

Delaware River Basin

Delaware River Watershed Initiative

Watershed Location:

Delaware River Basin, located in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware

Watershed Size:

8,664,960 acres

Start-End Dates:

- Planning: Not Provided
- Implementation: 2014-Present
- Monitoring: 2014-Present

Project Highlights:

The Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI) is a large-scale, collaborative program that is taking action to maintain and improve the quality of aquatic ecosystems within the Delaware River Basin. Of the 8,664,960 acres that make up the Delaware River Basin, wetlands cover approximately 700,000 of those acres. The initiative's components include on-the-ground restoration projects, strategically targeted land protection, public outreach regarding water quality issues, coordination of professional and citizen-based monitoring groups, and sharing data and ideas to measure the changes in aquatic communities over time as a result of these efforts. The Initiative aligns with over 50 organizations to scale up their impact and accelerate the protection of important landscapes, restoration of degraded areas, and adoption of green infrastructure and responsible farming practices. It focuses on 8 targeted areas. Ongoing monitoring occurs at more than 300 locations across the basin.

Techniques Used: Collaborative and shared learning, land protection, stormwater restoration, agricultural restoration, community engagement, and floodplain restoration.

Expected Benefits: Improved water quality; drinking water protection; green, livable communities (including pollution reduction, increased property values and reduced flooding and erosion); and river friendly-farms (farmers making smart choices to reduce fertilizer and pesticide pollution, keep fertile soil on the land, and shade and clean nearby streams).

Lessons Learned: Unavailable

