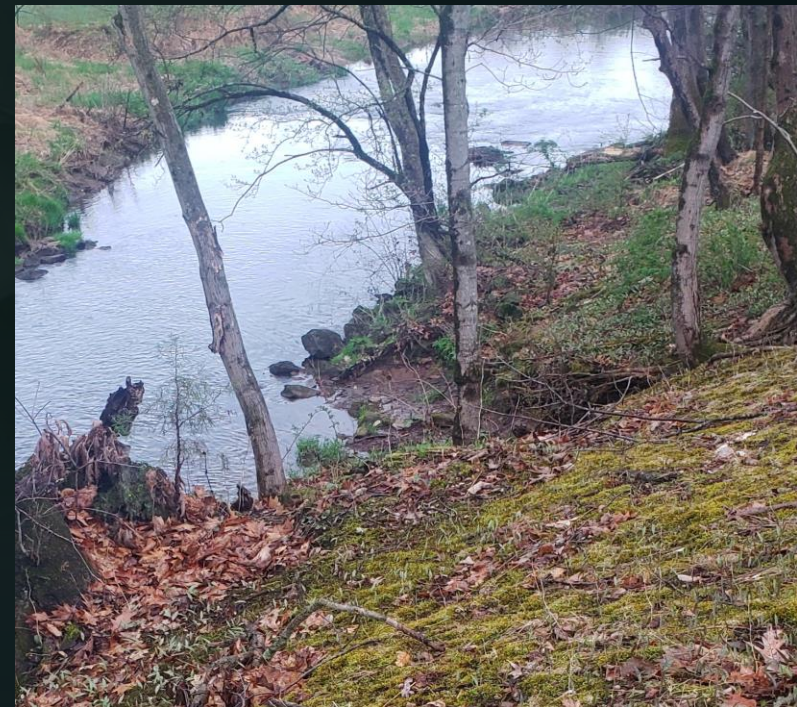


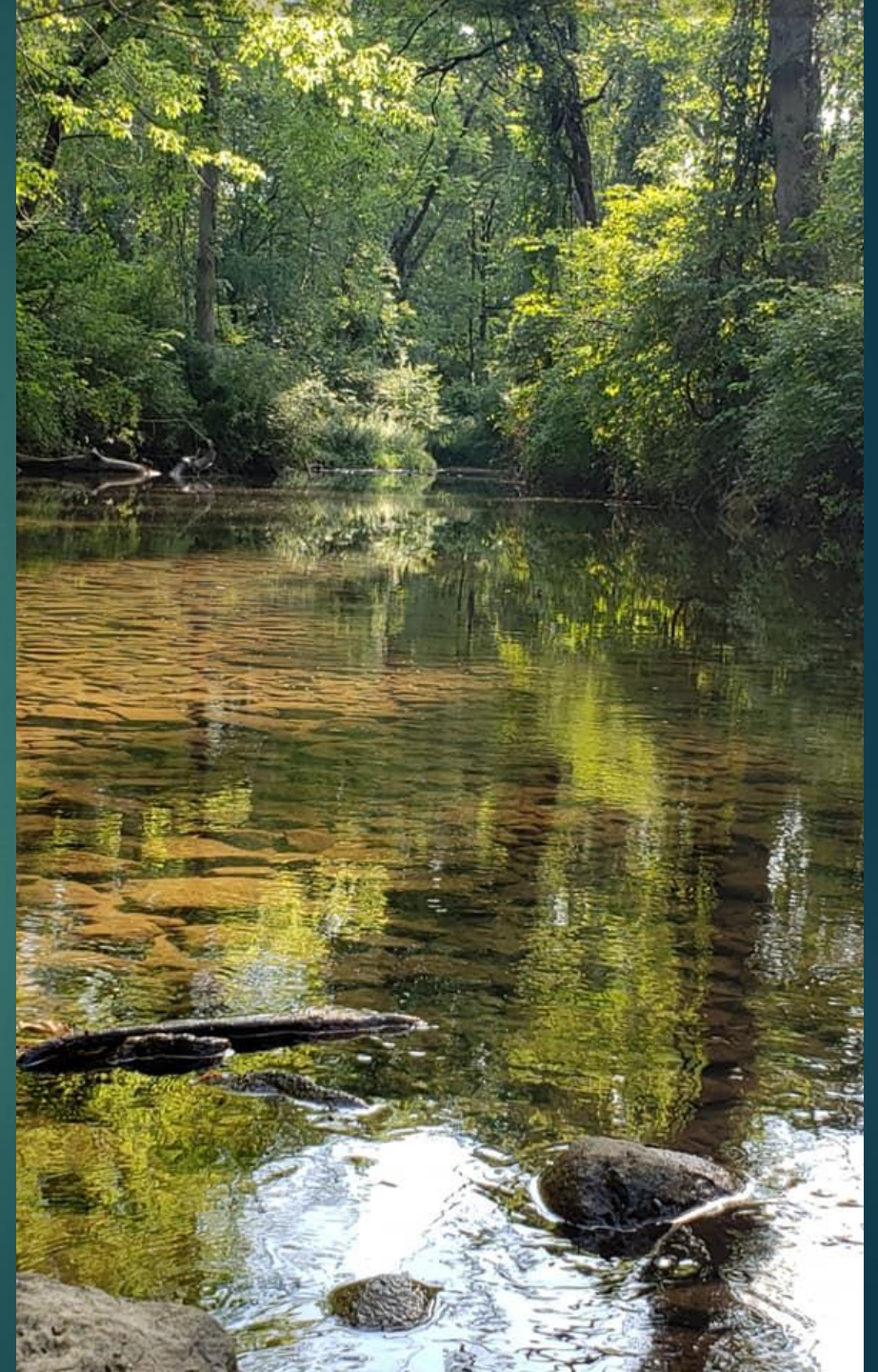


Windy Acres Water Features



The Windy Acres Nature Preserve is a mosaic of wetlands, forest, open areas, and cropland. It is part of the Upper Raritan River Watershed (WM8). (A watershed not only includes the surface water in streams, rivers, lakes and ponds, but also the groundwater in our aquifers and the land on which every drop falls. Forest, meadows, and wetland ecosystems in a watershed naturally filter and replenish water). It contains some of the headwaters of the North Branch Raritan River, which ultimately is part of the 1100 acre Raritan River basin which flows east to Raritan Bay and the ocean. Local water supplies are drawn from groundwater wells from the underlying Passaic aquifer, serving Lebanon Borough, parts of Clinton Township and the Town of Clinton. To the south of Windy Acres, lies Round Valley Reservoir, which is a massive water supply and recreation complex with a storage capacity of 55 billion gallons, and supplies the water needs of over 1.5 million people in central NJ. Water is periodically released to the South Branch Rockaway Creek from this reservoir, and crosses the Windy Acres preserve on its way to the Lamington Rover and the Raritan River. Along the southern border of the preserve, water is conveyed in an aqueduct that runs parallel to the NJ Transit train line.

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In the Windy Acres watershed, the water drains into the South Branch of the Raritan River. Other water features of Windy Acres Nature Preserve include a vernal pool, located in a meadow. Vernal pools are ephemeral, isolated wetlands without fish, which is a breeding hotspot for a host of amphibians, such as wood frogs and salamanders. When surveyed by water quality experts, the stream on the Windy Acres nature preserve was rated as a Category 1 stream, showing a healthy level of benthic macroinvertebrates, several species of salamanders, and includes a native brook trout breeding ground. Likely salamanders around the area include the two-lined salamander, northern red salamander, northern dusky salamander, and rare northern long-tailed salamander.

