

**Land Use and Land Cover Methodology**

Land use and land cover (LULC) data for this map were produced by the Monmouth County Health Department using 1991, 7.5 minute, 1:24,000 scale orthophotographs. The LULC data were produced on a geographic information system (GIS) using Mylar originals and digital images, and a combination of manual and heads-up or on-screen digitization. These data were completed in 1995 and reflect ground-conditions from 1991. The coding of LULC polygons was slightly modified from the NIGS scheme. This modification consisted of re-numbering the classification for Landscaped Open Space from "0" to "15" and adding the classification "999" for open water.

This data were then combined with the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) freshwater wetlands GIS data. The open water and wetlands areas were coded to classification "101" and the Landscaped Open Space areas were changed back to classification "0". Areas of less than five acres were then eliminated by combining them with adjacent, larger areas.

**Ground-Water Recharge Methodology**

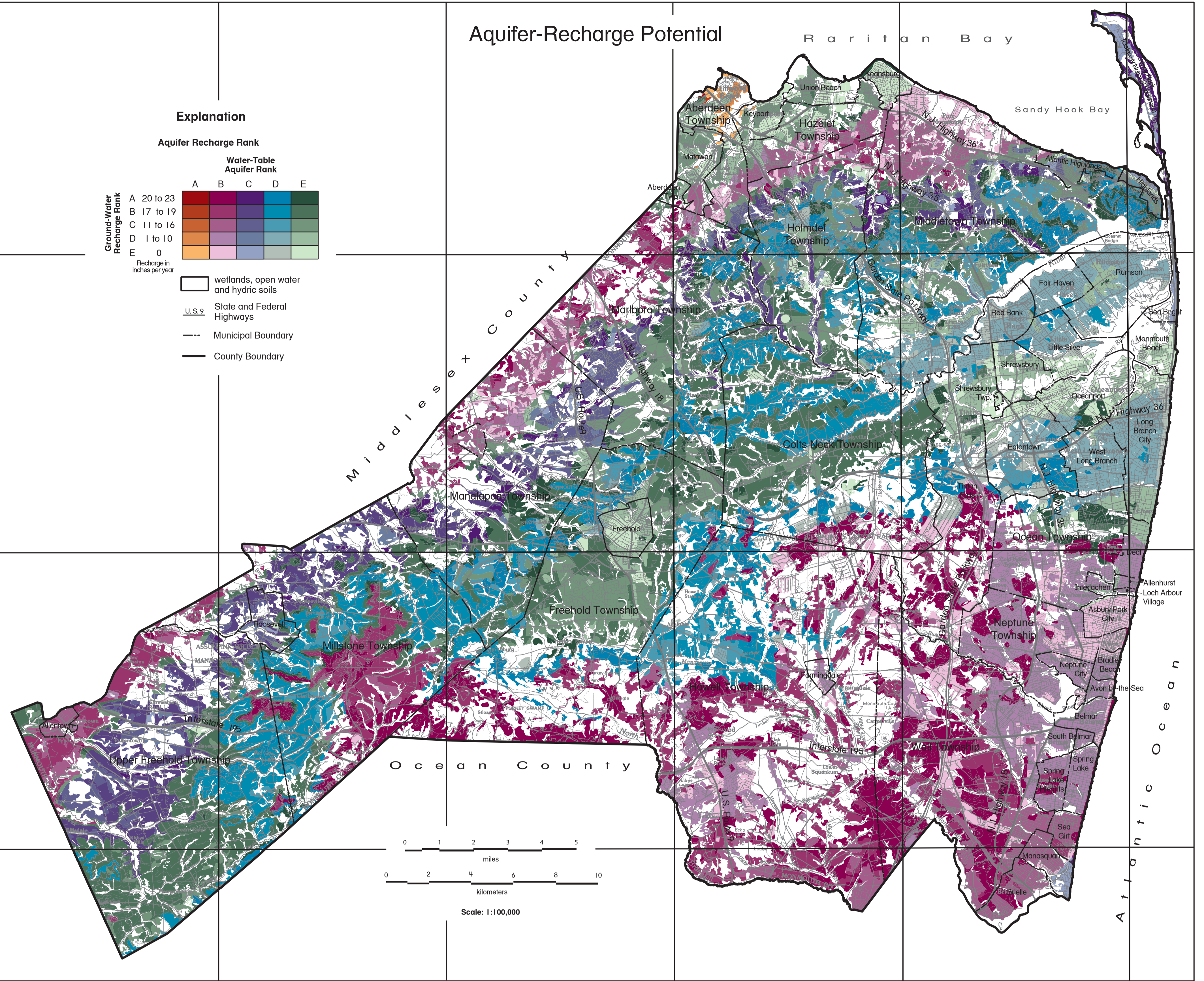
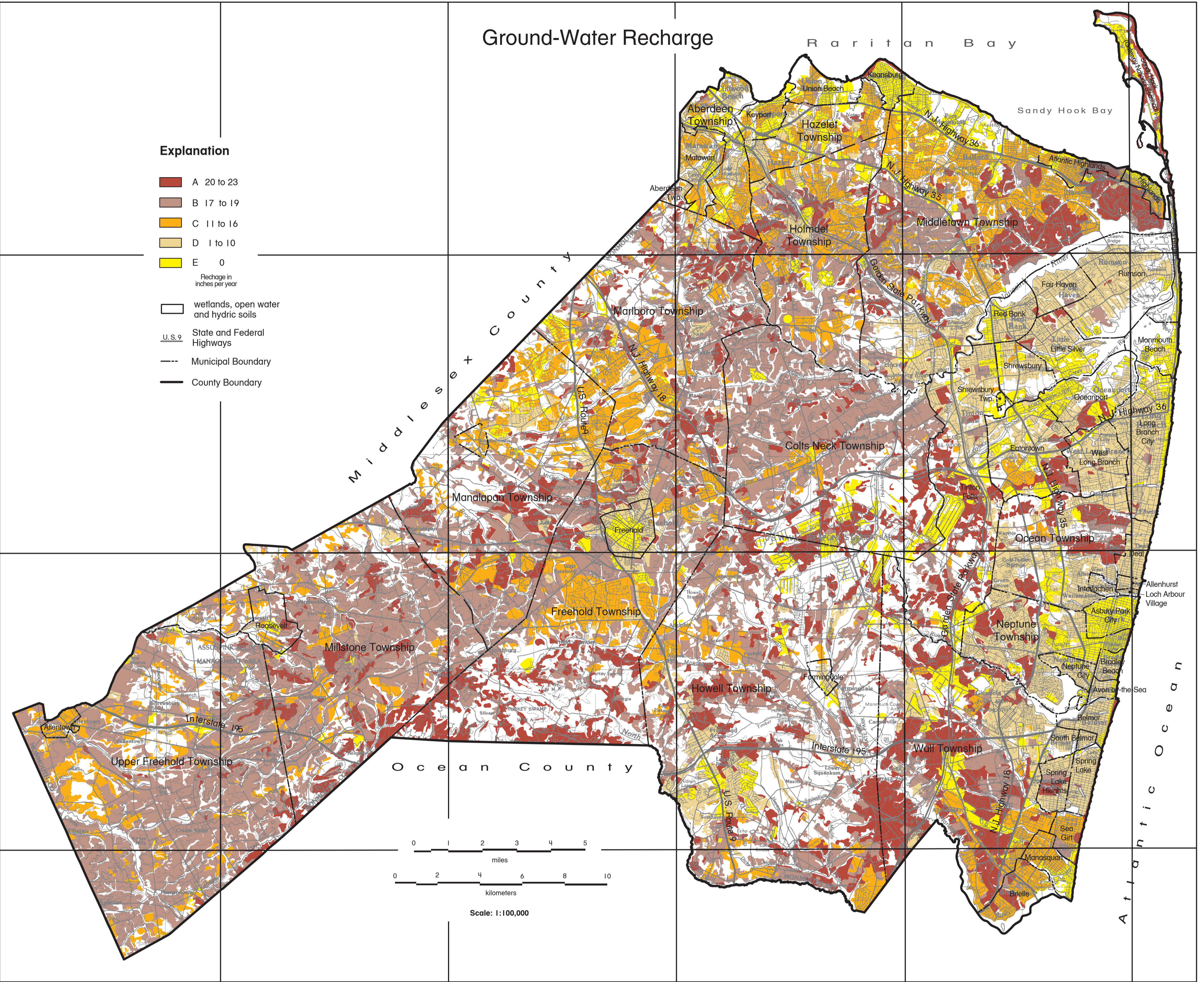
Ground-water recharge is defined as water which infiltrates into the ground to a depth below the root zone. This definition does not differentiate between recharge to aquifers and recharge to non-aquifers. This methodology of calculating ground-water recharge is based on a monthly soil-water-budget approach. The following is excerpted from Charles and others (1993, p. 4-6) and is provided as background to explain the methodology used to construct the ground-water-recharge map.

"A soil-water budget estimates recharge by subtracting water that is unavailable for recharge (surface runoff and evapotranspiration) from precipitation (the initial budget amount). Any deficit in water storage in the unsaturated zone (soil moisture deficit) must be made up before ground-water recharge can occur. The resulting equation is:

$$\text{recharge} = \text{precipitation} - \text{surface runoff} - \text{ET} - \text{soil moisture deficit (1)}$$

"Although recharge to ground water is a highly variable and complex process, a soil-water budget can account for the principal mechanisms and provide reasonable recharge estimates. Appendix 7 in Charles and others (1993) provides a comprehensive technical explanation of the data and calculations used to develop the method, and how the results were adapted for the mapping procedure. Briefly, the method was developed as follows:

"An expanded form of equation 1 was used to simulate monthly recharge for all reasonable combinations of climate, soil, and land use and land cover found in New Jersey. Recharge was based on statewide rankings of



precipitation and the principal factors that control surface runoff and evapotranspiration. Data on five environmental factors were necessary for the simulations: precipitation, soil, land-use/land-cover, surface runoff, and evapotranspiration.

"Daily precipitation data were selected from 32 of the 126 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) climate stations in New Jersey on the basis of their even geographic distribution and complete record. Thirty years of data were used in the simulations because it is the standard length of climate record for comparison purposes (Linsley, Kohler, and Paulhus, 1982).

"The soil data were hydrologic-soil group, soil type, depth and type of root barriers, and available water capacities. These were developed from a database of New Jersey soils maintained by the state SCS office. These data were used in the surface runoff and evapotranspiration calculations. Land use and land cover is an important consideration that was used in both surface runoff and evapotranspiration calculations.

"A land use and land cover classification of 14 categories \*\*\* was designed specifically for this method. The classification system was derived largely from a system used in the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) curve-number method for calculating runoff (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1986). The number of categories was reduced to reflect useful long-term land-use distinctions and limitations inherent in mapping from aerial photos.

"Surface runoff was calculated using a modification of the SCS curve-number method. Because the curve-number method is designed for calculating runoff from the largest annual storms, adjustments were made so the results more accurately reflect runoff observed in New Jersey from smaller storms \*\*\*. These adjustments are applicable only to recharge calculations and are important because frequent smaller storms contribute most of the long-term recharge.

"Evapotranspiration was computed for each of the 32 climate stations using a method developed by Thornthwaite and Mather (1957). Evapotranspiration calculations incorporated the effects of land-use/land-cover. Adjustments were made to the evapotranspiration results so they would more closely approximate evapotranspiration from naturally-watered, open, vegetated areas in New Jersey \*\*\*.

"The simulations showed that average annual recharge could be estimated on the basis of climate, soil characteristics and land use and land cover. The results were incorporated in a simple formula which allows one to calculate average annual recharge in inches per year from a climate factor (C-factor), a recharge factor (R-factor), a baseflow calibration factor (B-factor)<sup>2</sup>, and a recharge constant (R-constant).

$$\text{annual ground-water recharge} = (R\text{-factor} \times C\text{-factor} \times B\text{-factor}) \times R\text{-constant} \quad (2)$$

"Climate factors were developed for every municipality \*\*\*. Recharge factors and recharge constants \*\*\* were developed for every possible combination of soil characteristics and land use/land cover found in New Jersey.

"There are four primary qualifiers of the method. First, the method estimates ground-water recharge (recharge to both aquifers and non-aquifers) rather than aquifer recharge. Second, a fundamental assumption when using a soil-water budget to estimate ground-water recharge is that all water which migrates below the root zone recharges ground water (Rushion, 1988). Third, the method addresses only natural ground-water recharge. Intentional and unintentional artificial recharge, withdrawals of ground water, and natural discharge are not addressed. Fourth, wetlands and water bodies are eliminated from the analysis before recharge mapping is begun. This is because the direction of flow between ground water and surface water or wetlands depends on site specific factors and can also change seasonally \*\*\*. Incorporating these complexities was beyond the resources of this study."

This ground-water-recharge map was created using the method presented in Charles and others (1993), and modified for GIS implementation. The method requires information about 4 components: (1) land use and land cover, (2) soils, (3) municipal boundaries, and (4) wetlands and open water. Land use and land cover was mapped as indicated above. Soils were obtained from the 1993 county integrated terrain unit coverage of the county.

Municipal boundaries were taken from the 1987 municipality coverage in the NJDEP GIS database. This coverage was modified to include the municipal C-factors. Finally, wetlands and open water were obtained from both the 1993 county integrated terrain unit and newly available 1991 freshwater wetlands coverages produced by MARKHURD, Inc. for the NJDEP. All four of these components were combined into one coverage.

The resultant data were then downloaded to a spreadsheet program and the R-factor and R-constant were determined by cross-referencing the soils and land use and land cover coding of each polygon. Recharge in inches per year was then calculated for each polygon using equation 2. The recharge values were ranked using volumetric ranking as described in Charles and others (1993). Each recharge rank represents 20% of the total recharge volume. Once the recharge was ranked these data were then updated and joined to the combined coverage. Like-ranked polygons were combined and shading applied. Wetlands, open water, and hydric soil polygons were not shaded.

**Wetlands, Open Water and Hydric Soils**

The unshaded areas on the map, which include wetlands, open water and hydric soils, were not ranked because

the combined professional judgment of the NIGS geologic and hydrogeologic staff.

The relative rank of the aquifers in Monmouth County was created by retrieving well-yield data from the county and ranking the medians for each aquifer with three or more yields. The statewide rankings were then applied to the results. All aquifers which did not have county well data were assigned the statewide rank. The following table contains the data used to rank Monmouth County's aquifers:

Aquifer	Med. Well Yield (gpm)	No. of Values	Avg. Well Yield (gpm)	Aquifer Rank
Surficial sediments of the Coastal Plain (scsp) <sup>6</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	C
Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer system (kcas) <sup>4,5</sup>	401	22	510	B
Composite confining unit (ccu) <sup>6</sup>	10	3	23	E
Composite confining unit aquifer (ccu-a) <sup>4,5</sup>	95	9	246	D
Mt. Laurel/Wenonah aquifer (mlwa) <sup>4,5</sup>	124	38	176	C
Merchalltown-Woodbury confining unit (mwcu) <sup>6</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	E
Englishtown aquifer system (ea) <sup>4,5</sup>	300	85	303	B
Merchalltown-Woodbury confining unit (mwcu) <sup>6</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	E
Potomac-Raritan-Magothy aquifer system (prma) <sup>4,5</sup>	712	132	737	A

4. water-table aquifers in outcrop area  
5. also a confined aquifer  
6. statewide data and rank

**Aquifer Descriptions**

The surficial sediments of the Coastal Plain (scsp) are unconsolidated sediments overlying Coastal Plain aquifers and confining units. These include Pleistocene beach, dune, deltaic, and marine sands, and recent alluvium. The sediments are hydraulically connected to the underlying aquifer and are considered a minor aquifer when they reach a thickness of 50 ft. or greater, or occur atop a confining unit. This unit only reaches sufficient thicknesses in two locations in the county: the Sandy Hook area and the far southeastern corner. No well-yield data were available; therefore, this aquifer was ranked based upon its lithologic characteristics and the judgment of the NIGS Herman and others, 1998.

Recharge to confined aquifers in Monmouth County occurs either in the outcrop zone or as leakage from overlying aquifers.

**Ground-Water Recharge and Aquifer Recharge Potential for Monmouth County, New Jersey**  
by Mark A. French  
2003

**Ground-Water Recharge and Aquifer Recharge Potential for Monmouth County, New Jersey**  
The Marshalltown-Wenonah confining unit is composed of the lower, poorly-sorted, fine-grained silt, glauconitic, and micaceous sand part of the Monmouth Formation and the glauconitic silt and sand of the Marshalltown Formation. This confining unit lies between the Mt. Laurel-Wenonah aquifer above and the Englishtown Aquifer below. It dips to the southeast and outcrops in a very thin band in the eastern part of the county running from the northeast to the southwest. No well-yield data were available; therefore, this unit was ranked based upon its lithologic characteristics and the judgment of the NIGS (Herman and others, 1998; Pucci and others, 1994; Jablonksi, 1968).

The Englishtown aquifer system in Monmouth County is made up of an upper and lower fine-to-medium grained, quartzite, well-sorted sand separated by thin, slightly-sandy or silty clay beds in the outcrop area which runs along the eastern edge of the county. It overlies the Merchalltown-Woodbury confining unit. Median well yield was 300 gpm. Average well yield was 303 gpm. Maximum and minimum well yields were 1486 gpm and 10 gpm, respectively (Herman and others, 1998; Pucci and others, 1994; Jablonksi, 1968).

The Merchalltown-Woodbury confining unit is composed of the clayey silt, micaceous clay, and thin beds and lenses of glauconitic sand of the Merchalltown Formation; and the micaceous clay of the Woodbury Clay. It may also contain the localized Cliffwood and Morgan beds, and the Amboy Storeware Member of the upper Magothy Formation. It forms the most massive confining unit of the Coastal Plain. It outcrops in the northwest corner of the county and dips southwestward under the Englishtown aquifer system. It overlies the important Potomac-Raritan-Magothy aquifer system. No well-yield data were available; therefore, this unit was ranked based upon its lithologic characteristics and the judgment of the NIGS (Herman and others, 1998; Pucci and others, 1994; Jablonksi, 1968).

Potomac-Raritan-Magothy aquifer system is interbedded sand, gravel, silt, and clay separated into lower, middle and upper aquifers. It includes the Raritan confining unit composed of interbedded sand, silt, and clay. The upper aquifer is made up primarily of the Old Bedde Sand Member of the Magothy Formation and includes the Sayreville Sand Member where the intersecting South Amboy Fire Clay is thin or absent. This part of the aquifer outcrops in the northwest corner of the county. The middle aquifer is made up of the Farrington Sand Member of the Raritan Formation and is separated from the upper aquifer by the Woodbridge Clay Member. This aquifer overlies either pre-Cretaceous bedrock, or the Raritan Fire Clay Member which makes up the confining unit of the lower aquifer. This lower aquifer is made up of the fine-grained sediments of the Potomac Group. Neither the middle or lower aquifer outcrops in the county, but are present in the subsurface. The entire aquifer system dips southeastward under the overlying aquifers and confining units. Median and average well yields were 712 and 737 gpm, respectively. Minimum yields were 40 gpm and maximum yields were 1760 gpm. (Herman and others, 1998; Pucci and others, 1994; Jablonksi, 1968).

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**Acknowledgements**

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**Glossary of selected terms**

**Aquifer:** a geologic formation, part of a formation or group of formations that can supply usable quantities of water to wells.  
**Aquifer recharge:** the process of addition of water to an aquifer through infiltration.  
**Aquifer-recharge area:** the land surface area that allows recharge to an aquifer.  
**B-factor:** a calibration constant developed by the NIGS to calibrate ground-water-recharge estimates to statewide, stream-baseflow-based recharge estimates. B-factor is used in a formula, in conjunction with C-factor, R-factor, and R-constant, to yield an estimate of average annual ground-water recharge.  
**Baseflow:** a part of stream flow (discharge) derived from ground water seeping into the stream.  
**C-factor:** a climate-sensitive constant developed by NIGS that consists of the ratio of average annual precipitation to the average annual (simulated) potential evapotranspiration. C-factor is used in a formula, in conjunction with B-factor, R-factor and R-constant, to yield an estimate of average annual ground-water recharge.

<sup>2</sup> Studies by the NIGS indicate that a baseflow calibration factor or basin factor (b-factor) may be required. A basin factor of 1.0 was used in this map. The basin factor is explained in Charles et al., 1993. "A Method for Evaluating Ground-Water Recharge Areas in New Jersey" and NIGS Technical Memorandum TM99-1 "Basin Calibration for Ground-Water Recharge Estimation (Addendum to Charles et al., 1993).

<sup>3</sup> The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has been renamed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).