

anvec

REPORT

SPRING 2005

In This Issue:

- 3 NJ's Bayshore Region: A Last Great Place
- 5 21st Century's Tragedy of the Commons
- 7 What's Happening with the *State Plan*?
- 9 Smart Growth Updates
- 10 Op-Ed on COAH's New Rules
- 12 InterComm
- 13 Resource Center
- 14 ANJEC in the City
- 16 Good Earthkeeping
- 19 Environmental Achievement Award Application





Director's Report

Local Environmental Grants Threatened

For the last few years, as the state budget has gotten tighter and tighter a consistent target has been the NJDEP Environmental Services Program (ESP) grants for environmental commissions. This very small budget item (just \$150,000 in the proposed \$27.4 billion state budget), provides funding for local environmental commission projects. This year, the budget is tighter than ever, and the proposed FY 2006 budget eliminates all municipal grant programs including the ESP.

Despite the small amount of funds available through NJDEP's ESP program, these grants give the state a tremendous return on its money. Municipalities must provide a full match for the \$1,000 to \$2,500 grants, thereby doubling their strength. In addition, time contributed by volunteer environmental commissioners further increases each project's overall value.

Since 1989 the NJDEP has given ESP grants in every NJ county to nearly half the state's municipalities. Year after year, these grants fund valuable projects that help municipalities achieve the state's goals of smart growth planning, including completing or updating environmental resource inventories, brownfields and sustainable communities planning. Other projects help municipalities be the "local eyes and ears of the NJDEP" by increasing monitoring and management projects, such as stream and water quality testing, wellhead delineation and surveys of threatened and endangered species. Commissions also use the funds to educate their residents on how to help improve the local environment through stormwater management measures, reducing pesticide and fertilizer use, and recycling.

ANJEC's Environmental Achievement Awards, given each fall at our Environmental Congress, often go to creative projects funded by the NJDEP grants. For example, last year we gave an award to the Wall Township (Monmouth) Environmental Advisory Committee, which used an ESP grant to create a demonstration garden to educate residents about how alternative landscaping techniques can reduce nonpoint source pollution. To motivate residents to do what they can at their homes, the Committee published and distributed a companion booklet that explains the benefits of native landscaping and integrated pest management techniques to minimize toxics.

In another award-winning project, the environmental commissions of Allentown, Millstone, and Upper

Cover Photo by Michael Hogan, also in *Natural Wonders of the Jersey Pines and Shore, a compelling book with color photos and text on southern NJ's natural resources.*

Freehold (Monmouth), Hamilton and Washington (Mercer) and Plumsted (Ocean) each got a grant from the NJDEP to do a cooperative regional greenway plan for the Crosswicks and Doctors Creeks. The planning group conducted public information sessions, acted as liaisons to local boards and officials and collected data necessary for a consultant to develop the plan.

We need to continue engaging in important projects such as these. NJDEP's ESP grants provide municipalities with incentives and means to complete worthy projects. Without this funding, too many data gathering and planning projects will never take place. And municipalities will lack the information that often serves as a catalyst to preserve important natural resources and put smart growth in place.

Help Save Environmental Commission Grants

Write to Acting Governor Codey and to NJDEP Commissioner Campbell requesting that the important NJDEP ESP grant program be continued. Tell them how your town has used the funds in the past and your plans for the future. And ask your mayor, governing body and planning board to send a letter, too!

Acting Governor Richard J. Codey
The State of New Jersey
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625-0001

Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Sandy Batty
Executive Director

anjec	Library Subscription \$15.00 ISSN 1538-0742
REPORT	
Vol. 25 / No. 2	SPRING 2005
566 MUNICIPALITIES ONE ENVIRONMENT	
Executive Director	Sandy Batty
Editor	Sally Dudley
Advertising Coordinator	Margaret Davey
The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions is a private, non-profit educational organization serving environmental commission and open space committee members, concerned individuals, non-profits, and local officials. ANJEC's programs aim to promote the public interest in natural resource preservation, sustainable development and reclamation and support environmental commissions and open space committees working with citizens and other non-profit organizations.	
The REPORT welcomes articles and photographs but is not responsible for loss or damage. Opinions expressed by guest authors do not necessarily reflect ANJEC policy. Articles may be reprinted with permission and credit. Please address correspondence to ANJEC REPORT, PO Box 157, Mendham, NJ 07945; tel: 973-539-7547; toll-free number for members: 888-55ANJEC (888-552-6532); fax: 973-539-7713. E-mail info@ANJEC.org. Web site: www.anjec.org.	

NJ's Bayshore Region: A Last Great Place

By Jody Carrara, ANJEC Coastal Planning Project Director

The signs of spring are so tangible in New Jersey's Delaware Bayshore region. Farmers till the fields, with Herring Gulls trailing for early insects. Fishermen search for weak-fish and bunker amidst the voracious stripers. Families do their spring-cleaning, and leave remnants for trash in front of clapboard houses. Ospreys return to their nests, and prepare for another brood. And the horseshoe crabs start their march toward the Delaware Bay beaches. The Delaware Bayshore region is surely one of the "Last Great Places" found in the eastern United States.

The Nature Conservancy coined the term "Last Great Places," and honored the Bayshore with this moniker that celebrates the irreplaceable natural resources of the area. Here it denotes an area both unique and diverse. Comprised of Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland and Cape May county watershed areas, the Bayshore holds thousands of acres of salt marsh, wetlands, forests, farm fields and water. The natural resources, including the Salem, Cohansey and Maurice Rivers, their tributaries and the Delaware Bay, have led to cultural traditions and wildlife seasons that continue to this day.

A leisurely back-road trip from Salem to Cape May City evokes different eras little changed over 300 years. Quaker cities, farming centers, New England style villages, and tidewater settlements form the background for the people and wildlife that live in the region. Their lives are dependent upon the plentiful land and water. Amidst the bustling new shopping centers and housing developments, life goes on as it has for generations, along the back



Delaware Bayshore

MICHAEL HOGAN

roads. Farmers sow fields created by great-great grandfathers, food processors preserve the bounty, truckers haul their sands and gravels and fisherman leave the very same docks built in the 1800's.

Important Natural Resources

NJ's Delaware Bayshore is an area of international significance, as millions of shorebirds including Ruddy Turnstones and Red Knots feed on horseshoe crab eggs during their yearly migration from Tierra del Fuego in Argentina to the Canadian Arctic. The federal government has recognized the importance of the Maurice River and its tributaries, designating them as "Wild & Scenic." Bald eagles again nest on the rivers, and songbirds breed in the abundant forest and wetland habitats. Such a patchwork of habitats, streams, rivers and the bay easily lend themselves to a growing "eco" or nature-tourism trade.

Residents and visitors find many types of recreation amid the Bayshore landscapes. Camping, boating, hiking, bird watching and biking are increasing throughout the area, bolstering tourism dollars. Artists meet at scenic landscapes to produce their canvases, and photographers record the natural beauty and architecture. Towns have produced ecotourism leaflets, and planned and built bicycle trails.

Kayak trails are becoming prominent. And the age-old hobbies of fishing and hunting flourish.

The traditions of people and wildlife are able to continue because of the valuable natural resources.

Fertile soils support the farmer, sandy soils support the mining industry and clean water supports a multitude of finfish and shellfish industries. The viability of these generational industries is totally resource-dependent, and very diverse. These resources also support the abundant and diverse wildlife unique to the area. The 1998 National Park Service *Reconnaissance Study, New Jersey Shore of the Delaware Bay*, recognizes the area's unique diversity: "The cultural landscape of the study area represents architectural, agricultural, religious, maritime, and ethnic traditions that cover 300 years of history. The integrity and variety of the resources distinguish the region."

Protecting an Ecological Machine

The Bayshore region can be likened to an ecological and sociological machine, which nourishes our lives and livelihoods. If one gear is damaged or missing, the machine may work poorly, or not at all. Protection of this machine, and the people and ecosystems dependent upon it, is simple... keep all parts in working order.

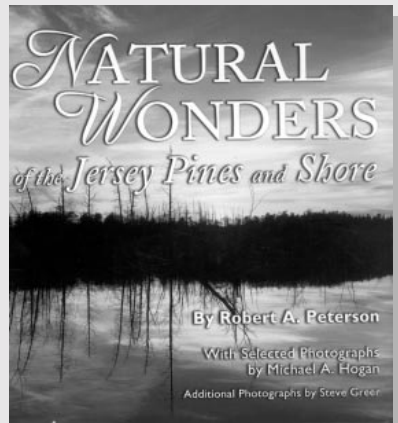
- Keep the streams clean so the fisheries of the rivers and bay can flourish. Big fish eat smaller fish, and small fish eat the bugs that grow in streams. The machine works well when the streams support the basis of the food chain.

Clean streams can then lead to restoration of lakes that had been used for generations of swimming and fishing.

- Plan for sustainable regional water supply, which fairly accommodates residents, farmers and new growth. NJDEP has designated the Bayshore area, which is dependent upon a handful of aquifers, as a Water Supply Deficit Area. Water allocations should not simply go to the first person in line for each new development. At some point, water allocations will have to stop, as there is just not enough water in the simple Bayshore machine that depends on open grounds for rainwater to replenish the aquifers. Much of the water runs off into storm sewers to the streams, rivers and bay.
- Build in centers that can accommodate growth, while guarding the historical heritage that remains so vibrant. The *State Development and Redevelopment Plan*, the policy guide for NJ, encourages growth that keeps the integrity of historical characteristics intact. This helps a town stay connected to its roots and to the land, the basis of the social systems that have evolved through generations.
- Protect the ecosystems that grace our landscape. Building in an inappropriate floodplain, wetland, forest or stream habitat can irreparably harm the wildlife that depends upon the land and waters. Threatened and endangered wildlife cannot find another place to live. Just like humans, they have built a generational community, with populations that rely on the existing habitat. If their habitat is destroyed or harmed, they cannot simply move into another "house," because another contented family is already living there.
- Prepare an analysis of how much new business and housing your town can accommodate. This "buildout analysis" will demonstrate the future need for roads, schools, recreation and other services. The town can then decide what it would like the future to look like and plan accordingly. National and state statistics have shown that for every \$1 paid in

property taxes, each new house costs the municipality an average of \$1.15. The tax money spent on services and schools for each new house can be as high as \$2 for every \$1 collected.

The sustained cultural and natural landscapes of the Bayshore region are almost unchanged from the time of the first settlers. The question is how to ensure that these resources continue to thrive amid large housing and commercial developments. How can farms survive new housing development and deficient water supplies? How can fisheries continue their yield when pollution infects their life-giving streams? How can the charm of villages survive progress? And how can people survive when the very resources they depend upon are being impacted? The region is replete with resources. We just have to ensure that all residents, human and not, are cared for in a way that sustains them into the future. We have to maintain our ecological machine and do everything possible to keep New Jersey's Bayshore one of the nation's Last Great Places. 🌿



Natural Wonders of the Jersey Pines and Shore
A compelling book about southern New Jersey full of beautiful color photographs by Michael Hogan and a few by Steve Greer as well as more than 50 essays about the area's natural resources by Robert Preston. To order copy signed by Michael Hogan, go to: www.hoganphoto.com



Organizations Working in the Bayshore

Under a grant from the William Penn Foundation, ANJEC has been organizing meetings of nonprofit environmental groups working in the NJ Bayshore region. The meetings have enabled these organizations to share their wealth of information, experience and expertise about the area.

- American Littoral Society – www.littoralsociety.org
- Association of NJ Environmental Commissions – www.anjec.org
- Bayshore Discovery Project – info@bayshorediscoveryproject.org
- Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries, Inc. – cumauriceriver.org
- Cohansey Area River Preservation
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network – www.delawareriverkeeper.org
- Federation of Gloucester County Watersheds – www.sjwatersheds.org
- Natural Lands Trust – www.natlands.org
- The Nature Conservancy – Call 609-861-0600
- NJ Audubon Society – www.njaudubon.org
- NJ Conservation Foundation – www.njconservation.org
- NJ Environmental Federation – www.cleanwateraction.org/NJEF
- NJ Public Interest Research Group – www.njpirg.org
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary – www.delawareestuary.org
- Pinelands Preservation Alliance – www.pinelandsalliance.org
- Regional Planning Partnership – www.planningpartners.org
- Salem County Watershed Task Force – www.scwtf.org
- South Jersey Land Trust 🌿

The 21st Century's Tragedy of the Commons

By Joyce Laudise

Chair, Berkeley Heights (Union) Environmental Commission

The inspiration for this analogy came from the 1968 message Garrett Hardin delivered to the Pacific division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science as the outgoing president and commented upon 30 years later in the journal of the AAAS.

In Europe and here in colonial times people let their cattle graze in a common pasture. There was no limit to the number of cattle an individual could put out to pasture. In fact there was an advantage to have as many animals as one could afford because all the profit gained belonged exclusively to the owner. Too many animals grazing on one parcel of land, however, could eventually cause problems. All cattle owners would ultimately share these problems. Each owner was encouraged to increase his herd without limit in a world that was limited. This was the tragedy of the commons in colonial times. Rules and regulations could have prevented it.

Impervious Cover and Water Quality

Today we are more aware that the supply of land is limited and we must protect it for many reasons, not the least of which is to insure a safe and adequate water supply. Over 300 scientific studies have directly linked high amounts of impervious surface (primarily asphalt, concrete and rooftops) to water resource degradation. Stormwater runs off all impervious surfaces. Instead of rainwater naturally percolating into the ground where it falls, the rain is carried offsite either by just running off or being channeled into stormwater pipes to nearby waterways.

Stormwater carries pollutants to these waterways. If the water were allowed to enter the ground on site,

the natural filtering system of the vegetation and soil itself would purify the water and allow for recharge (replenishment) of underground aquifers or groundwater. The uncontrolled increase in impervious surface and the resultant degradation of our water could be the 21st Century's "Tragedy of the Commons."

Increased development in our towns is inevitable as the population increases. Impervious surface will increase as more construction takes place. The state has recently mandated that an important source of water for most of NJ be protected largely through land preservation in the Highlands. Obviously not all currently available land in the state can be preserved. There are strict new statewide stormwater regulations towns will be required to enforce that will help lessen runoff but there are additional things towns can do to reduce impervious coverage.

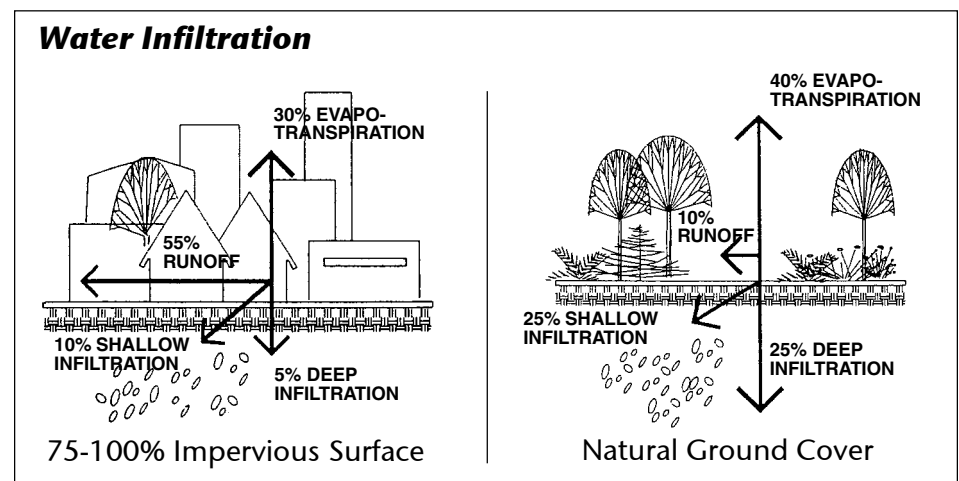
A number of towns have ordinances stipulating the amount of impervious coverage allowed in given zones. In highly developed towns where little land is available there is a growing tendency to subdivide lots so that two

or more houses will replace one. Cases of a 10,000 square foot lot being divided into two 5,000 square foot lots have been allowed by Planning Boards, as has the development of flag lots. It is easy to see the economic advantage to the owner of these subdivisions. The problems that arise from the resultant increased impervious coverage such as increased water pollution and possible flooding must, however, be borne by the whole community.

Controlling Impervious Coverage

Five practices, if enacted and enforced by developed towns would better help control impervious coverage.

1. Towns should enact an ordinance that controls total impervious coverage for all construction. This will help prevent water pollution in their streams, ponds, rivers and lakes as well as nearby groundwater. All water resources are connected. What happens on land within a municipality ultimately affects surface and ground water quality both inside and



outside the local boundaries. Instead of allowing more coverage through changes in the law or through approval of individual variances, towns should enforce their established limits. Over the years one town increased the allowable coverage in a residential one-family zone from 17 percent in 1976 to the present day limit of 25 percent for a 20,000 square foot lot. Members of the town's Board of Adjustment have even suggested a further increase from the current 25 percent.

2. Flag lots should not be created on deep lots that were planned out years ago when the value of land was considerably less than it is today. Often owners want to subdivide these properties to build two houses, frequently taking down an older building presently on the site. The problem is that a long impervious driveway (the staff of the flag lot) must be constructed for the new lot to have access to the street.

3. Towns should adopt an ordinance similar to the one recently adopted by Summit (Union). It says "No parcel or tract of land under single ownership fronting on an accepted street shall be subdivided into two or more lots unless the area of any proposed lot shall not be less than what is set forth in the Schedule of Space regulations ... or the average area of the lots in the neighborhood of the tract to be subdivided whichever is greater." (emphasis added)

4. Parking decks should be used as a substitute for large paved lots for shoppers and commuters in business zones. Today residents of commuter towns are scrambling for more parking at the train station. Parking decks are not considered because of their initial cost but the amount of impervious coverage could be reduced by at least half if they were built.


5. Where there are tracts of sufficient size yet to be developed Conservation Subdivisions should be considered. This method will reduce the amount of pavement and prevent further fragmentation of natural areas. In a Conservation Subdivision,

structures are located on half or less of the property involved and the remainder of the property is permanently protected through conservation easements. The number of houses would be the same but they would be grouped together, allowing for shorter roads and driveways and fewer pipes. There would be less impervious surface. Estimates suggest 40 to 70 percent of land in addition to wet, flood prone and steep slope areas could be protected in this manner. The builder would not be allowed to build at a greater density than what is allowed using a conventional plan.

Education of the public is the key. It has been seen that when residents are aware of the need to protect our waterways they will personally do the right thing. The widely distributed Passaic River Coalition's Homeowner Guide #3 *Contain Your Rain to Reduce Pollution of Drinking Water* and ANJEC's Resource Paper, *Municipal Options for Stormwater Management* explain how and what to do to prevent nutrients like excessive fertilizer, pesticides and oil and gasoline from entering our drinking water sources. Union County has enlisted volunteers to do storm drain stenciling that makes people think twice about dumping anything, including motor oil or pet waste into these drains. The county has for years organized hazardous waste disposal days that more and more people use to get rid of things that might otherwise enter our waterways. If residents are made aware through articles in local papers and talks by ANJEC members to civic groups, for example, that controlling impervious coverage can protect the water we all share, they will encourage elected officials to plan development accordingly and vigorously enforce regulations.

To conclude, as development continues, townspeople and their elected officials must actively work to keep total impervious coverage under control in order to prevent further degradation of our water in the 21st century. Control of impervious coverage will avoid a 21st Century "Tragedy of the Commons."

For Further Information

- G. Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science* 162, (1968), 1244, and "Extensions of The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science* 280, (1998), 682-683
- Town of Summit Ordinance, 04-2588
- ANJEC
 - *Acting Locally: Municipal Tools for Environmental Protection*
 - *Municipal Options for Stormwater Management*
 - www.anjec.org, Tools and Resources, Clean Water
- University of Connecticut's NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) Fact Sheets, available at www.nemo.uconn.edu
 - # 3 *Impacts of Development on Waterways*
 - # 4 *Strategies for Coping with Polluted Runoff*
 - # 5 *Protecting Your Town from Polluted Runoff*
 - # 9 *Conservation Subdivisions*
- Passaic River Coalition, Homeowner Guide #3 *Contain Your Rain*, Passaic River Coalition, 908-766-7380, www.passaicriver.org 

Coming soon...

ANJEC's First Environmental Leadership Course

An opportunity to hone your leadership skills and become part of a new network of emerging environmental leaders.

With a long history of training commissions to help them protect natural resources, ANJEC is pleased to announce a new advanced course to help commissioners effectively influence local environmental policy.

The four-session course will use case study problems to improve participants' understanding of a range of topics including communication, media relations, fundraising and conflict resolution.

The classes are scheduled for fall 2005 simultaneously in northern and southern locations. ANJEC will award participants with a course certificate and CEU's upon completion.

For more information, please contact Tina Bologna at 973-539-7547 or e-mail: tbologna@anjec.org.

What's Happening with the State Plan?

By Barbara Palmer, ANJEC State Plan Project Director

New Jersey's *State Development and Redevelopment Plan* is increasingly affecting the lives of all New Jerseyans. While the first editions were visionary documents that received scant attention, the *State Plan* now has real teeth and the power to affect development in cities, suburbs and rural areas throughout New Jersey. All state agencies, in particular the Departments of Transportation, Environmental Protection and the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH), are using the *State Plan* as a guide to infrastructure developments and funding choices. This means that all local officials and environmental commissioners must pay attention to what the *State Plan* prescribes.

The State Planning Commission has scheduled the release of the third *State Development and Redevelopment Plan* for September, 2005, after a year-long review and modification process, known as Cross-Acceptance, that involves municipalities, counties, and interested citizens.

What is Most Important for a Municipality?

Accurate and appropriate mapping of your town in the *State Plan Policy Map* is the most crucial component of the *State Plan* for local officials and environmental commissions. Towns should be certain that all land in their town is in the appropriate planning area on the *State Plan Policy Map* and that environmentally or culturally important sites are designated as such. Concurrently, officials must check the criteria for the planning areas to understand the appropriateness of the mapping. The *State Plan* has designated seven Planning

Areas: Metropolitan (PA 1), Suburban (PA 2), Fringe (PA 3), Rural (PA 4), Rural/Environmentally Sensitive (PA 4B), Environmentally Sensitive (PA 5), and Environmentally Sensitive/Barrier Islands (PA 5B). Accurate mapping is particularly important when the Fast Track Act takes effect in June 2005. Developers who are willing to pay special fees for projects in so-called Smart Growth Areas (see box) will automatically receive approvals from NJDEP, NJDOT and NJDCA within 45 days of their submittal of a complete application unless the state agency issues a formal denial.

The *State Plan Policy Map* delineates Planning Areas in parcels of a square mile or larger. For smaller areas with environmentally sensitive, historic or cultural resources the *Map* also contains Critical Environmental, or Historic and Cultural Sites in PAs 1, 2 or 3. While designation of Critical Environmental Sites in PAs 1 or 2 offers municipalities a way to put planning and ordinances in place to protect the natural resources, it does not protect these areas from the Fast Track Act. For example, several towns in Morris County that are entirely in

What Are Fast Track's Smart Growth Areas?

- ✓ All land in PA 1, PA 2,
- ✓ A designated center or designated growth center in an endorsed plan in all Planning Areas;
- ✓ Smart growth and planning areas designated by the Meadows Commission;
- ✓ Growth areas designated by the Pinelands Commission;
- ✓ An urban enterprise zone;
- ✓ Redevelopment areas (areas designated in need of redevelopment) approved by NJDCA or designated by NJDEP (a new power for NJDEP).

PAs 1 or 2 have delineated the aquifer recharge area for their water supply as a Critical Environmental Site and written ordinances to limit development with potential negative impacts. Yet as the land is primarily private property and in PAs 1 or 2, the Fast Track Act could expedite permits for development.

Making the Cross-Acceptance Process Work

According to the Office of Smart Growth, the purpose of Cross-Acceptance is to "maximize consistency among municipal, county, regional and state agency plans and the *State Plan*, and to maximize public participation in updating the *State Plan*.... The end goal of Cross-Acceptance is to create a strong linkage between state investments and local planning." (Under the 1986 State Planning Act, Cross-Acceptance takes place every three years.) In April 2004 the State Planning Commission



B. PRETZ

asked all municipalities to review the *Preliminary State Plan* and *Preliminary Map* and respond to their county planning office with any changes and corrections. Each county planning office has reviewed and compiled the municipal comments into a County Cross-Acceptance Report, officially due to the State Planning Commission by December 31, 2004. Some counties have received extensions.

The Office of Smart Growth is compiling counties' proposed changes of statewide relevance to the *State Plan*. Issues raised include a request to include transportation as a separate goal of the *Plan* (Middlesex), a recommendation that the Metropolitan Planning Area (PA 1) have a sub-category added for older, fully developed suburbs (Essex), and a recommendation that preserved farmland be shown on the *Plan Map* (Mercer). The report is a work in progress, with issues added as counties file their reports (available at www.nj.gov/dca/osg/docs/statewidepolicyissues.pdf).

The Cross-Acceptance process requires each county to hold public meetings on its draft and final reports to gather further comments from interested persons and stakeholders. Once the State Planning Commission receives county Cross-Acceptance reports, Office of Smart Growth staff reviews them and draws up a list of agreements and disagreements for each county. Between November 2004 and April 2005 county representatives are to meet with designated members of the State Planning Commission at scheduled public "Negotiation Meetings" to discuss the points of disagreement. The negotiated agreements are then incorporated into the *Draft Final State Plan*.

Once the State Planning Commission has approved and made available

Last Chance for Public Comment

Since the final *Plan* is due for approval in September, it is critical to present comments and concerns in writing well in advance of the July and August meetings. The summer meetings are very late for bringing up substantive changes.

the *Draft Final State Plan*, and a *Draft Infrastructure Needs Assessment* (both scheduled for June 2005), local officials and interested citizens have one last chance for review. State Planning Commission members and Office of Smart Growth staff will present the drafts and gather comments at public meetings in July and August. As noted in the *Preliminary State Plan*, the required *Infrastructure Needs Assessment* is an extensive report of the "present and prospective conditions, needs and costs with regard to State, county and municipal capital facilities." The report covers water, sewerage, transportation, solid waste, drainage, flood protection, shore protection and related capital facilities.

Cross-Acceptance

Schedule (subject to change)

- ✓ November 2004 to April 2005: Negotiation meetings with counties
- ✓ May 2005: State Planning Commission releases *State Plan Impact Assessment*
- ✓ June 2005: State Planning Commission approves and releases *Draft Final State Plan* and *Draft Infrastructure Needs Assessment*
- ✓ July to August 2005: Public meetings on *Draft Final State Plan* and *Infrastructure Needs Assessment*
- ✓ September 2005: *New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan* adopted by State Planning Commission

Dealing with Disagreements

A municipality dissatisfied with its county Cross-Acceptance report has the right to file a separate municipal Cross-Acceptance report within 45 days and negotiate directly with the State Planning Commission. Similarly, an individual stakeholder or group can file a written petition to the Commission within 45 days to comment on or protest county or municipal Cross-Acceptance reports.


Since half the counties filed their reports before March 1, 2005, it is very important for municipalities, stakeholders and groups who see the

need for significant changes to communicate their concerns on the final draft of the *State Plan* to the State Planning Commission and the Office of Smart Growth.

- File written comments as early as possible with the State Planning Commission (**Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 204, Trenton, NJ 08625-0204**)
- Present concerns at the public meetings scheduled for July and August.

For Further Information

Office of Smart Growth, part of NJDCA, offers the most information about the *State Plan*, the State Planning Commission and Cross-Acceptance at www.nj.gov/dca/osg

- *Preliminary State Development and Redevelopment Plan*, www.nj.gov/dca/osg/plan/index.shtml
- *Preliminary State Plan Policy Maps*, www.nj.gov/dca/osg/resources/maps/prelimmaps.shtml (Rather large files. Maps are also available through county and municipal offices or can be ordered from the Office of Smart Growth, at 609-292-7156 or e-mail: osg@mail@dca.state.nj.us)
- Cross-Acceptance
 - Schedule and definition, www.state.nj.us/dca/osg/plan/crossacceptance.shtml
 - Information and listing of county reports, www.nj.gov/dca/osg/plan/crossacceptance.shtml
 - County suggestions of statewide relevance, www.nj.gov/dca/osg/docs/statewidepolicyissues.pdf
 - State Planning Commission meeting schedule, (www.nj.gov/dca/osg/commissions/spc/meetingschedule.shtml). 

Smart Growth Updates



So Your Town is in the Highlands Planning Area...

By Barbara Palmer, ANJEC State Plan Project Director

The NJ Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act divides the 800,000 acre Highlands region into a Preservation Area (398,000 acres) and a Planning Area (402,000 acres). Of the 88 Highlands municipalities, 36 are wholly in the Preservation Area, 47 are partially in the Preservation Area and partially in the Planning Area and 36 are wholly in the Planning Area.

Until the Highlands Council has written its Highlands Regional Master Plan, due to be published in June 2006, there will be some uncertainty for all municipalities in the Highlands. Under the Act, local master plan compliance with the Regional Master Plan is voluntary for Planning Areas (as opposed to mandatory for Preservation Areas). Whether a municipality is partially or totally in the Planning Area, the Highlands Act offers incentives – including enhanced eligibility for grants and cooperative programs from state agencies and a varying degree of protection in the courts – to towns whose master plans are consistent with the Regional Master Plan.

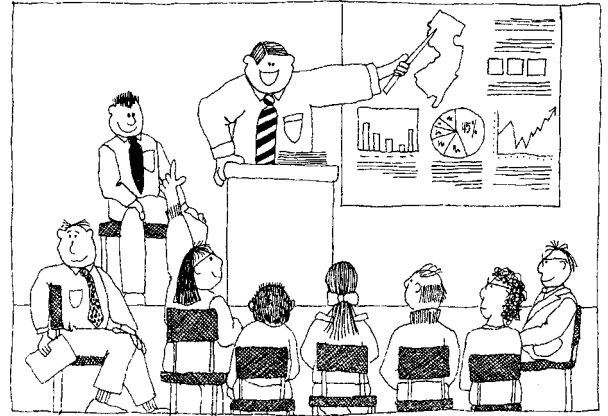
Strict Preservation Area standards developed by the Highlands Council and enforced by the NJDEP will control development in the core of the Highlands. In the Planning Area, municipalities will want to make sure their zoning and development ordinances (which continue to apply) direct growth to suitable areas and prevent significant negative impacts on important natural resources, like streams and forests. Development pressure will continue in the Highlands Planning Area so it is very important for municipalities to have strong environmental ordinances.

The Highlands law requires the Regional Master Plan to be a capacity based plan that will determine the

amount and type of human development and activity that the Highlands ecosystem can sustain, with particular emphasis on ground and surface water quality and supply. The Regional Plan must be submitted to the State Planning Commission for a review and endorsement of its consistency with the *State Plan*.

Under the Highlands law, required Highlands Plan components that affect participating Planning Area municipalities include:

- A complete assessment of the region's resources and their capacity to sustain human development without damage to the ecosystem, particularly ground and surface water quality and supply;
- A transportation plan to preserve transportation systems, including federally mandated programs, that recognizes smart growth strategies and principles and incorporates Highlands Council review and approval of transportation plans and projects before they are included in the Plan;
- Components covering coordination, consistency and smart growth;
- A land use capability map identifying land within the Planning Area suitable for future development, redevelopment, conservation or agricultural importance;
- Mandatory Highlands Council review of Planning Area municipal development projects for Regional Plan consistency, though the Council does not have veto power, as it does in the Preservation Area; The Regional Master Plan's Smart Growth component will identify Planning Area land that may serve as voluntary receiving zones under a



transfer of development rights ("TDR") program. The Highlands Act calls for the Council to designate, if possible, four percent of the Planning Area – 16,080 acres of the Planning Area's 402,000 acres – which are not environmentally sensitive and undevelopable, as appropriate for use as TDR receiving zones.

A number of state incentives encourage Planning Area municipalities to work for conformance with the Regional Master Plan.

- Planning assistance from the Highlands Council, including model ordinances with minimum standards for planning and development regulation;
- Smart Growth grants to support the work of bringing plans and ordinances into conformance;
- "Enhanced planning grants" up to \$250,000 for Planning Area municipalities that have Council-endorsed plans and have implemented eligible TDR receiving zones (permitting densities of five units per acre or more).
- Eligibility for the same benefits as State Plan-endorsed municipalities outside the Highlands region.

For Further Information

- New Jersey Highlands Council, www.nj.gov/njhighlands/

- *NJDEP Guidance for Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act*, www.state.nj.us/dep/highlands
- *ANJEC, The New Jersey Highlands Water Protection & Planning Act Primer*, www.anjec.org/pdfs/Highlandsbrochure.pdf

New Law Promotes Brownfield Redevelopment

In January acting Governor Richard J. Codey signed A-2444, legislation that provides liability protection for qualified developers against natural resource damage claims at brownfield sites in NJ to encourage redevelopment and cleanup of contaminated sites. Fear of legal liability has prevented rebuilding of many abandoned industrial sites, despite prominent and desirable locations in inner cities and along transportation lines.

Qualified developers, under the law, are those who purchased their

property after January 6, 1998, when the Brownfield and Contaminated Site Remediation Act took effect, and who have no link to the cause of the pollution. That means the developer cannot have discharged the pollutants himself, be the corporate successor of the person or company that caused the pollution, or have legally taken on the liability for the damages.

According to NJDEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell, "This new law rightly puts the costs of injuries to our ground water supplies and other natural resources on the backs of polluters, while encouraging cleanup and redevelopment of blighted sites."

CAFRA Center Expirations

CAFRA centers in 64 municipalities expired February 2005. In 2000, NJDEP regulations had established "coastal centers" – areas eligible for high intensity development – for five

years, to promote coordination between the Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (CAFRA) and the *State Development and Redevelopment Plan*. Municipalities were expected to undertake comprehensive planning and apply for *State Plan* endorsement. Only six of the original temporary coastal centers filed the necessary petitions or pre-petitions for plan endorsement.

Several bills have been introduced into the state legislature to extend the coastal center designations. The Office of Smart Growth and NJDEP have stated their willingness to work with towns seeking plan endorsement whose coastal center designations have expired. The municipal plan endorsement process will be prioritized. The NJDEP has recently proposed extending the coastal center designations for a limited number of towns, and reviewing new development proposals under the existing CAFRA standards until the municipalities secure plan endorsement. 🌱

Op-Ed: New Affordable Housing Rules

By Paul Chrystie, Executive Director
Coalition for Affordable Housing and the Environment

Late last year, the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) adopted rules to govern the process of municipal compliance with the *Mount Laurel* doctrine from 1999-2014. Although the rules incorporate a "growth share" methodology for determining municipal housing obligations long supported by housing advocates and environmentalists alike, the link between market rate development (the "growth") and affordable housing obligations (the "share") is so minimal that it undermines both housing and environmental goals.

As background, the *Mount Laurel* doctrine stems from a series of NJ Supreme Court decisions in the late 1970's and early 1980's that ruled that every NJ municipality had a constitu-



tional obligation to provide for its fair share of affordable housing opportunities. What is often overlooked is that the *Mount Laurel* doctrine also requires

sound planning and environmental protection. Providing affordable housing in growing municipalities is critical to environmental protection, particularly for air quality and land use.

Negative Environmental Impacts

Unfortunately, COAH's 2004 adopted rules will provide minimal affordable housing while undercutting the environmental protection and sound planning tenets of the doctrine.

The rules' biggest environmental impact will likely be on air quality. Although the 1985 Fair Housing Act defines 40 percent of NJ households as eligible for affordable housing, COAH's link of jobs to affordable housing is only 4 percent. As a result, a

development of 100 jobs will result in only four affordable units. Upwards of 36 new employees will have to commute longer distances, adding to NJ's air quality problems.

The minimal link of jobs to affordable housing will also "reward" municipalities that accept nonresidential development. They will obtain ratables from office complexes and shopping centers while accepting little responsibility for ensuring that those low and moderate wage workers have opportunities to live in the municipality. Indeed, these rules promote the sprawl inducing "ratables chase."

Inexplicably, those providing the most environmentally sensitive affordable housing must meet higher standards than a for-profit developer

Housing advocates, environmentalists and planners all agree that planning by municipalities is far preferable to litigation as a way to promote environmentally sensitive, well-planned affordable housing.

building McMansions. Municipally sponsored projects and non-profit organizations working on 100 percent affordable housing projects must demonstrate consistency with the *State Plan*, which requires their location in Planning Areas 1 or 2 or in a designated center. Private development projects, which can include less than 10 percent affordable housing, must meet no such location criteria. In other words, the most environmentally destructive projects that provide the least affordable housing are held to the lowest environmental standards.

Anti-Smart Growth

The COAH rules are also anti-Smart Growth. Smart Growth includes affordable housing (see the EPA's Smart Growth Network at (www.smartgrowth.org/about/principles/principles.asp?prin=3) for a statement on the relationship between affordable housing and smart growth). However, it is clear that the goal of these rules – which undercount the state's affordable housing needs by more than 500,000 households – is to minimize the production of affordable housing.

Such a goal undermines smart growth rather than promoting it.

Although the rules pay lip service to environmental protection and sound planning, their details contradict those words. Whether disconnecting jobs and housing, promoting development that will encourage sprawl, or empowering COAH to "advocate" for developers, these rules consistently undermine the environmental protection and sound planning principles of the *Mount Laurel* doctrine, while producing precious little affordable housing. Put simply, these rules are pro-sprawl, pro-smog and anti-open space.

The Legislature passed the Fair Housing Act to remove the courts – and the builders' remedy – from the process of municipalities meeting their *Mount Laurel* obligations. Unfortunately, by adopting these rules COAH has virtually begged for a legal confrontation. Indeed, the Coalition for Affordable Housing and the Environment – which supports the *Mount Laurel* doctrine's tenets of sound planning, environmental protection and affordable housing opportunities – has challenged the adoption of these rules in court. And the NJ Jersey Builders' Association – whose interests are not so public-minded – has also filed a suit against the new rules.

It is difficult to imagine that this rule will not run afoul of the NJ Constitution on housing, environmental and planning grounds. When it does, COAH will have abdicated its responsibility to provide an administrative alternative to builders remedy litigation. Housing advocates, environmentalists and planners all agree that planning by municipalities is far preferable to litigation as a way to promote environmentally sensitive, well-planned affordable housing. Unfortunately, the entity charged with ensuring that such planning takes place has adopted a course that ensures just the opposite.

The Coalition for Affordable Housing and the Environment (www.cahenj.org), of which ANJEC is a founding member, works to promote a NJ with abundant open spaces, a clean environment, healthy cities, and affordable housing choices for its citizens. 🌱



Chatham Courier Praises Abigail Fair's Life of Volunteering

Abigail Fair, ANJEC's Director of Water Resources since 1988, retired from the Chatham Township (Morris) Committee at the end of 2004 after serving for 15 years, including one year as mayor. A Planning Board member since 1977, she also founded the Great Swamp Watershed Association in 1981. Recognizing her wide range of contributions to the community, the *Chatham Courier* editor put together an article, noting that Abigail had "spent her public career identifying and seeking to preserve the connection between residents and natural resources, seeing 'quality of life' here as fundamentally tied to the Great Swamp Watershed." And a former *Chatham Courier* editor noted Abbie's special accomplishments. She was "a standout in her advocacy for good planning and the environment. When she first joined the Township Committee, he observed, "She was a proverbial lone voice in the wilderness. Times have changed. The rest of us have caught up with her. And in large part that's because Abbie Fair educated us. We weren't quick students and it took years, but she never gave up on us. I wonder if she knows the difference she's made. I hope she does."

Bravo Abbie! 🌱

Inter COMM



Reports on Environmental Commission Activities

By Pam McIntosh, ANJEC Resource Center Director

Regional Efforts

Six Commissions Hold Environmental Summit

Woolwich Township (Gloucester) held an "Environmental Summit" to begin an open dialogue with neighboring commissions to identify shared goals. Five of the seven commissions (East Greenwich, Swedesboro and Logan (Gloucester) and Pilesgrove and Woodstown (Salem)), came together and decided to collaborate on recycling. The towns who need to purchase containers are looking into joint purchasing options to reduce overall costs. Future meetings will cover recycling options, land preservation, water allocation issues and the British Petroleum LPG plant planned for Logan.

Stormwater Planning

Cranford Township (Union) a downstream municipality on the Rahway River, has a long history of flooding problems. In March, the Cranford Environmental Commission hosted a meeting for representatives of 18 towns along the Rahway River, to discuss problems related to stormwater management and to introduce the idea of working together on a Regional Stormwater Management Plan. Some 35 environmental commissioners, town engineers and other municipal representatives heard presentations by Cranford Mayor George Jorn, Cranford Township Engineer Rick Marsden, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Specialist Dr. Chris Obropta, and State Senator Tom Kean, Jr. Attendees were enthusiastic about the idea of taking a regional approach to solving problems related to stormwater, such as flooding, erosion and nonpoint source pollution, and the Commission hopes to continue its role as facilitator for this initiative.

Working with Local Schools

Natural Resource Identification

The Rockaway Township (Morris) Environmental Commission has made a connection with the regional Morris Hills High School to involve students in field work, like identification of environmentally sensitive land, stream monitoring, and vernal pond and intermittent stream identification. Working with the district superintendent and science department chair, they have developed a project that will provide the students with practical applications of the science they are learning and the commission with help for their work for the township's master plan.

Water Testing

Last fall, the Tenaflly (Bergen) Environmental Commission instituted quarterly water quality testing in the borough's brook and pond waters with the local high school. The commission first created a water quality monitoring plan that would involve student testing. When the mayor heartily endorsed the concept, the commission spoke with the school superintendent and the head science teacher who were enthusiastic about the project's opportunities for education, public service and hands-on experience. The commission compiled a list of needed supplies, costing about \$2,500 and searched the Internet for the best vendors. After training, students began the water testing last fall. Results are being filed with the Hackensack Riverkeeper and NJDEP and will be posted on Tenaflly's website: www.Tenaflly.nj.us.


"A Day in the Park"

With help from an NJDEP Environmental Services Program grant the East Windsor (Mercer) Environmental Commission created an activity and learning guide for children for 160-acre Etra Lake Park with a map, information on native plants and animals, activities including a forest safari activity sheet, a word search and how to make a gourd birdhouse. A list of websites offers environmental information for kids and grown ups and a list of environmental do's and don'ts.

Great Trees of Glen Rock

The Glen Rock (Bergen) Environmental Commission and mayor sponsored a "Great Trees Glen Rock Contest" to promote citizen interest in trees for their municipality, a Tree City USA for 13 years. Residents nominated significant trees. The town's calendar includes photos of the 24 winning trees.

Protecting Water Resources

The Chatham Borough (Morris) Environmental Commission undertook a project to build a major berm to filter runoff and prevent erosion in Shepard Kollock Park along an unforested stretch of the river. Three local landscapers donated native trees and shrubs as well as their planting. A state matching grant paid the total project cost of \$600. And the public works department agreed to help create a 25-foot natural tall grass buffer by not cutting grass up to the edge of the river. 

Resource Center



By Pam McIntosh, ANJEC Resource Center Director

Working Effectively with Your Governing Body



Due to the advisory nature of environmental commissions and the power of the mayor (or other governing chief executive) to appoint members and select an environmental commission chair, it is important to develop a good working relationship with local elected officials. Working cooperatively and setting a positive tone helps people understand the benefits of environmental protection. A good first step is to involve your governing body and municipal leaders in the environmental commission's annual goal setting. Identify projects they want done. This creates an opportunity to work municipal leaders to accomplish environmental goals.

It also helps to keep municipal leaders, including staff, up to date on the multiple benefits of environmental commission activities. For example, protecting wetlands and forest areas ultimately saves municipal dollars. These resources absorb stormwater and pollutants, which means significantly less need for expensive projects to control runoff and clean up drinking water sources. If the resources are not protected during development review, the municipality may be left to correct resulting problems after the developer has built and gone. An environmental commission also makes a municipality eligible for certain grant monies. And the commission's volunteer work, like putting together GIS maps, educating on issues like stormwater and researching and writing ordi-

nance drafts would otherwise have to be paid for or not done.

Use a Positive Approach

In dealing with elected and appointed officials, remember to keep the tone positive and courteous. Building a good working relationship is a sensitive process. Support your statements with factual evidence and present your reports professionally, providing written copies to board and staff members at least a few days ahead of the public meeting. Give facts and offer alternatives rather


than criticizing. If the environmental commission has a reputation as the town's naysayer, the rest of the government will stop listening. Be well-prepared and ready for questions. Give praise when praise is justified. You'll gain credibility and soon officials will be asking your opinion.

To build a constituency within local government, form liaisons with town agencies like the planning and zoning boards, health, shade tree and recreation commissions and increase their awareness of environmental commission successes and activities. Make sure that the governing body, board of education, other key local agencies like the planning and zoning boards, and local civic organizations receive a copy of the environmental commission's annual report (required

Addressing Challenges to Environmental Commission Membership

The environmental commission enabling legislation (NJSA 40:56A-1 et seq) sets up commission members' designated terms that do not expire until a successor is named. The mayor or governing body may not remove or discipline members for taking positions on critical issues that may differ from those of other local officials. Each regular commission member serves for three years and each alternate for two years, on staggered terms so that a portion of the members' terms expires annually.

According to the enabling legislation, "The mayor or governing body may remove any member of the commission for cause, on written charges served upon the

member and after a hearing, thereon at which the member shall be entitled to be heard in person or by counsel." (NJSA 40:56A-1). Recently a mayor tried to remove a commission member because he was very angry about a strong statement she had made at a public meeting. But the mayor or governing body cannot remove a commission member before his/her term ends without putting together written charges and holding a hearing. In this case, the threatened commission member organized a group of supporters who came to the hearing and convinced the mayor and governing body not to remove her from environmental commission. 


by environmental commission enabling legislation, NJSA 40:56A-4). Work at establishing friendly relationships with key members of local agencies and organizations and their professional staff and advisors. Often informal discussion accomplishes more than formal public hearings.

Also helpful for support of environmental commission activities is to cultivate the grassroots support of local organizations like garden clubs, historical societies, land trusts and civic organizations.

Sometimes commissions face biases not of their making. The governing body or planning board might ignore well-documented advice. Look for help from other town agencies who may be as concerned as the commission about specific topics: for instance, the recreation committee on open space, the fire department on proposals for excessively tall buildings, or the health department on water quality. Local environmental groups, watershed associations or civic groups can also help strengthen the commission's position.

Also remember it is wise to choose battles carefully. So,

- Get the facts;
- Don't take on NIMBY (not in my backyard) issues;
- Assess support of the governing body and citizens on the issues;
- Present alternatives and be reasonable;
- Compromise when necessary; and
- Be happy for small victories; it all adds up.

Cultivating and maintaining good strong contacts with local officials and staff can also help insure that the mayor and governing body make good strong appointments and appropriate the necessary funds for environmental commission activities. While the environmental commission enabling legislation (NJSA 40:56A-1 et seq) clearly protects commissioners' independence, it does not address these issues. The commission has no legal recourse if poor appointments are made or it has no funding. Good working relationships with the mayor, governing body, planning and zoning boards and their professional staff can make all the difference. 

ANJEC in the City

By Mike Hunninghake, Project Director
ANJEC Urban Environmental Assistance

Beyond the Bucket: Increasing recycling rates and awareness in your community

Since the 1980s recycling has become a commonplace activity for most New Jerseyans. Every couple of weeks, we drag our buckets, filled with cans and bottles and newspapers, to the curb, and dutifully drag the empty buckets back to the garage when we get home for work. It has become a routine, like mowing the lawn or balancing the checkbook.

However, as with any routine, complacency can creep in, and efforts to improve the status quo, can often fall by the wayside. So it is important to keep reminding people why we recycle, and perhaps most importantly, educate the younger generations so that they grow up with a recycling ethic and a desire to explore better ways to "close the loop" in their communities.

Expanding Awareness

The excellent East Orange (Essex) *Clean and Green Program*, under the guidance of Knadya O'Kelly, Program Coordinator-Office of Solid Waste & Recycling Department, has recruited over 100 Environmental Ambassadors in nine schools, ranging from pre-K to 12th grade. In addition to promoting the recycling of paper, cans and bottles, the Ambassadors initiated a Tire Recycling program. At the Garden Parks School, 5th and 6th graders identified the locations of discarded tires, developed a monthly curbside tire collection and sent the collected tires to Permalife, a recycled products manufacturer, which turned the tires into welcome mats.

In addition to extensive publicity in local press and cable television, Ms. O'Kelly credits success to the good relationships with the school



principals and teachers, and the school children's effective advocacy in influencing their parents, and encouraging residents to "close the loop"!

During East Orange's Earth Week celebration, enthusiastic supporters Mayor Robert Bowser and Donald Wharton, Superintendent of Solid Waste & Recycling Department, recognized the Ambassadors' and school principals' achievements. And then the Ambassadors spread rubber mulch made from recycled tires on the flowerbeds in front of City Hall to show how the loop is closed!

Goals for Environmental Commission Recycling Projects


Municipal offices and schools: Provide advice on working to limit use of supplies, purchasing recycled materials and recycling common items like paper, ink cartridges, etc.

Computers and cell phones: To reduce this increasingly large part of the waste stream with low recovery rates, why not organize a computer and cell phone roundup day in your community?

Composting (residential or municipal): According to NJDEP, we recycle only 15 percent of our food scraps, which is a mere 3/10 of one percent our total waste. Buy a compost bin and do a "free" raffle to residents at a street fair or Earth Day celebration. Encourage your town to start a composting program through the public works department. Residents can drop off yard waste and then close the loop by picking up compost for their gardens.

Cloth Shopping bags: Ireland recently enacted a 12-cent tax on plastic grocery bags to reduce the litter and use of precious landfill space. And it urges residents to buy sturdy cloth bags at grocery stores for their shopping. The results have been impressive: a 90 percent reduction in use of plastic bags, and millions of euros raised for environmental programs. So why not follow this example and skip the whole debate of "paper or plastic?" Bring cloth bags instead, and encourage others to do the same. Ask your local grocery store to at least give shoppers a 5-cent credit for each cloth bag.

For Further Information:

- EPA's Recycle City, www.epa.gov/recyclecity/
- Grassroots Recycling Network, www.grn.org
- Internet Consumer Recycling Guide, www.obviously.com/recycle/
- Knadya O'Kelly, Program Coordinator-Office of Solid Waste & Recycling Department, East Orange, 973-266-1021, akok24@msn.com
- Permalife, www.permalife.com 



Thanks to a Special ANJEC Volunteer

By Margaret Davey, ANJEC Director of Development



"If I were to design a job that I really wanted, it would be what I am doing now at ANJEC."


- Peter Craig, ANJEC volunteer

Lucky for us at ANJEC that Peter Craig called about a year ago and asked if we needed volunteer help. In talking with Peter, we quickly realized he was knowledgeable about the environment, very interested in public policy and committed to making a difference. He has been a steady fixture at the office in Mendham ever since, answering Resource Center questions, writing for the *ANJEC Report* and taking photos.

In addition to his work at ANJEC, Peter is vice-chair of the Holland Township Planning Board and on the Historic Preservation Commission. His main interests are open space preservation, smart growth and the preservation of agricultural lands. He finds that his work at ANJEC fits well with what he does for his planning board and Historic Preservation Commission as ANJEC has the background information and materials that support their activities.

Peter's favorite job is answering Resource Center questions, which can

touch on just about any aspect of land use regulation. As every staff member at ANJEC does just about everything, he comes to the office prepared to jump into whatever is going on at the moment.

The best volunteer situations are those in which the volunteer and the organization are a good match – the work that needs to be done is just what the volunteer wants to do. We are fortunate to have found that match with Peter. His talent and commitment help us improve our services to local environmentalists. 

"I have the sense the I'm contributing something every time I'm at ANJEC."

- Peter Craig, ANJEC volunteer



Earth Share
OF NEW JERSEY

anjec

is proud to be a member
of Earth Share of New Jersey

Talk to us about how you can offer Earth Share of New Jersey and this organization as a giving option in your workplace.

609-989-1160

Good Earthkeeping

Information commissions can duplicate to use in their communities

By Kerry Miller, ANJEC Assistant Director

Rethink Old Lawn Habits This Year

We all want our yards to look good, but it is important to remember that yards serve functions in addition to pleasing the eye or impressing the neighbors. Residential yards, even suburban ones, are part of nature; what we do to them impacts wildlife, water quality, water supply and even air quality and energy use. Taking a moment to review your gardening practices, you may discover opportunities to make changes that not only help the environment, but save you time and money.

Land in its undeveloped state, covered with trees, shrubs and a decomposing layer of old vegetation, acts as a sponge for rainwater, slowing and minimizing the amount that runs off into storm drains, and maximizing the amount that percolates down through the soil to recharge underground water reserves. Groundwater also provides the "baseflow" of water that keeps streams flowing between rain events. The longer rainwater stays on the land, the more can soak into the soil.

As water trickles downward on its way to the water table, the soil's physical and biological activity filter and purify it. Large areas of cropped grass work against nature's water cycling and purifying efforts because mowed turf allows a much faster rate of stormwater runoff, more similar to pavement than to natural areas. The soil under a residential lawn is often compacted by landscaping machines and foot traffic; this, plus a lack of leaf litter and brush, help to speed the horizontal flow of water off onto streets and into storm drains and surface waters.

How and Why to Shrink Your Lawn Area

Homeowners can help to reduce stormwater runoff, and the pollution and flooding it produces, by reducing the amount of lawn area in their yards, replacing some of it with a variety of shrubs, groundcovers and trees. View your yard with an objective eye. Think about how much of the grass area you really utilize, and consider converting some of the rest to non-turf types of vegetation. Think of the time and money you might save not mowing or weeding unused grass, or paying someone else to do it! Gasoline-powered mowers, which have few pollution controls, spew smog-forming compounds in the hottest months of the year when air quality is worst, so mowing less helps to improve air quality, too.

In addition to converting excess lawn, you can reduce runoff from your property by paving as little of your yard as possible. Use gravel,

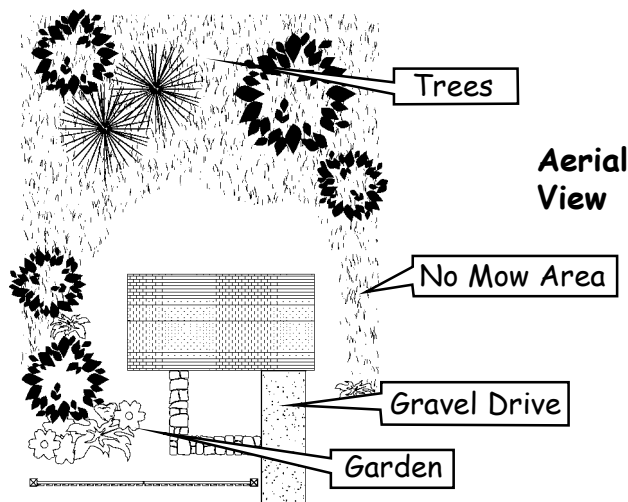
mulch, or spaced bricks or pavers instead of concrete or asphalt, where practical, to allow the maximum infiltration of stormwater. Increase the absorptive properties of your soil by adding organic matter such as compost, and use mulch on the garden to retain moisture.

Rain barrels are coming back into fashion as a way to catch and store stormwater that drains from rooftops, for later use in the garden. Plants love rainwater because it is naturally 'soft'. Using stored rainwater for gardening reduces the amount you'll have to take from the tap; catching it reduces stormwater runoff from your property.

As an added benefit, a vegetated area with tree canopy provides shade and helps to cool the local air in summer, more so than a mowed expanse of turf. Trees located on the sunny sides of the house will reduce fossil fuel use and cut fuel bills, too.

Now is the perfect time to evaluate past gardening habits and practices, think a little bit "outside the box", and make some changes. Remember: think globally, but act locally, such as in your own yard! 🌿

What's Right with this Picture?



ANJEC depends on advertisers to help pay for the cost of printing the ANJEC Report. Please let them know that you saw their ad here. Remember, however, that ANJEC does not necessarily endorse any of these firms.



RTP

Environmental Associates, Inc.

AIR • WATER • SOIL • SOLID WASTE CONSULTANTS

239 US Hwy 22 East Donald F. Elias (732) 968-9600
Green Brook, A. Roger Greenway Fax: (732) 968-5279
New Jersey 08812 Sunil P. Hangal www.rtpenv.com

Wetlands Delineation
Stormwater Management
Ecological Evaluations
Flora & Fauna Surveys
Permit Coordination
Watershed Management

Environmental Connection, LLC

www.envconnection.net

P.O. Box 60, Plumsteadville, PA 18949
Phone: 866.766.1392 • Fax: 215.766.8723



Tetra Tech EM Inc.

100 Enterprise Drive, Suite 400, Rockaway, NJ 07866

www.ttemi.com 973-659-9996



- ✓ Environmental Due Diligence
- ✓ Multi-Media Regulatory Compliance
- ✓ Lake and Stream Restoration
- ✓ Trail and Greenway Design
- ✓ Environmental Resource Inventories
- ✓ Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys
- ✓ Wellhead Protection
- ✓ Natural Resource Damage Assessment
- ✓ Stormwater Planning
- ✓ Watershed Management
- ✓ Wetlands Delineation
- ✓ Smart Growth and Land Use Planning
- ✓ Remediation and Brownfields Redevelopment Services

Tetra Tech EM Inc. is one of the largest providers of environmental and management consulting services in the U.S. We seek to make our clients more successful — applying innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for our communities.



TRIDENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

BIOLOGISTS • SCIENTISTS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS

1658 Route 9
Toms River, NJ 08755

(732) 818-8699
Fax (732) 797-3223



CHECK with the experts

Environmental professionals serving government, commercial and industrial clients since 1980.



Environmental Compliance, Inc.

101 Mt. Bethel Road, Warren, NJ 07059

PROFESSIONAL SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

For a free consultation contact John Jimenez or Joseph Torlucci

(908) 754-1700

web site <http://www.eci-nj.com>
e-mail: jjimenez@eci-nj.com

BANISCH ASSOCIATES, INC.

Planning and Design

Helping preserve farmland, open space, community character and sensitive natural resources for over 30 years

PO Box 154, Sergeantsville, NJ 08557-0154
908-782-0835/7636(fax) banisch@earthlink.net



ANJEC's Pathways for the Garden State

A Local Government Guide to Planning Walkable, Bikeable Communities

Just \$8 plus \$4 shipping.

Order by phone (973-539-7547) or e-mail (info@anjec.org)



F. X. Browne, Inc.

Engineers • Planners • Scientists

Water Quality Studies
Wastewater
Stormwater
Bioengineering
Watershed Management
Wetlands

www.fxbrowne.com

1-800-220-2022

TRC Omni Environmental Corporation

- ✓ Watershed Characterization & Assessment Studies
- ✓ Biological & Environmental Assessments
- ✓ Environmental Monitoring & Modeling
- ✓ Best Management Practice Design
- ✓ Stormwater Management Plans
- ✓ GIS Applications
- ✓ TMDL Studies
- ✓ Watershed Restoration

James F. Cosgrove, Jr., Vice President
Research Park, 321 Wall Street, Princeton, NJ 08540-1515
Tel: (609) 924-8821 Fax: (609) 924-8831 JCosgrove@TRCsolutions.com

LEGGETTE, BRASHEARS & GRAHAM, INC.

PROFESSIONAL GROUND-WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

FRANK J. GETCHELL, P.G.

GROUND-WATER RESOURCE & KARST EVALUATIONS
GIS/ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS
WETLAND/SURFACE WATER IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

OFFICE (800) 818-8LBG
FAX (201) 818-0505
www.lbgweb.com

Mt. Holly, NJ 08060
Ramsey, NJ 07446
E-mail lbg@lbgnj.com

ANJEC depends on advertisers to help pay for the cost of printing the ANJEC Report. Please let them know that you saw their ad here. Remember, however, that ANJEC does not necessarily endorse any of these firms.

Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants, Inc.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ✓Wetland Delineations | ✓Permit Coordination |
| ✓Environmental Impact Statements | ✓Expert Testimony |
| ✓Pond & Stream Restoration | ✓Vegetation/Wildlife Surveys |
| ✓Natural Resource Inventories | ✓Wetland Mitigation Plans |
| ✓Greenways Plans | ✓Forest Management Plans |
| ✓CAD/GIS Mapping | ✓Ecological Evaluations |
- 4 Walter E. Foran Blvd., Suite 209 Flemington, NJ 08822
 ☎908-788-9676 ☏Fax 908-788-6788 ✉Email: mail@amygreene.com
 web address: www.amygreene.com



- Since 1894 -
van note - harvey
associates, pc

Corporate Headquarters
 777 Alexander Road
 Princeton, NJ 08540
 (609) 987-2323

Visit us at: www.vannoteharvey.com

- Wetland Consulting
- Soils/Groundwater Remediation
- Municipal Engineering
- Environmental Assessments
- Water/Wastewater Engineering
- UST Site Management
- Professional Land Use Planning
- Surveying and GPS

Offices in: New Jersey • Pennsylvania • New York
ENGINEERS • ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS • SURVEYORS



ANJEC's Directory of Environmental Consultants
 On our website at www.anjec.org

Information on environmental professionals and businesses operating in New Jersey and surrounding regions. You can search by keyword (including company name) or service area.

Want to be listed in the Directory?
 Go to **Environmental Consultants** on www.anjec.org and click on "Register/Subscribe."




Lewis S. Goodfriend & Associates
CONSULTING ENGINEERS IN ACOUSTICS

760 ROUTE 10 WEST
 WHIPPANY, NJ 07981-1159
 voice 973-560-0090
 fax 973-560-1270

e-mail: info@lsga.com www.lsga.com


- Endangered Species Surveys
- Wildlife Inventories/Studies
- Habitat Mitigation Proposals



Biostar Associates, Inc.
 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
 884 Old Chester Rd., Far Hills, N.J. 07931
 (908) 234-0870

- Wetland/Surface Water Analyses
- Ecological Impact Assessments
- Photography • Expert Testimony

Raymond J. Stein, Pres.



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING

- Hydrology & Hydraulic Studies
- Site Plans & Subdivisions
- Expert Testimony

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

- Environmental Impact Statements
- Wetland Studies
- Flood Plain Studies
- Natural Resource Inventories
- Site Evaluation Studies
- Permits
- Phase I Audits
- Expert Testimony

PROFESSIONAL LAND USE PLANNING

- Community Master Plans
- Zoning and Land Development Ordinances
- Environmental Ordinances
- Expert Testimony
- Environmental Land Use Mapping


John A. Thonet, PE, PP, President
 14 Upper Kingtown Road • Pittstown, NJ 08867
 908.238.0473 • Fax: 908.238.9164
www.thonetassociates.com



Heyer, Gruel + Associates

63 Church Street Second Floor New Brunswick, NJ 08901
 tel 732 828 2200 fax 732 828 9480 email mail@hgapa.com

(community planning consultants)



GOLDSHORE CASH & KALAC, P.C.


Crossroads Corporate Center
 3150 Brunswick Pike, Suite 150
 Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
 Phone: (609) 637-9840
 Fax: (609) 637-9846

Lewis Goldshore, Esq.
 Representing Government Bodies in Environmental Matters Since 1980
www.gckenvlaw.com



Hatch Mott MacDonald

infrastructure + environment | 800.832.3272
 headquarters— Millburn, NJ



ECO SYSTEMS
 Environmental Consultants
Thomas D'Angelo
 17 Indian Terrace
 Lafayette, NJ 07848
 973-875-8585
 Fax: 973-875-8080

Environmental Impacts • Resource Inventories • Grants • Wetlands

ANJEC's 2005 New Jersey Environmental Achievement Awards

Each year, ANJEC presents awards to recognize exceptional work by environmental commissions and groups. Now is the time to nominate your commission, organization or another group for a 2005 ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award, for projects implemented since January 1, 2003. The judges will use the following criteria.

- ✓ impact
- ✓ originality
- ✓ response to a need
- ✓ effectiveness
- ✓ educational value
- ✓ supporting information
- ✓ clarity of application

ANJEC will present the awards at the 32nd annual New Jersey Environmental Congress on Friday, October 21, at Mercer County Community College in West Windsor. We request each winning organization to bring a display of their project to the Congress.

Nomination Form

AWARD CATEGORIES (Check the appropriate box)



- ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (Local or County)
- OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (Local or County)
- NEW ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (For commissions formed after Dec. 31, 2002)
- ENVIRONMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION (Local or Regional/Statewide judged separately)

Nominee organization _____

Project title _____

Project contact _____ Day phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Email _____

Project start date _____ Completion date _____

Nominated by _____ Day phone _____

Email _____

Please list three people, familiar with this project but **not** members of the nominated organization, whom ANJEC may call for additional information and recommendations:

Name _____ Day phone _____ Email _____

Name _____ Day phone _____ Email _____

Name _____ Day phone _____ Email _____

Please submit this application form and a narrative of the project that includes background, objectives, activities and accomplishments as well as supporting materials like photos, maps and newspaper clippings. Please indicate how much work a consultant or other professional did on the project.

DEADLINE: Thursday, September 1, 2005

MAIL TO: ANJEC, PO Box 157, Mendham, NJ 07945 (Phone 973-539-7547)

For courier or UPS delivery SEND TO: ANJEC, 300 Mendham Road, 2nd Floor, Morristown, NJ 07960

You can also download a copy of this form on the "About Commissions" section of ANJEC's web page (www.anjec.org)



SAVE THE DATE
ANJEC's 2005
Environmental
Congress

Friday October 21st, 2005
 Conference Center at Mercer
 Mercer County Community College
 West Windsor
 9 am - 3 pm

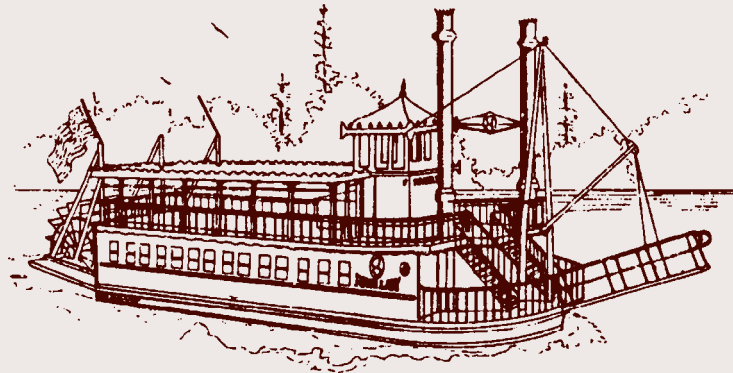
For more details on ANJEC events, go to
www.anjec.org or call 973-539-7547.

CORPORATE DONORS

ANJEC Gold Members: \$7,500 and Up

Bristol-Myers Squibb
Company
PSEG

Join ANJEC for a Three-Hour Dinner Cruise
 on the River Lady out of Toms River
Friday May 20, 2005



*Enjoy the scenery, learn about
 the area's history and natural resources*

Silent Auction

featuring original artwork, guided outings and much more

Dinner and cash bar

All proceeds will help strengthen ANJEC's educational programs.

Tickets	\$ 75	Friend
	\$100	Supporter*
	\$150	Benefactor*

*listing in the Dinner Cruise Program

RSVP by May 10, 2005 - limited boat capacity
 Contact ANJEC at 973-539-7547 or info@anjec.org



ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS

P.O. Box 157
 Mendham, NJ 07945

Non Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 East Hanover, NJ
 Permit No. 5