

## “A Conversation with Greenable Woodbridge”... Our Watershed

Last month we talked about the importance of conserving water. One of the key reasons we mentioned for conserving water, even though we have an abundance of water in Woodbridge Township, was to prevent pollution in the watershed. That pollution prevention is going to be our focus for this month.

This week, we'll go over exactly what our watershed is, and why it's important. Watersheds represent the land area on which all water drains to a common body of water. These areas are determined by the shape of the land, hills and slopes funneling all water down to a single drainage point. For a fun activity, look at a topographical map of your community and trace out your local watershed by following the contour lines. This will help you visualize the shape of your land and understand your watershed. You can find and download free topo maps from the US Geological Survey [here](#) and for tips on reading a topo map, look [here](#).

Our watershed is part of the Arthur Kill Watershed Management Area, which covers large portions of Essex, Union, and Middlesex Counties. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection describes this watershed management area with the following: “The mainstem of the Rahway River is 24 miles long, flowing from Union into the Arthur Kill near Linden and is tidal from the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge at Rahway down to the mouth. Major tributaries include the East Branch Rahway River, Woodbrige River and Robinson's Branch and major impoundments are the Middlesex Reservoir, Orange Reservoir, Lower and Upper Echo Lakes and Diamond Mill Pond.”

All of those waterways are interconnected, and it is our responsibility as a community to keep the areas we impact clean. Next week we will discuss how urban development and stormwater impact the watershed. Until then, take a few minutes to watch this video that demonstrates visually exactly what a watershed is.