

**Key Accomplishments - Great Swamp Watershed Association**  
**Updated January, 2018**

- Annual budget of \$820,000, and an endowment of \$1,100,000.
- Grew organizational membership to over 1,700 people representing almost 200 municipalities in New Jersey.
- GSWA newsletter, “Across the Watershed”, distributed twice a year by mail to more than 1,600 households, and e-mailed monthly to over 2,500 people.
- Our 2017 Gala celebration was attended by a record 400+ guests and grossed over \$210,000, also a record.
- Actively preserved more than 500 acres of undeveloped land in partnership with local, state, and federal organizations, including recent preservations in Morris Township (Delbarton), Harding (Primrose Farms), and Chatham (Giralda Farms).
- Assumed responsibilities for macroinvertebrate sampling and report of the Great Swamp Watershed formerly conducted by the Ten Towns Committee.
- Continually train volunteers in techniques of visual water quality monitoring through our Stream Team and Visual Assessment Training programs. We currently have thirty-five (35) active stream volunteers.
- Maintain Quality Assurance Programs (QAP) covering all non-school based stream monitoring activities. An approved QAP allows our collected data to be accepted and used by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.
- Foster environmental awareness and promote environmental education for approximately 3,000 school children each year.
- Provide more than a thousand adults each year with environmental knowledge and awareness through our Breakfast Briefing series of presentations, and more than fifty (50) public education events.
- Maintain a corporate volunteer program that engages 200 volunteers and results in 1,500 work hours annually for maintenance, preservation, and restoration of our Conservation Management Area.
- Determined sodium chloride (road salt) as a principle pollutant of local streams. Created awareness seminars and other resources on this issue for residents, businesses and local government.
- In 2016, we completed our Adopt-A-Stream program which rigorously monitored aspects of the five (5) main streams of the Great Swamp Watershed to identify pollutants, sources of contamination and areas that can benefit from restoration activities by trained volunteers. The data collected formed part of the basis of our first Watershed Report Card in 2016, and we continue to do chemical, biological, and bacterial testing, as well as visual assessments on these watershed streams.

- Created the State of the Streams Report (SSR) which analyzed over a decade of past water quality data across the chemical and biological monitoring spectrum for all streams. It yielded important information about pollution trends and confirms our hypothesis regarding environmental concerns. Complete a Watershed Report Card annually as a follow-up to the (SSR). The latest Report Card (for calendar year 2016) was publicly disseminated for the first time at a downstream event held at the Public Library in Summit, NJ on November 07, 2017.
- Directed a \$600,000 project at Loantaka Reservation in Morris County, NJ for clean-up and remediation of e-coli contamination and storm water management at the nearby Seaton Hackney Stables. \$300,000 from a DEP 319h grant and balance leveraged from PSE&G remediation.
- Extended our School Water Monitoring on the Passaic program (SWaMP) at two high schools for post AP science projects. A local university developed an environmental science degree program as a result of their involvement in SWaMP. In 2017, we had over forty (40) SWaMP monitoring dates with a total of fourteen (14) schools.
- Established an e-coli monitoring program at several sites in the Great Swamp Watershed that resulted in several important findings that led to remedial action being taken by local municipalities at Silver Brook, and Loantaka Reservation.  
In 2017, two new e-coli monitoring sites were added downstream on the Passaic.
- Advocated in favor of a proposed development in Long Hill Township that would reduce impervious coverage, clean up contamination and install storm water management.
- Advocated against expansion of a development in a Long Hill conservation zone that would increase impervious cover from the allowed 15% to more than 40%.
- From a generous grant received in 2015, we purchased a new 3D topographical watershed model, which greatly enhances our presentations by showing source to sea features of the greater Passaic River region and enables students and adults to learn more about where their water comes from and where it goes.
- In March, 2016, we organized the first Passaic River Stakeholders' meeting. Environmental consultant Carla Lee Lewis led a diverse group of environmental specialists and other stakeholders through an agenda that covered: identifying most pressing threats to the Passaic; how organizations are currently addressing threats and identifying opportunities relative to the threats and current activities.
- In spring of 2016, held several facilitated strategic planning meetings with the Board of Trustees. Result was a new five year strategic plan, and a mission and vision that will, as resources allow, expand both the scope and geographical reach of the organization's major programs and activities.

- As part of the initial phase of our program expansion, we conducted watershed model presentations in Newark and Paterson schools (St. Michaels, Panther Academy and the S.T.E.M. High School at the JFK Academic Center.) We also presented our SWaMP program (School Water Monitoring on the Passaic) at both of the Paterson schools. Through our close relationship with PSEG and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ, we proudly participated in educational programs at each of their headquarters in Newark.
- In July, 2016, we jointly hosted an event with the Coalition Against the Pilgrim Pipeline that raised over \$10,000 for an independent, objective environmental study of the proposed pipeline's impact on NJ waters and land. No official application has been submitted for the pipeline, but it is purported to travel through more than 30 towns in five counties, crossing the Passaic River at three locations. We continue to follow all developments with this group, and others, on the Pilgrim Pipeline proposal.
- In July, 2016, we applied to Waterkeeper Alliance to become the Passaic River Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate. Appointment as the affiliate was confirmed on July 25, 2016. This new role will facilitate our plans to strategically expand programs and activities to communities downstream on the Passaic River.
- In 2017, we added four (4) water monitoring sites on the main stem of the upper Passaic River between Millington and Summit, NJ. These sites, our first outside of the Great Swamp Watershed, brought the total number being regularly monitored with visual assessments and chemical testing to fifteen (15).
- In August, 2017, after an intensive two year application process we formally secured status as an Accredited Land Trust from the Land Trust Alliance. We are one, of only eight accredited land trusts in New Jersey. Our main objective in seeking accreditation was to enhance the credibility of our organization by being committed to the highest ethical and operational standards and practices.
- In November, 2017 we completed the acquisition of twenty acres of open space that increased the size of our Conservation Management Area (CMA) in Harding, NJ to seventy-three (73) contiguous acres. The CMA has been established in recent years as our "living laboratory" and outdoor classroom for our environmental education programs, as well as an area of improved habitat for wildlife and increased flood storage.