Appendix A. Appoquinimink River Association summary report for 2009.

Appoquinimink River Association 2009 Report

Community Wildlife Habitats – Together the Delaware Nature Society, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Town of Townsend, and Appoquinimink River Association continued the process to make Townsend the first Community Wildlife Habitat in the state of Delaware. As a part of this project, backyard habitats were created, a schoolyard habitat was created with the help of students at Townsend Elementary School and educational articles were written for the Town's newsletter.

Middletown Stream Restoration – To continue work done in 2008, the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Town of Middletown and Appoquinimink River Association worked to construct a stream restoration project in the urban area of Middletown. Time was spent procuring permits, working with homeowners, creating educational signs for the project, working with design engineers on finalizing design plans and with the construction crew overseeing the construction. The 900 ft. stream restoration was constructed and hundreds of trees were planted to create a buffer along the stream.

Riparian Buffer Reforestation – The Appoquinimink River Association and Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control continued to work and maintain an 11.5 acre riparian reforestation project with St. Andrews School. Working from a 70% survival rate of large trees after the first year, changes were made to the deer fencing to have the entire area surrounded by deer fencing and mowing practices were changed to deal with problems affecting survival. Also, more than 100 large replacement trees were planted by volunteers in the fall.

Jean Birch MOT Senior Center Rain Garden Retrofit – The award-winning rain garden retrofit has been around 3 years and continues to thrive. Maintenance was shared this year by the Town of Middletown, Appoquinimink River Association and Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and included weed control, invasive control and the addition of more native plants to the area. Plans will be made for 2010 to move toward a more maintenance-free upland area by making it strictly a meadow.

Fertilizer Education Campaign – Improper fertilization of lawns and open spaces is a huge problem in the entire state but especially in the Appoquinimink watershed with many new developments throughout. As a first phase of education on the topic, the Appoquinimink River

Association, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and Department of Transportation NPDES Program began working together to understand how commercial fertilizer companies must work in the state and to develop a system to recognize those applicators that are being environmentally friendly.

Watershed Newsletter – There was a continuation by the Appoquinimink River Association of developing and sending residents of the watershed and surrounding areas of southern New Castle County newsletters in the spring and fall. Topics that were covered included the neighboring Sassafras watershed, household hazardous waste, local community events, groundwater, emerging contaminants, septic systems and nature and wildlife photography.

Technical Monitoring – The Association continued to support water quality monitoring efforts run by the Delaware Nature Society in which resident volunteers do monthly water monitoring at several sites throughout the Appoquinimink watershed.

School Visits and Outreach – Several visits to schools and other community groups were accomplished this year, teaching watershed protection and water quality monitoring.

Pollution Control Strategy – The draft Appoquinimink Pollution Control Strategy was revised and presented to many different groups during 2009 including the Appoquinimink River Association, DNREC's Planner's Technical Advisory Committee and Division of Soil and Water Conservation Sediment and Stormwater Program, the municipalities of Middletown, Odessa and Townsend, and New Castle County.