

Natural Resource Trustees Restore Over 100 Acres of Forested Floodplains and Wetlands Along the Raritan River

This project provides compensation for potential injuries to wetland and floodplain habitats at the American Cyanamid Superfund site on the Raritan River in Bridgewater Township, NJ

Purpose of Restoration

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection resolved claims against a potentially responsible party for alleged injuries to natural resources through settlement agreements - one for groundwater, another for the Raritan River, and this third and final agreement for wetlands and floodplains.

- The 575-acre American Cyanamid property was used for chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturing and coal tar distillation for over 90 years
- Untreated liquid hazardous waste was discharged into the Raritan River and contaminated soil and groundwater
- The site was placed on the National Priorities List in 1983; the facility was closed in 1999

Goals of Restoration

- Forested floodplains and ephemeral pools to provide foraging opportunities, young-rearing habitat, and travel corridors for mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and migratory birds
- Native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees will provide larval and nectar-rich food sources for insects and pollinators
- Improved flood storage and detention



Spotted salamander. Photo credit: Paul Eidman

Restoration Benefits

112 acres of wetlands, floodplain forest, and shrubland

3 acres of ephemeral pools for amphibian breeding

Millions of gallons of potential flood storage capacity



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