



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

[Restore A Waterway: A Technical Service Provider Initiative for New Jersey](#)

The Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension (RCRE) Water Resources Program is pleased to announce its new technical service provider program Restore-a-Waterway. The program is jointly funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES), New Jersey Sea Grant and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. The goal of the program is to provide technical assistance to citizen groups wanting to take action in restoring the quality of a waterway. Citizen groups play an important role in the overall effort to improve New Jersey's water resources. The passion of citizens, which develops from their personal connection with their local environment, is what often drives the momentum towards improving waterways. However, some groups require assistance to bridge the gap between their current resources and those required to achieve a particular goal. Restore-a-Waterway can provide this assistance in a variety of ways depending upon the needs of a particular group, including:

- physical waterway characterizations,
- the development and implementation of quality assured and quality controlled chemical and biological monitoring plans,
- interpretation and analysis of data,
- identifying problems and sources of those problems within a watershed,
- designing solutions to mitigate the identified problems,
- securing funds to implement the designed solutions,
- implementing the solutions.

In addition to offering workshops to help educate citizen groups on these technical issues, Restore-a-Waterway will focus on working directly with groups to address their specific needs. The program recognizes that some citizen action groups may need all of these services while others may only need some of them. Many watershed groups within New Jersey have been conducting successful water monitoring programs for years. On the other hand, some might not be monitoring in a way that is useful for regulatory agencies, which is an important step towards actualizing solutions. The development of a quality assurance/quality control plan will result in accurate data that can be effectively used by regulatory decision makers. The implementation of solutions after monitoring and analysis is an important focus of this program. This often becomes the biggest challenge for citizen action groups, despite its significance to an improved environment. The RCRE Water Resources Program has been providing technical assistance to several citizen action groups over the past three years: The Pompeston Creek Watershed Association, the Moorestown Environmental Advisory, the Salem River Task Force and the Rainbow Lakes Association. The hiring of new staff has made it possible to expand this effort by creating the Restore-a-Waterway program. The poster will highlight the success of these partnerships and will highlight several new relationships that have been developed over the last several months.

Author: Gregory Rusciano
University Affiliation: Rutgers University
Co-Author(s): Christopher C. Obropta