



# Make Every Day Earth Day!

CELEBRATE TODAY - TOGETHER WE'LL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*A Message From Executive Director Jim Waltman*

Today millions of Americans are celebrating Earth Day and recognizing the integral part our environment plays in each of our lives.

For us - and our members and supporters like you - **every day is Earth Day!** Protecting our water and environment is more than just a mission statement - it's about making sure we all have clean water to drink, clean air to breathe and healthy soil in which to grow our food.

As evidenced by the more than 10,500 pounds of trash, litter and debris we and 362 volunteers just hauled away from local lakes, streams, rivers and parks during our [5th Annual Stream Cleanups](#), "people pollution" is still a big problem in our region. And according to our own scientific findings, as presented in our "[State of the Watershed Report](#)," this pollution is having a negative impact on the health of our water. To make sure we have enough clean water for future generations we each need to do our part.



Working together we can make a difference. **Make Earth Day the start to new habits for clean water and the environment:**

- **Become a [River-Friendly Resident](#)** & encourage your school or business to join too!
- **Recycle** and **secure your trash** to keep it out of our streams.
- **Test your soil** before spreading that spring fertilizer and **choose phosphate-free products**.
- **Pump your septic system** regularly (every 3 years) to prevent leaks and pollution.

Of course it wouldn't be fair for you to go it alone. **We're doing our part too!**

- We'll soon be **conserving 70 acres of forest, wetlands and meadow** to join the two halves of our 860-acre Watershed Reserve, where we continually model responsible land stewardship practices for the community to emulate.
- We're hard at work in towns across the region and in Trenton **fighting harmful proposals like the "[Waiver Rule](#)"** to make sure we have strong environmental protections and that everyone is being held accountable for their environmental responsibilities.
- We are **studying ways to restore ailing river habitats**, including the potential of removing two dams along the Millstone River to bring migratory fish like the American shad back to our watershed.
- And we're **inspiring an appreciation of our water and environment** with new interactive programs like our upcoming [Back to the River Canoe Trip](#) on May 21.

**This Earth Day I hope you [join us](#) in appreciating the wonders and magic of the natural world and treasure our water and environment.** We look forward to a day when celebrating Earth Day means all our work is done, but until then it's up to us - working together - to control pollution, conserve wildlife, and ensure future generations have plenty of clean water to enjoy.

Happy Earth Day!

Jim Waltman  
Executive Director

Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association  
[Your water. Your environment. Your voice.](#)

**Links:**

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Stream Cleanups: <http://www.thewatershed.org/advocacy/stream-clean-ups/>

State of the Watershed Report: <http://www.thewatershed.org/resource-center/reports-and-materials/>

River-Friendly Resident: <http://www.thewatershed.org/conservation/river-friendly/>

Waiver Rule: [http://www.thewatershed.org/pdf/JCWaiverRuleOpinion\\_4-13-11.pdf](http://www.thewatershed.org/pdf/JCWaiverRuleOpinion_4-13-11.pdf)

Back to the River Canoe Trip: <http://www.thewatershed.org/news-and-events/>

Join us: <https://www.thewatershed.org/contact-us/join-us/>