

Hi All:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Pequannock RiverWatch (PRW), a newly created subcommittee of the Passaic River Coalition (PRC).

As you know, tributaries that run through the Highlands are among the State's most important water resources. Indeed, while many nonlocal residents may recognize them as the source of much of the State's drinking water, for those of us who live here, these waterways are at the heart of our cherished natural environment.

These streams, brooks and rivers need our protection—more now than ever. They deserve our vigilance. The Pequannock RiverWatch is assembling a group of people to meet this challenge. As people who live, work and play along the Pequannock and its tributaries, we need to keep track of our communities' governing boards, planning boards, and environmental commissions. We have to remain engaged; the PRW welcomes everyone's ideas and efforts as we move ahead.

While we do not expect or ask you to demonstrate or make official statements on behalf of the PRC or the PRW, we do need you to secure the facts about any situation you deem important so that together we can assess our ability to help and act.

What we need is simple: observers who are willing to keep watch over their piece of the watershed, workers who can help out in organized clean ups and other hands-on activities; hikers who enjoy the pleasures of educational hikes, and open minds who can share thoughts and ideas across political boundaries.

Will you join us by becoming part of the Pequannock RiverWatch? Can you enlist others in your community who will join in the effort? **The towns through which the Pequannock and its main tributary, the Wanaque, flow are: in Sussex county (Vernon, Hardyston); Passaic county (West Milford, Bloomingdale, Pompton Lakes, Wanaque, Ringwood); Morris county (Jefferson, parts of Rockaway, Kinnelon, Butler, Riverdale, Pequannock).**

We're hoping to set up our first meeting this coming Spring. Come and meet your Pequannock River neighbors who share your environmental concerns and priorities—there is strength in numbers.

If you want to take part in RiverWatch, please contact me via email at [EGerber@PassaicRiver.org](mailto:EGerber@PassaicRiver.org). I am also available to address any questions or suggestions you might have.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ellen Gerber  
Pequannock RiverWatch