Alpha - \$80	Exposure to gross alpha emitters in drinking water can lead to lung cancer. Can be ingested, or inhaled as gases that are released from the water into the air.	Erosion of natural deposits of minerals that are radioactive, may emit alpha radiation, which can enter the home through well water.

Stormwater

Stormwater Subcommittee appointments - Cathy, Joan, Joel, and Rob as consultant.

Flyers were prepared for resident education and were included with the mailing of the tax bills.



**WHEN YOU'RE
WASHING YOUR CAR
IN THE DRIVEWAY,
REMEMBER YOU'RE
NOT JUST WASHING
YOUR CAR IN THE
DRIVEWAY...**

Pollutants end up flowing into storm drains, and directly into our streams and rivers. This polluted storm water also threatens the lives of the animals and birds that live in our area.



Why should you care about clean water?

Rain washes pollutants into storm drains and directly into our lakes, rivers and the ocean. So what can you do? Take your car to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.

Storm water pollution is one of the greatest threats to New Jersey's clean water supply. Clean water provides access to safe drinking water, places for recreation, commercial opportunities, healthy wildlife habitats and adds beauty to our landscape. Rain washes pollution from roads, parking lots and lawns into storm drains, then directly into our streams and rivers.

Did you know that more than 60% of water pollution comes from things such as motor oil, fertilizers, pet waste and detergents? By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of storm water. And out of our beautiful waterways.

Protecting our wildlife.

Many types of litter have been found in the stomachs of marine life, birds and other animals, because they thought it was food. Birds and marine life have also been found trapped or tangled in plastic bags, fishing line and other discarded items. Littering hurts everyone.

Stormwater Education for the Township Committee:

Presented to the Township Committee on 11/15. Joel and Cathy were present, with Joel doing a PowerPoint presentation. It was well received.

319h grant

The detention basin retrofit on the municipal property was redone in May. The original design had failed. EC had many conversations with Princeton Hydro to try to rectify the failure.

The detention basin/rain garden at the municipal property was then replanted with 700 plants, including Riverbank Wild Rye, Boneset, Rose mallow, Blue flag Iris, Soft Rush, Blue Vervain, Purple Coneflower, Oxeye Sunflower, Black-eyed Susan, and Little Bluestem. Cathy was there for the planting.

The vegetative swales were redone in the fall. They had been mowed by the DPW because of the thistle infestation.

The project for the Kiriluk erosion problem was finally approved by the NJDEP. The one year extension was also approved. We worked with the NJDEP and Princeton Hydro with permitting and design for the Kiriluk property.

Sustainable Jersey certification

The topics discussed in detail as per their submission were: Clustering Ordinance, Create Green Team (Resolution, members), Environmental Commission (Ordinance, annual reports, by-laws), Farmland Preservation Plan, Energy efficiency for municipal facilities, Innovative Community Project 2 (Well water testing), NRI, Pledge Supporting New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan, Recycling (Map, info, tonnage reports), Sustainable Land Use Pledge, Tree Protection Ordinance, Wind Ordinance, Non mandated recycling (brush, Christmas trees). WAT was certified by Sustainable Jersey for 2017.

Stream Corridor Ordinance amendment

Done for clarification, with no changes to the ordinance.

Emerald Ash Borer

Dave Clapp marked 50-60 ash trees at Hewitt Park, along the hedgerows and driveways which may pose a hazard to park users. Serious consideration was given to trees which might not be able to impact any residents and fall within the forested area. Fallen trees, if not a liability, contribute to the vibrant ecology of the forest/wooded areas. Mayor Dale said that the DPW would remove the marked trees over the next few years.

Information about the borer was posted on the website.

Tree Cutting ordinance

A resident of Barry Road, adjacent to the preserved Hunter property, asked that we consider a tree cutting ordinance. Members discussed this and eventually agreed that this was not appropriate for the Township. Members felt that cutting of trees which negatively affects neighboring properties should be dealt with in some fashion and will be researched in the future.