

Appendix B: Sample Watershed Characterization Maps and Layers

[Appendix B: Sample Watershed Characterization Maps and Layers](#) lists the GIS data layers that were used to create each of the Sparkill Creek, Punch Brook-Roeliff Jansen Kill, and Fishkill Creek watershed characterization maps. Clicking on the thumbnail image will open up a full-sized PDF of each map. Direct links to these GIS data layers are provided in the [Appendix C: GIS Data Checklist spreadsheet](#).

The maps created for each watershed depend on the goals of the watershed characterization and the unique characteristics of the watershed. For example, the Sparkill Creek, a more urbanized watershed, does not have an Agriculture map, whereas the Fishkill Creek includes a Recreation map, which was requested by the local watershed group.

The Fishkill Creek watershed maps were developed in summer 2024, as an opportunity to understand 1) watershed characterization mapping in a larger watershed with more mixed land uses and 2) opportunities for watershed group-academic partnerships, especially for students to gain hands-on experience supporting watershed characterization mapping. The Fishkill Creek watershed is 193 square miles, compared to the 47.5 square mile Punch Brook-Roeliff Jansen Kill watershed and the 11.2 square mile Sparkill Creek watershed. The student partner on this project had completed a one-semester introductory GIS course and was hired to create the initial map series over the summer for course credit, with advising from a faculty mentor. Additional information about the Fishkill Creek watershed maps and methodology is included in [Appendix F: Resources to Engage Students in Watershed Characterization Projects](#).