



# River-Friendly School Preliminary Application

Would you like the electronic word document of this application? Please contact [river-friendly@thewatershed.org](mailto:river-friendly@thewatershed.org)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Levels: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Grounds and Maintenance Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Head Master: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary contact for River-Friendly Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Bronze Level

At the River-Friendly Bronze Level, teacher(s) will work with class(es) to complete one project in each of the 3 River-Friendly categories: water quality, water conservation, and wildlife habitat enhancement. In addition, one educational component must be completed for each of the three categories.

## Silver Level

The River-Friendly Silver Level builds upon the efforts of Bronze Level. At the Silver level, teachers and students will complete the bronze level projects. In addition, facilities and grounds managers will provide site-specific information about the school campus. Facilities personnel will complete at least six projects on the campus grounds. These projects will also be in the categories of water quality, water conservation, and wildlife habitat enhancement. Projects need to address chemical or water reductions, implementation of best management practices, or improvements to or creation of natural areas. At least one of implemented projects must be a cooperative effort between the teacher and grounds personnel.

## Gold Level

River-Friendly Gold Level is our highest level of certification and builds upon both the bronze and silver levels of certification. Teachers and students must complete the bronze level projects; facilities personnel must complete the silver level projects. In addition, the participating school must extend its efforts through appropriate administrative channels to engage an additional school in the River-Friendly Program. Your school will provide the Association with contact information of an additional school. You will also be required to conduct a site visit/tour at your school for the interested school to come and learn first hand about the program and your River-Friendly projects.

**Which level of certification will the school be working towards?**

- Bronze      Please fill out section 1
- Silver      Please fill out section 1 and 2
- Gold      Please fill out section 1 and 2 and 3

# Bronze Level - section 1 to be completed by teacher.

◆ How many teachers/ classes / students /grade levels will be working on River-Friendly projects?

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◆ Which time of the year are the students able to work on River-Friendly projects?

First Semester (fall)       Second Semester (spring)       summer

◆ Will maintenance workers be available during the summer for any necessary upkeep?

Yes       No       Not needed

◆ Does the school have any active environmental/nature clubs?

Yes       No

◆ Does the school have a student newsletter?

Yes       No

## **PROPOSED PROJECTS**

A project ideas list is provided in this packet for your reference. In addition, Association staff are available to meet with you to discuss ideas and provide you project resources. Are you interested in having Association staff tour your site to help you with project identification?  Yes       No

Please identify the projects that you will accomplish as a part of the River-Friendly Program:



Water Quality Management Project

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Water Quality Educational component

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Water Conservation Project

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Water Conservation Educational component

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Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project

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Wildlife Habitat Educational component

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**\*\*\*NOTE: please take "before" photos of project sites. This will help later with your documentation.**

## Silver Level - section 2 to be completed by facilities/grounds personnel

### CAMPUS DESCRIPTION

Please indicate the size (in acres) of the following:

Total Property Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Meadow Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Impervious Cover: \_\_\_\_\_

Forested Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Building Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Wetland Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Future Building Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Water bodies: \_\_\_\_\_

Mowed Lawn Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Detention Basins: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Fields: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any no mow areas on your campus?  Yes, approximate size in acres \_\_\_\_\_  No

Do you have planting beds, foundation plantings, or garden areas on the campus?  Yes  No

When adding plants, do you use native species?  Yes  No

What is the yearly maintenance cost for your grounds, excluding capital expenditures? \_\_\_\_\_

### WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Where does the **roof top** runoff flow? \_\_\_\_\_

Where does the **parking lot** runoff flow? \_\_\_\_\_

In general, does runoff flow directly into streams and ponds? If so, which stream? If not, where does the runoff flow?

\_\_\_\_\_

How would you classify the water quality of the streams and ponds on or near your campus? (Please circle).

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

Do you experience any water quality problems (e.g. algae blooms, pollution, geese, etc.)? If yes, have you been able to identify any of the potential sources or causes? Please explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT (cont.)**

Does your school implement the following? : (Please check appropriate box)

	Yes	No
Integrated Pest Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Routine soil samples	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of pesticides with low toxicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of slow-release fertilizers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of organic products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Compost on site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quality monitoring program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Is your lawn maintenance outsourced to a landscaper?  Yes  No
- Are your pesticide and fertilizer applications outsourced to a management company?  Yes  No
- Do you handle or store chemicals for grounds maintenance use on-site at the property?  Yes  No
- Does the school have a winter snow and ice maintenance plan?  Yes  No

## **WATER CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES**

Check the following:

	Yes	No
Does your school have an outdoor water conservation strategy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you collect rainwater for irrigation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you mulch tree, shrub, and garden beds on your campus?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you use leaves, grass, and tree clippings as natural mulch or fertilizer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How often is **grass/lawn** watered during the growing season? (Please circle)

Daily      3 times/week      Bi-weekly      Weekly      Other \_\_\_\_\_

How often are **the athletic fields** watered during the growing season? (Please circle)

Daily      3 times/week      Bi-weekly      Weekly      Other \_\_\_\_\_

How often are **garden(s)/planting beds** watered during the growing season? (Please circle)

Daily      3 times/week      Bi-weekly      Weekly      Other \_\_\_\_\_

What is your average water usage **outside** (please indicate units per day or per month)?

Peak usage during school year: \_\_\_\_\_ summer usage: \_\_\_\_\_

## **WILDLIFE AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT**

What successes and problems have you had in maintaining, protecting, or enhancing wetlands, naturalized areas, no-mow areas, no-spray areas, buffer zones etc. on the campus?

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What species of wildlife do you see or have evidence of on the campus on a regular basis? Do you do anything to protect or encourage these species?

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Please describe if and how your school controls non-migratory wildlife (deer, Canada geese, etc.).

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## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Have your students, teachers, or local community members ever encouraged you to implement environmentally friendly practices on the campus? Please include any specific examples.

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Have you ever experienced students, teachers, or local community members complaining about the environmental practices at your school? Please explain.

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## **PROPOSED PROJECTS**

Your requirement is to implement six River-Friendly projects. A project ideas list is provided in this packet for your reference. In addition, Association staff would be happy to tour your site and help you identify River-Friendly projects for your campus.

Are you interested in having Association staff tour your site to help you with project identification?  Yes  No

Please list six potential projects and identify which one(s) are collaborative efforts with the teacher/student projects

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*NOTE: please take "before" photos of project sites. This will help later with your documentation.**

# Gold Level - section 3

Must have administrative signature (principal, other appropriate administrative contact)

Please provide contact information for the additional school that you are recommending to the River-Friendly Program

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Levels: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Head Master: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Grounds and Maintenance Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this school in the same school district as your school?

Yes

No

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ (your school), I agree to host a meeting/site tour of our school to share River-Friendly project and program experiences, successes, and lessons learned to encourage an additional school to join the River-Friendly School Program.

I anticipate hosting this meeting in \_\_\_\_\_ (month) of \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

Administrative signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete this application and mail to:**

**SBMWA**

**Attn: River-Friendly**

**31 Titus Mill Road**

**Pennington, NJ 08534**

**Or email your completed application to: [river-friendly@thewatershed.org](mailto:river-friendly@thewatershed.org)**