

# **Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association**



## **River-Friendly Resident Program**

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**DATE:**

**NAME (S):**

**ADDRESS:**

**PHONE:**

**FAX:**

**E-MAIL:**

**TOWNSHIP:**

**LOT SIZE (Acres)**

Are you a member? Yes No

## **Instructions**

Welcome to the River-Friendly Resident Certification Program. We are very pleased that you have decided to join this free stewardship program as a pledge to do your best in managing your yard. The program emphasizes taking simple steps in your daily activities to make a difference in the health of the Millstone River Watershed. There are four categories in the River-Friendly Certification Program: Water Quality Management, Water Conservation Techniques, Wildlife and Habitat Enhancement, and Education and Outreach.

**Step 1:** Fill out the following checklist. Simply put a check next to the projects that you have completed within the past year. You may refer to the River-Friendly Resident Manual, which explains many of these projects and their importance. Call us today to get your free manual.

**Step 2:** Count your checks at the bottom of each section. Then total up all your checks (completed projects) on the last page. Checks made for "not applicable" items are counted.

**Step 3:** Return your completed checklist. When you reach the target score, mail in your checklist to receive your River-Friendly Yard Sign. If you are having a difficult time reaching the target score, call us and we would be happy to provide you with guidance on completing more projects.

We would be happy to provide further direction or answer any of your questions.  
Please feel free to contact us at 609-737-3735.



## Water Quality Management

*Goal: Each of these projects helps you to maintain a healthy space while reducing nonpoint source (NPS) pollution leaving your property and entering the streams.*

Project Completed	<b>Water Quality Management River-Friendly Actions</b>
<b>Stormwater</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I direct my gutters away from pavement and onto the grass (or vegetated area).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I plant groundcovers (or other vegetation) or use mulch to cover exposed soil areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I minimize impervious (non porous) surfaces.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I pick up and dispose of my pet waste. <input type="checkbox"/> *Not Applicable, I do not have pets.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I keep storm drains free of debris. I keep excess fertilizer and debris off of driveway/sidewalks and out of storm drains.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I minimize my winter salt use, salt is not used at all, or alternatives are used.
<b>Lawn/Garden maintenance</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I take a Soil Test at least every 3-5 years (separate tests should be performed for areas maintained differently).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not use fertilizers, or slow release/organic fertilizers are used based on results from a soil test.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I use compost as a lawn/garden amendment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I leave grass clippings on the lawn.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I maintain a mowing height at 2-3 inches (or highest possible setting on my mower).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I regularly over-seed the lawn and if possible the lawn is aerated.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I minimize lawn areas (naturalized areas created or groundcovers used).
<b>Chemical usage</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I minimize my pesticide use, pesticides used are low toxicity or organic (pesticides include both herbicides and insecticides), or pesticides are not used at all.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I spot spray pesticides/chemicals (ex: only affected plants or lawn areas are treated instead of spraying the whole lawn) or use no pesticides.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I apply an integrated approach for controlling unwanted insects, weeds, animals, (pulling weeds, spraying pests off plants with water, using naturally occurring parasites and predators, using barrier fences).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I tolerate some pests (insects and weeds) in my lawn/garden.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I dispose of household chemicals properly.
<b>Water Bodies</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Not Applicable, I do not have a water body in my yard.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I maintain a no mow / no spray buffer zone along water body edges.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If access to water is needed, I have only one access point.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I fence livestock away from a water body. <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable, I do not have livestock.
<b>Septic System</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Not Applicable, I do not have a septic system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I know the tank and drain field locations of my septic system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have the system inspected and pumped routinely.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not use antibacterial products (soaps and cleaners).
<b>MY SCORE IN WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 609-737-3735</b>	

\* Each check made for a "not applicable" item is counted as one point towards your total.



## Water Conservation Techniques

*Goal: Each of these projects helps you reduce your water demand and minimize your outdoor water usage.*

Project Completed	<b>Water Conservation Techniques River-Friendly Actions</b>
	I place a maximum of 2-3 inches of mulch around trees, shrubs, and garden beds.
	I have installed rain barrels on building downspout(s).
	Rather than watering a little each day, I water my plants/lawn less often and for longer periods of time (to allow 1 inch applications); or I do not water.
	I water during early morning hours or do not water at all.
	I hand water or use drip irrigation rather than spraying sprinklers.
	I have spray/shut-off nozzles attached to watering hoses.
	I group my plants according to their water needs.
	<b>MY SCORE IN WATER CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES</b>
<b>If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 609-737-3735</b>	



## Wildlife and Habitat Enhancement

*Goal: Each of these projects helps you to preserve and/or enhance naturalized areas on your property.*

Projects Completed	<b>Wildlife and Habitat Enhancement River-Friendly Actions</b>
<b>Providing shelter</b>	
	I plant with native plants when creating new areas or replacing existing areas.
	I remove invasive plants where possible.
	I have a variety of herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees on my property.
	I have bird and/or bat houses installed.
	I leave dead trees and brush where possible.
<b>Providing water</b>	
	I have a pond(s) and/or bird bath(s) on the property.
<b>Providing food</b>	
	I have plants that provide a food source for wildlife.(the resident manual provides some examples)
	<b>MY SCORE IN WILDLIFE AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT</b>
<b>To receive a free copy of the River-Friendly Resident Manual, call us at 609-737-3735.</b>	



## Education and Outreach

Goal: Each of these projects helps you to communicate the achievements to the public, to increase individual awareness, and to be a role model as a land steward.

Projects Completed	Education and Outreach River-Friendly Actions
	I can identify 5 beneficial insects in my lawn/garden.
	I called the local Master Gardeners as a resource regarding one of my lawn/garden related questions.
	I gathered information from another source such as a garden center, magazines, or local cooperative extension to answer one of my lawn/garden related questions.
	I attended at least one educational class or hike on a landscape related topic.
	I communicated my efforts with neighbors, friends, relatives, or other local group.
	<b>MY SCORE IN EDUCATION AND OUTREACH</b>
<b>If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 609-737-3735</b>	

	<b>MY TOTAL SCORE (add up all of your checkmarks from the four sections)</b>
<b>25</b>	<b><i>Are you River-Friendly?</i></b> TARGET SCORE- to be recognized as River-Friendly Certified you must reach this score

**In your own words, what makes your yard River-Friendly?**

Please return this checklist to:

SBMWA

Attn: River-Friendly

31 Titus Mill Road

Pennington, NJ 08534

We love pictures! If you would like, please send us some photos of your River-Friendly Yard.

Digital photos can be e-mailed to [SBMWA@thewatershed.org](mailto:SBMWA@thewatershed.org)

Please provide in the subject line: River-Friendly Photos and (your name)

For Office Use Only

\_\_\_\_\_ Sign and manual mailed

\_\_\_\_\_ Follow up