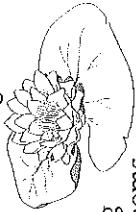


many sources which can come from different areas. An example are lawn fertilizers and pesticides (including herbicides), which can be washed away from the applied area by a sudden storm and be deposited into a Conservation Easement by the onrush of storm waters.

Too much fertilizer in a water course can cause excessive algae growth. Ever notice the green slim which grows on the surface of stagnant ponds? This is an algae bloom. The bloom will stop light from entering the pond and thus kills bottom growing water plants. When algae blooms die, their decomposition uses up oxygen in the water. The lack of oxygen will suffocate aquatic organisms within the pond, like fish, tadpoles and insects.



Too often we use pesticides when they are not really needed and in greater amounts than recommended. Are pesticides really necessary? The following are a few alternative solutions you may want to try.

- To repel mosquitoes, plant sweet basil and to repel ants spread cream of tartar, red chili powder, or boric acid. Cockroaches and silverfish require a mixture of equal amounts baking soda and powdered sugar.
- Safer's Insecticidal Soap can be used against aphids, Hemlock Woolly Adelgids, mealybugs, rose slugs, scales, etc.
- Other non harmful pesticide controls are Safer's Natural Caterpillar Killer, Dispel 2x, or Javelin Liquid B.T.
- Milky Spore is a natural bacteria that will not only kill the grub phase of Japanese Beetles but will remain in the soil for a few years.
- Safer's Sunspray (or dormant oil sprays) can be used against red spiders, mites, mealybugs and whitefly larvae.
- Here is a homemade spray that is quite useful. In a blender liquefy 3 large onions, 1 whole garlic, and 2 tablespoons of hot red pepper in one quart of water. Then stir in 1 tablespoon of soap.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS - MARKERS AND INSPECTIONS

- Markers will eventually be applied to all Conservation Easements. The marker is a small sign approximately 3"x3" and will be attached to existing trees or posts.
- At this time inspection of Conservation Easements is not undertaken but a plan will be implemented in the near future. Check with the Washington Township Environmental Commission or the Washington Township Land Trust for a status report.

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Cover photograph by William Leavens

Washington Township Environmental Commission
P.O. Box 216
Municipal Offices
Morris County
Long Valley, NJ 07853

Conservation Easements in Washington Township

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The Washington Township
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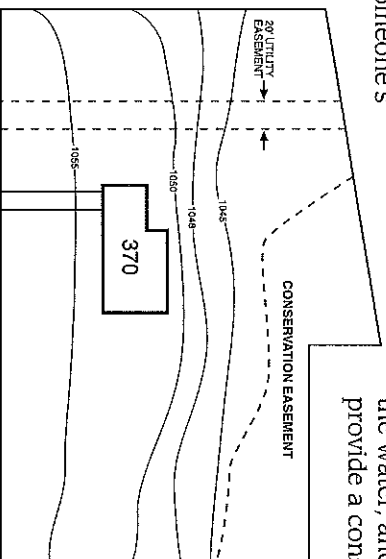
Washington Township Land Trust

The Washington Township Conservation Easement Program

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS - HABITAT PROTECTION

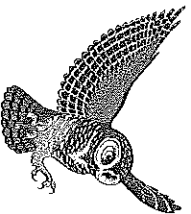
There are different types of easements allowed within Washington Township. Easements are a means for accessing someone's property for purposes such as a public

utility pipeline, township storm sewer or a driveway for a land locked neighbor. Another type of easement is for conservation which protects the habitats of plants and animals.



A habitat is the natural home of

a plant or animal and provides the needs for survival. Some plants and animals can adapt to changes in their habitat but for many, change means certain death.



Once their habitat disappears they may not find food that only grew or existed under the conditions created by the habitat. Also shelter or the necessary elements needed to reproduce and raise young can disappear and thus prevent their completing the life cycle.

Washington Township is made up of many diverse habitats which include:

- steep slopes
- grasslands
- wetlands
- limestone springs
- dense woods
- stream corridors

Each of these habitats is unique and thus creates the setting for unique inhabitants. Also, the interaction of all these habitats contributes to

the watershed and creates a situation which enables other animals to exist.

One example is the wild trout fishery which exists in many of our waters. Trout are sensitive to high water temperatures and will perish once the water temperatures reach the mid 70 degree range. Our streams are tree lined, which shades the water, and fed by limestone springs which provide a constant source of cold water. Both of these factors enable trout

to survive in our streams while in other parts of New Jersey the fish has disappeared.

Our quality stream conditions also promote the growth of aquatic insects like Mayflies, Caddisflies and Stoneflies.

All are an important source of food for fish, birds, and mammals. These animals in-turn become a food source for other animals like Kingfishers, Herons, Osprey, Hawks, Owls, Falcons, and numerous mammals, including Man.



Mayfly

Protection of these areas through the use of Conservation Easements will help shoulder the load of protection where existing environmental laws fall short. The continued urban expansion in our area requires this action.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS - CONTIGUOUS SPACE

Part of the Master Plan for Washington Township addresses the contiguous space issue. The township's goals are to create greenbelts or continuous natural areas which will allow protection of species on a broader scale than is possible with existing conservation laws. Linking Conservation Easements together or with other areas, like wetlands or steep slopes, can help create contiguous spaces.

The advantage of these areas:

- Species protection (a Wood turtle will roam more than 1 mile within its habitat).
- Protection of sizeable hardwood stands like oak, maple, ash or beech trees which help fight air pollution.
- Protection of nesting sites for specific birds.
- Aesthetic aspects of wooded areas
- Natural sound barriers

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS - LOCATION

If you have a Conservation Easement, it should appear on your plot plan and in your deed. If you do not have your plot plan, you can check the town's master lot and block plan at the Municipal Building. The easement will appear as a dotted line and is marked as "Conservation Easement". Not all lots have Conservation Easements.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS - HOMEOWNER PROTECTION ISSUES

Conservation Easements are meant to protect the natural beauty of our community. There are some guidelines to follow if you have an easement.

- Restrict landscaping, altering or cutting of vegetation except for minimal maintenance (The Environmental Commission would be glad to review your maintenance plan).
- Filling of easements is restricted.
- Structures, temporary or permanent, are not allowed. (example: fences, pools, or sheds).
- Restrict activities which can damage the fauna and flora.
- Do not use pesticides or herbicides within the conservation area and consider limiting their uses on other parts of the property.
- No dumping of toxic liquids, such as motor oil, or antifreeze used for automobile maintenance.

Be aware of non-point source pollution. Non-point source is as its name implies, you can not pinpoint the single source of contamination but