What are Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAS)?

A recharge area is a location where water from precipitation is transmitted to an aquifer. Aquifers with relatively high flow rates that are located in areas where conditions promote high infiltration are important to the recharge and groundwater flow system. Land areas characterized by features or attributes that provide an exceptional amount of replenishment (recharge) to the aquifer per acre are termed Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs). (Susquehanna River Basin Commission)