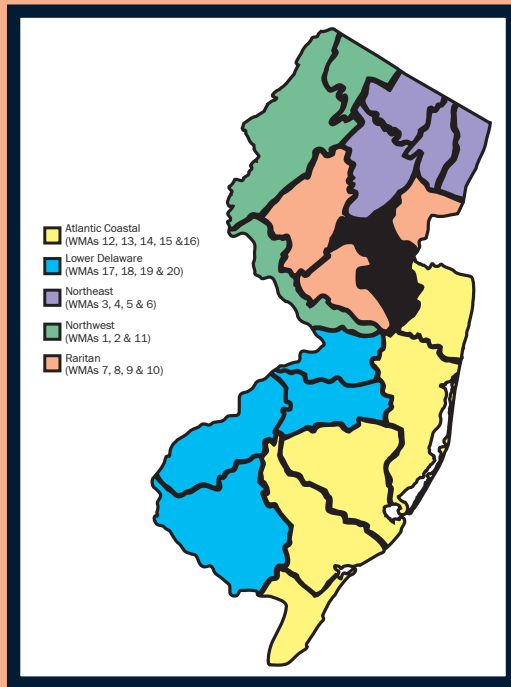




# Watershed Management Area 9

## Lower Raritan, South River, Lawrence



Watershed Management Area 9 (WMA 9) includes the mainstem of the Raritan River, the South River and Lawrence Brook. Middlesex, Somerset and Monmouth Counties comprise most of the area's political geography.

The Raritan River Basin is the largest river basin situated entirely within our state. The land use in this watershed is mainly urban/suburban, with industrial and commercial centers throughout.

The mainstem of the Raritan River spans from the confluence of the North and South Branches to the Raritan Bay. For the most part, this drainage area is densely populated. There are two low dams in this river, Fieldsville Dam and Calco Dam. Among the many small recreational lakes and ponds in this area are Watchung Lake, Surprise Lake, Spring Lake and Green Brook Pond (all manmade).

The South River begins at Duhernal Lake in Spotswood and flows to the Raritan River at Sayreville. It is formed by the confluence of the Manalapan and Matchaponix Brooks. Other tributaries include Deep River and Tennants Brook and major impoundments are Matchaponix Brook and South River. Land use in the upper part of this area, the Manalapan and Matchaponix Brooks watersheds, is predominantly agriculture and forests. New industrial and residential development is becoming incorporated into these areas and there is existing, older development in the South River subwatershed.

Construction activities and severe stream bank modification have contributed to silt loads and local flooding. There is increasing amounts of runoff from urban surfaces, roads and storm sewers. These conditions have had an impact on the reduction and quality of fish habitat.

### WMA 9 Partnerships:

- ▶ Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership
- ▶ Lower Raritan-Middlesex County Water Resources Association
- ▶ Raritan Basin Agricultural Committee
- ▶ Raritan Basin Education and Outreach Committee
- ▶ Raritan Basin Public Advisory Committee
- ▶ Raritan Basin Stormwater Management Plan Committee
- ▶ Raritan Basin Technical Advisory Committee
- ▶ Raritan Basin Watershed Alliance Steering Committee



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
 Division of Watershed Management  
 Bureau of Watershed Planning

# Watershed Management Area 9

## Lower Raritan, South River, Lawrence

This factsheet is a snapshot of the workplan for Watershed Management Area 9.

**Watershed Plans** are regional/areawide in scope (i.e. not a study of one location); detail specific projects or management measures to be implemented to achieve the goals of the plan; and set forth a prioritization of the projects or measures identified in the plan. The Department has identified a **Priority Segment for Restoration** in each watershed management area. Funding was provided to conduct a basic characterization and assessment of the segment and to identify restoration projects to address a specific parameter of concern (i.e. fecal coliform). Since 2003, the Department has prepared and adopted hundreds of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) documents to address the impaired waters of the state. **TMDL Implementation Priorities** represent the Bureau of Watershed Planning's focus for implementing the adopted TMDLs. **Active Grant Projects** represent current projects with which the Bureau of Watershed Planning is actively involved. Many of these projects are funded through the Federal 319(h) Nonpoint Source Program.

### Watershed Plans:

- ▶ Delaware and Raritan Canal from New Brunswick to South Bound Brook (approved plan)
- ▶ Cedar Grove (Al's) Brook Watershed (under development)

### Priority Segment for Restoration:

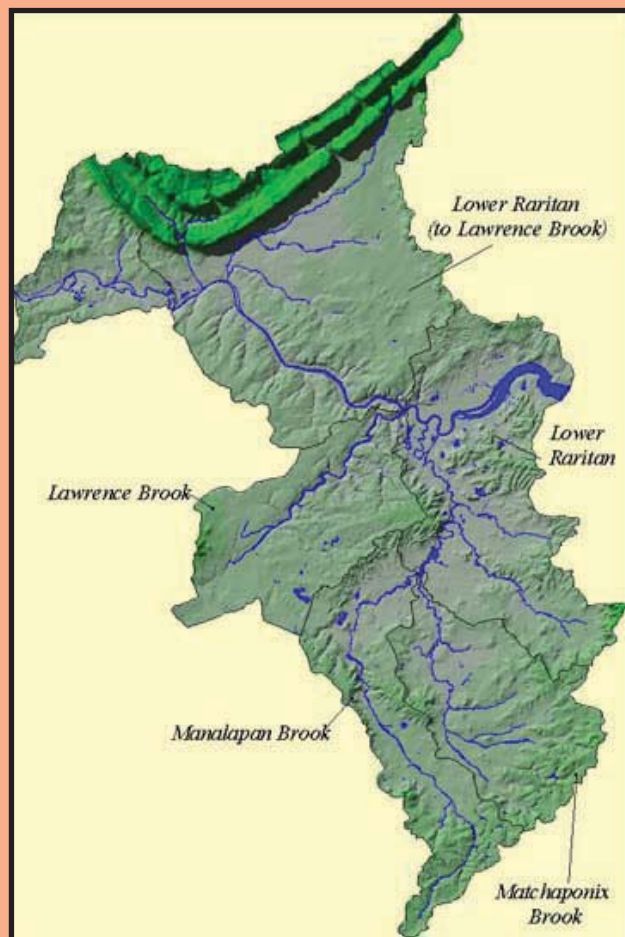
- ▶ Manalapan Brook from headwaters to Manalapan Lake

### TMDL Implementation Priorities:

- ▶ Manalapan Lake Eutrophication
- ▶ Middle Brook West Branch at Chimney Rock Road at Martinsville  
Fecal Coliform

### Active Grant Projects:

- ▶ Delaware and Raritan Canal Tributary Assessment and Nonpoint Source Management Program
  - New Jersey Water Supply Authority
- ▶ Stream Bank Stabilization and Riparian Buffer Restoration of Cedar Brook, City of Plainfield, Union County
  - Rahway River Association
- ▶ Stormwater Management Plan for the Cedar Grove Brook Watershed
  - New Jersey Water Supply Authority
- ▶ EPA Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant for the Raritan Basin
  - Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, New Jersey Water Supply Authority and the South Branch Watershed Association
- ▶ Watershed Management for the Raritan River Basin: Phase 2 Management Plan Development and Interim Protection/Restoration Projects
  - New Jersey Water Supply Authority



For more information on Watershed Management Area 9, contact Beth Torpey, WMA 9 Area Manager at (609) 633-1471 or email [Beth.Torpey@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Beth.Torpey@dep.state.nj.us).

Or visit the project's website at [www.raritanbasin.org](http://www.raritanbasin.org)

For more information on New Jersey's 20 Watershed Management Areas visit [www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt](http://www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt)