

## WHIPPANY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION COMMITTEE

The **Whippany River Watershed Action Committee** (WRWAC) is a member-based, non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization that identifies and implements projects to preserve, protect, and maintain water resources and the surrounding natural areas. The Whippany River Watershed is an area of 69.3 square miles within Morris County in north central New Jersey. The 16-mile long Whippany River serves the only significant unconsolidated aquifer (the Buried Valley Aquifer system) in northern New Jersey and is a source of drinking water for more than one million people.



With support from member municipalities, the Morris County Freeholders, individuals, civic and business partners, and conservation groups, the committee is involved with watershed management. The WRWAC works with member volunteers on goose damage management, river clean-ups, lake shore and river plantings, retention and detention basins, and water samplings. The WRWAC has completed projects to improve the quality of the watershed such as pollution control and management, pond restoration, stormwater runoff, river assessment, and sanitary water surveys.

The WRWAC began as the Mayors Action Committee in 1998. Eventually, it evolved into the current 501(c) 3 non-profit WRWAC. Over the years, the WRWAC has received millions of dollars in grants and partnered with entities such as the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Rutgers University, Bayer USA Foundation, Pfizer, and Victoria Foundation. According to Art Vespignani, the WRWAC's facilitator, "The WRWAC's mission is to preserve, protect and maintain the land and water of the Whippany River Watershed." The WRWAC consists of an Action Committee, Executive Committee, Program Subcommittee, Outreach Subcommittee, and Membership Subcommittee.

The State of New Jersey assigned responsibility for implementing the Whippany River Watershed Management Plan to the WRWAC's Action Committee in 2000. Just one year later, the EPA bestowed the Environmental Quality Award on the WRWAC. Then, in 2002, the NJDEP issued its Environmental Excellence Award to the WRWAC. The WRWAC received another NJDEP Environmental Excellence Award in November 2013, which it received in the Water Resources Category for implementation of clean water best management practices funded by a 319(h) grant. On September 3, 2014, the WRWAC celebrated its 15th anniversary.

### Whippany River Documentary

In May 2014, it was announced that the WRWAC, in conjunction with Hanover Township and sponsor Bayer USA Foundation, hired Oscar-nominated producer-director Glenn Silber to create a documentary on the Whippany River. According to Silber, the documentary presents an "opportunity to raise awareness about saving water and tell a positive story about community involvement."

The 32-minute documentary, entitled "River's Journey," focuses on the river's clean-up over the years through the collaborative efforts of government, business, volunteer organizations, schools and the community at large. It incorporates stories of the river told by longtime residents and illustrates current-day efforts to maintain and preserve the river.

The WRWAC hopes the film will serve as a model to achieve sustainability for rivers everywhere and will use the documentary in schools to spread awareness of environmental preservation.

Please visit our website at [www.wrwap.org](http://www.wrwap.org).

## The Whippany River Watershed Needs Your Help

The Whippany River Watershed Action Committee, a non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization, is recognized by the NJDEP as the watershed association whose purpose is to safeguard and improve the ecological health and sustainability of the watershed, which is a source of drinking water for more than 1 million people. Please help our grass roots organization continue with our mission; it can be done with your support! Your **tax-deductible** donation will be clearly noted in our annual publication.



\$500 \_\_ **Become a Sign Sponsor**, first year. Subsequent years \$100 per year. Name on a roadside watershed sign in a noticeable location. Your name will also be listed on our website ([www.wrwap.org](http://www.wrwap.org)) and in our annual publication as a member of the Whippany River Watershed Management Group which represents community, volunteer, business and other stakeholder groups within the watershed.

\$150 \_\_ **Sign Sponsor for Non-Profits**. Sponsor a sign in an area of your choice. Your organization's name will be listed on our website and in our annual publication as noted above.

\$100 \_\_ **Contribute to our committed project fund**. Your donation will be spent on earmarked projects that the WRWAC performs throughout the year, and will not be spent on administrative costs.

\$50 \_\_ **Stakeholder**. Show that you care about preserving and protecting the land and water resources of the watershed.

\$25 \_\_ **Steward**. Continue the progress!

Please make your check payable to "WRWAC, Inc." and mail to PO Box 223, Morristown, NJ 07963-0223.

Thank you for your support.

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I would like to donate to the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of:

\$500 Sign Sponsor  \$150 Nonprofit Sign Sponsor  \$100 Project contribution

\$50 Stakeholder  \$25 Steward  Other

Yes, I would like a DVD of "River's Journey"

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Whippany River Watershed Action Committee is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is registered with the State of New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs as a charitable organization. The WRWAC is organized for the purpose of preserving, protecting, and maintaining the land and water resources of the Whippany River Watershed. Please visit our website at [www.wrwap.org](http://www.wrwap.org).*