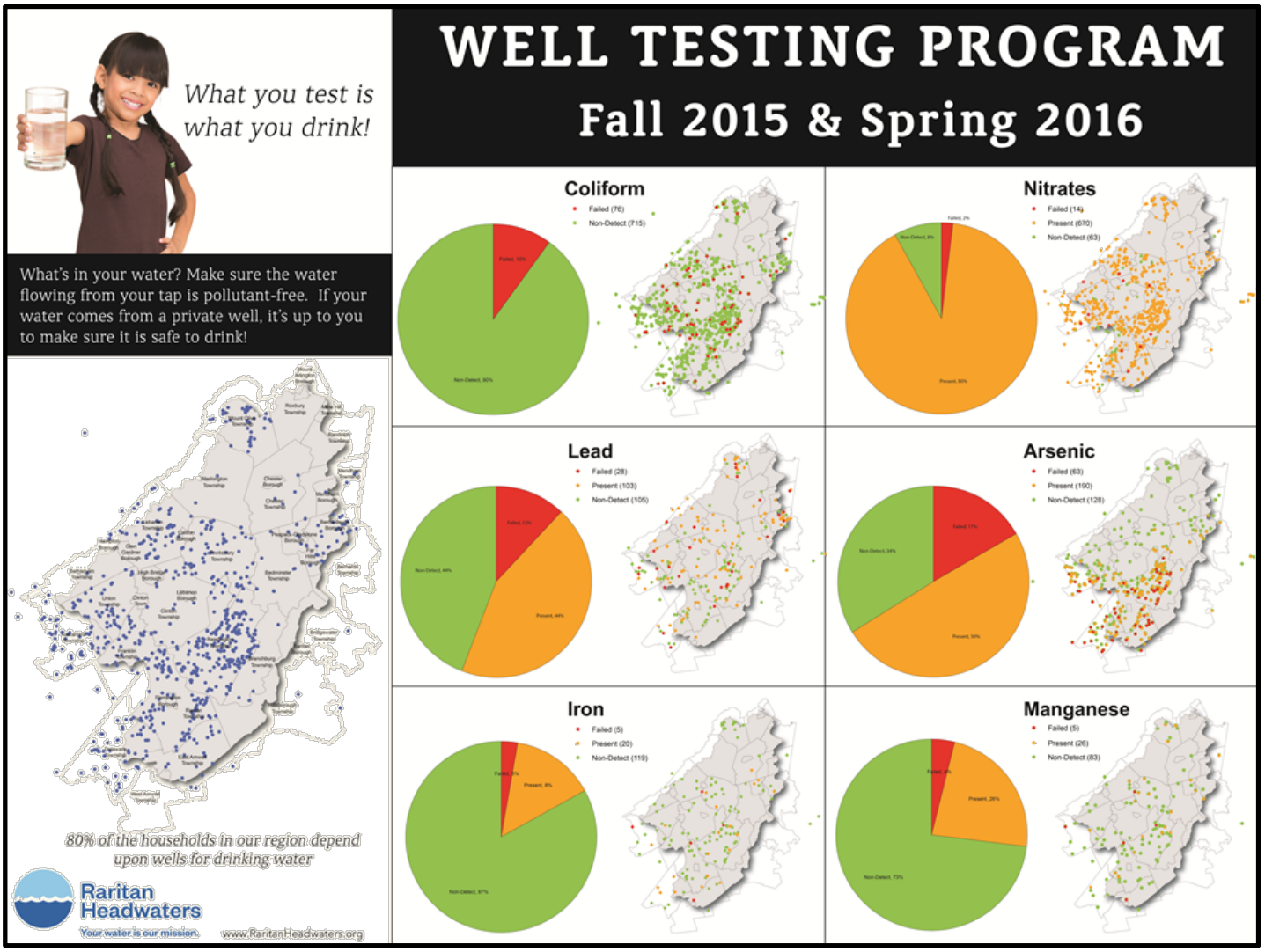
State of our Watershed Highlights



How do I ensure that my well water is safe?

Routine Testing and Treatment - Wells should be tested for coliform bacteria and nitrates once a year. Other contaminants, including arsenic should be tested for every 3-5 years.

Properly Positioning Wells- Point sources of contamination including in-ground septic systems should be at least 100 feet from the well. Have your septic tank pumped regularly.

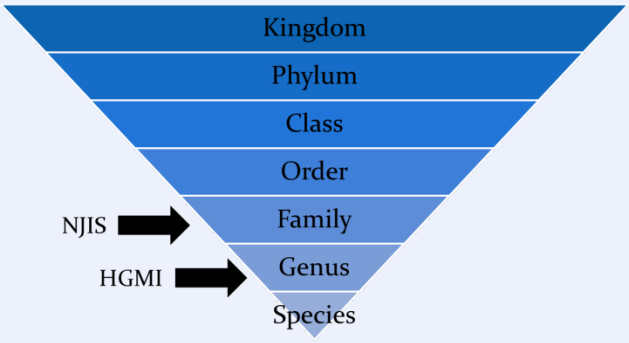
Well Maintenance – Keep the area around your well clean and accessible. Make sure your well is properly constructed. A cracked well casing or leaking well cap can lead to contamination of your well. Wells should be disinfected after service or if flood waters infiltrate the well.

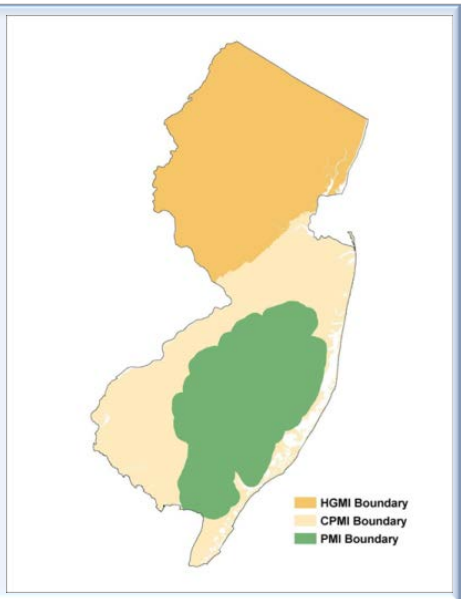
Protecting Groundwater- Groundwater is an important and vital resource and it is important to protect it. Conserving the quantity and quality of groundwater is essential. Excessive pollutant and sediment runoff can contaminate nearby wells. By reducing the amount of water that we use, our water supply will last longer!

State of our Watershed Highlights

1.

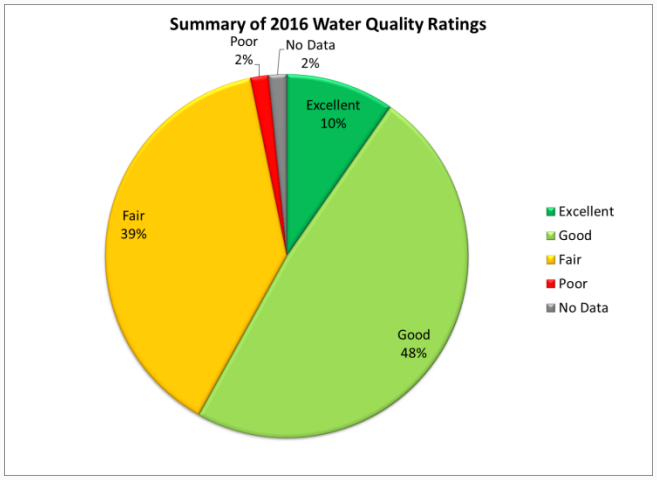
Raritan Headwaters has transitioned from the New Jersey Impairment Score Index (NJIS) to the High Gradient Macroinvertebrate Index (HGMI) for evaluating water quality. HGMI was developed specifically for streams in our region of New Jersey and is more precise because it identifies the organisms at the genus level.





2.

In 2016, our June stream monitoring program included 62 stream monitoring sites. A stream with an "excellent" or "good" rating has full attainment for aquatic life use according to the Federal Clean Water Act. A stream with a "fair" or "poor" rating is considered impaired and non-attaining for aquatic life use.



Changes between 2015-16	# of sites
Remained Full Attainment	26 (42%)
Remained Non-Attainment	12 (19%)
Improved	7 (11%)
Declined	11 (18%)
New	5 (8%)
No Data	1 (2%)

3.

Our bacteria study in August found that 13 out of our 16 sites did not meet the NJDEP's surface water quality standards for E. *coli* levels, an indicator of fecal contamination. Besides wildlife, people can also introduce bacteria into the environment through septic systems, sewage treatment plants, agriculture, and pet waste. Generally, Raritan Headwaters recommends waiting two to three days before swimming in a home odds soccer predictions stream after a rain event due to the increase of pollutants like bacteria that can wash into a stream from land with stormwater runoff.

What You Can Do:

- Pick up and dispose of dog waste
- Inspect and maintain your septic system
- Properly store farm animal manure
- Don't feed the geese
- Maintain vegetated buffers around streams and ponds
- Install green infrastructure
- Test your well annually for bacteria