

anwec REPORT

WINTER 2004



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Environmental Congress





Director's Report

Cross acceptance time again

Starting this spring, municipalities and counties have an opportunity to shape and revise the State Plan that will direct development throughout New Jersey for many years to come. The State Planning Commission has scheduled the beginning of the third round of Cross Acceptance in March. Through this unique "bottoms-up" approach to planning, the Commission will be soliciting and considering the plans, comments and advice of each county and municipality.

The State Planning Act of 1985 (NJSA 52:18A-196 et seq.) requires that every three years the State Plan undergo Cross Acceptance, which the law defines as the "process of comparison of planning policies among governmental levels with the purpose of attaining compatibility between local, county and State Plans. The process is designed to result in a written statement specifying areas of agreement and disagreement and areas requiring modification."

What makes this third round of Cross Acceptance different is that state agencies have already developed changes in data or policies for certain areas. Through the Office of Smart Growth, the State Planning Commission will send a CD with the existing State Plan Policy map and maps that show new information from the Departments of Environment, Transportation and Agriculture to each municipality. (The information will also be available on the Office of Smart Growth's (OSG) web site (www.state.nj.us/dca/osg.) Because these agency map modifications may conflict with each other and with local information, municipalities should study the new data carefully and offer recommendations for the Preliminary State Plan Map that will be used in the upcoming Cross-Acceptance process. Municipalities should also carefully review the new state-generated data, which will be considered in all future Plan Endorsement (which replaces Center Designation) applications.

Cover Photos: From top left corner, NJDEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell and ANJEC Executive Director Sandy Batty; NJ Audubon Society, VP for Conservation Eric Stiles; ANJEC President Robert Dobbs; Congress exhibits; Montclair (Essex) Environmental Commission.

Our thanks to ANJEC Trustee Michael Hogan, whose photography firm specializes in fine art photography of southern NJ sites. www.hoganphoto.com

The Commission's *Cross-Acceptance Manual*, also on the OSG website, outlines the process. Regarding municipal participation, the manual stresses that it should not be restricted to a governing body or planning board function, but should include input from other municipal agencies, including the environmental commission and the public.

The State Plan has important environmental implications. The State Planning Act calls for developing a state plan to provide "sound and integrated statewide planning and the coordination of statewide planning with local and regional planning in order to conserve its natural resources, revitalize its urban centers, protect the quality of its environment and provide needed housing and adequate public services...."

In particular, the environmental commission should look at the map changes based on information from the NJDEP. This includes endangered species and sewer service data from NJDEP's 2003 "Big Map." As a first step, the environmental commission should verify that the information is correct for its municipality and if it represents any local or existing State Plan map changes. If the commission agrees with the NJDEP's delineation of sensitive environmental features and sewer service areas, it should encourage the municipality to protect these features in the local master plan and in the proper designation of Planning Areas of the State Plan.

Sandy Batty
Executive Director

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566 MUNICIPALITIES ONE ENVIRONMENT

Executive Director Sandy Batty
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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.

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In This Issue:

- 3 Preserving Town Character, Protecting the Environment
- 4 Commissioner Bradley Campbell's Promising Outlook for NJ
- 5 Three Cheers for Local Environmental Accomplishments
- 8 Balancing Groundwater Supply and Ecosystem Needs
- 10 Environmental Law's Top Ten for 2003
- 11 Smart Growth Updates
- 13 Resource Center
- 14 ANJEC in the City
- 15 Book and Film Reviews
- 16 ANJEC Activities

As our population continues to grow, natural land is constantly being lost to development. Urban sprawl has created land-use monocultures and patchy landscapes, where residents are often isolated from community buildings and commercial zones. Opinion polls show that people living in these areas are primarily concerned about the loss of open space and worsening traffic problems. In many areas, streets are widened to accommodate increasing traffic volume. This subsequently destroys open space and can decrease the quality of life for nearby residents. As a result, new developments often lack traditional neighborhood character. An environmentally minded urban planner, Thomas Comitta described how he has focused on redeveloping existing centers to preserve town character and minimize spillover into the countryside.

The term "walkability" refers to the degree to which people can travel around an area without the use of

Preserving Town Character, Protecting the Environment

By Veronique Koster, ANJEC writer

Town planner and landscape architect Thomas Comitta, of Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc., was the keynote speaker at ANJEC's 2003 Environmental Congress in October 2003. His planning designs aim to achieve a sustainable balance between manmade and natural landscapes.

*Environmental Congress
keynote speaker
Thomas Comitta.*
PHOTO BY GARY SZELC



automobiles. The main key to promoting walkability is ensuring that there is mixed land use so people are not forced to use their cars to travel to work and other local institutions and businesses. Walking around a community encourages social interactions and community bonding. The idea is simple: people who feel connected to their communities are more likely to appreciate where they live, take time to improve their quality of life, and care about their local environment. Furthermore, pedestrian-based communities are more sustainable because they use fewer resources and create less pollution. Most modern developments, however, are not centered upon this wise concept. In NJ, we have become all too familiar with massive residential developments that seem to engulf the land, often lacking character and leaving very little opportunity for people to interact with one another.

Key Design Elements

Comitta believes walkable, compact, interconnected and sustainable communities must possess certain key design elements that help to enhance community character. First and foremost, the town or neighborhood must contain an institutional "an-


chor" that brings community members together, like parks, a post office, a town hall, community centers, and local theaters. There must also be a definable town or neighborhood center where people can gather for special events. The "ideal" neighborhood should feature a quarter-mile walk from the edge to the center, regardless of whether it is within a larger city or exists on its own. There must be a combination of residential, commercial, institutional, recreational, and limited industrial land uses organized in a mixed but flowing arrangement. Having mixed-uses within buildings adds diversity to communities and promotes social interactions. Ideally, streetscapes should consist of buildings that are two to four stories high on both sides of the street, and all be positioned roughly the same distance from the street to create an attractive "street

wall". Porches and patios provide a transition from the private to public realm, and also allow people to relax and socialize outdoors. Having shade trees along streets provides practical and environmental benefits, and also adds charm to the streetscape.

Green space is also an essential component of a town landscape. These natural areas must exist in harmony with the built environment and be distributed in a systematic way throughout a community.

Role of Transportation

Comitta also identified several key transportation elements that help enhance community interactions and create a "small town" atmosphere. Neighborhoods must have a network system of interconnected streets that link pedestrians and drivers to other modes of transportation like trains and buses. Alleys and lanes are important because they preserve the frontage streetscape and provide parking opportunities behind buildings. Having on-street parking is also beneficial to neighborhoods because it provides a separation between pedestrian and vehicular traffic and helps to slow the speed of traffic in narrower streets. Since walkability is such a critical factor in maintaining traditional town character, pedestrian routes like sidewalks, crosswalks, pathways, and walkways are also important for linking buildings and streets together, promoting exercise and healthy habits, and providing various opportunities for people to appreciate their communities.

In many areas, it may not be possible to follow all of the criteria that Comitta outlines in his description of an "ideal" town. Any improvements that encourage community interactions, however, can help to enhance town character. Even small cosmetic changes such as adding hedges, street lamps, gazebos, and monuments can help to improve the quality of living for local residents. Local environmental managers can play an important role in guiding developers not only *where* to build, but *how* to build as well. The hope is that providing opportunities for more personal contact will help strengthen the ties between people and their communities. And more people will be more willing to take part in caring for their local environment. 

Preserving Town Character

The mission of Preservation New Jersey Inc. is "to sustain and enhance the vitality of New Jersey's communities by promoting and preserving their diverse historic resources." PNJ executive director Ron Emrich made a presentation along with Thomas Comitta at the Congress workshop on Preserving Town Character. He outlined several interesting points that strongly support the preservation of historic resources.

✓ Preserving energy

Today, building materials make up 25 percent of the waste in our landfills. By preserving historical resources, we preserve the "embodied energy" that went into the original building and avoid high-energy expenditures associated with new construction projects.

✓ Tourism revenue

Heritage tourism is a multi-billion dollar industry, and continues to increase in popularity as Americans travel to revisit their roots. Heritage tourism imposes little impact on the environment and generates valuable dollars for local

economies. Recent surveys indicate that tourists show much more preference for genuine historic communities than new developments that mimic old ones. The federal Investment Tax Credit program, administered by NJDEP (www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/3preserve/itc.htm) provides income tax credits as an incentive for the rehabilitation of historic properties that will generate income. In New Jersey, there are many revitalization opportunities that await eager investors.

✓ Economic incentives

The rehabilitation of old buildings requires more labor than new construction projects and uses more local resources that subsequently benefit the local economy. As a result, the local job industry benefits from historic preservation.

✓ Affordable housing opportunities

Historic preservation can be directly linked to affordable housing issues. In many cities, abandoned buildings are being recovered and used for low-income housing.

Commissioner Bradley Campbell's Promising Outlook for NJ

By Veronique Koster, ANJEC writer

NJDEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell gave New Jersey environmentalists many reasons to applaud during his opening remarks at ANJEC's Environmental Congress in October 2003. Following the Congress theme, *Designing for the Environment*, he focused on smart growth and NJDEP's latest efforts to improve the quality of our environment.

For many years, brownfields have been a hot topic. Many of these abandoned sites lie in the heart of our urban areas and are usually overlooked by developers who prefer to build on undeveloped land. Campbell pointed out that as a result, the Garden State loses an alarming 50 acres a day to development - with an estimated 40 percent in critical

environmental areas. Redeveloping brownfields helps save even more acres of green space and natural resources, since infrastructure like roads, utilities, and parking lots already exist in urban areas.

With a growing population of eight million people, continuous efforts must be made to ensure that NJ residents receive quality water supplies. Throughout the country, traditional storm water management techniques have been more reactive than preventative. Commissioner Campbell noted that the NJ government has taken proactive steps in recent years including new stormwater rules that include 300-foot buffers along Category 1 waterways. Thanks to these initiatives,

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HOGAN



NJDEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell

today our state has some of the most stringent stormwater regulations in the country.

Commissioner Campbell pointed out that historically, we have generally addressed pollution, population growth, and land use as separate issues. Today, we know that effective Smart Growth depends on whether our land use practices are environmentally sound. NJDEP will be addressing critical issues that were part of its BIG map, including promoting land use patterns that encourage smart growth, improving regulations to protect threatened and endangered species, manage wastewater and sewer extensions and limit impervious cover.

In his closing remarks, Commissioner Campbell announced the partial restoration of funds for 2004 Environmental Services Programs grants which offer commissions \$1,000 to \$2,500 to be matched by municipalities. And he reiterated the critical role that environmental commissioners play in maintaining the quality of life in New Jersey by providing their local communities with "on the ground" benefits. He stressed that local environmental managers are the state's logical partners in dealing with natural resource damages, and that commissions should take advantage of their positions to advise the state on how local settlements should be negotiated and where government dollars and efforts should be directed. 🌱

Three Cheers for Local Environmental Accomplishments

By Kerry Miller, ANJEC Assistant Director

The ANJEC Environmental Achievement Awards, presented each year at the Environmental Congress, showcase some of the most ambitious and effective work being done by New Jersey's environmental commissioners. Each year, ANJEC staff and trustees gain renewed appreciation for NJ's 2,100 dedicated community volunteers as they continually find new and creative ways to solve problems, educate residents, and protect natural resources for future generations.

This year's awards recognized five commissions and two non-profit organizations for publications and ordinances to protect water resources and open space, a conservation easement inventory and website, a municipal sustainability planning guide and resolution and successful land preservation efforts. We also presented four environmental commissions with honorable mention certificates.

Chatham Township Environmental Commission (Morris)

Using GIS, the Chatham Township Commission developed

an inventory of conservation and trail easements held by the municipality, NJDEP and environmental non-profit organizations. The data set includes a detailed map of each easement and an attribute table with deed and easement information. The environmental commission and the open space committee will use the data to monitor easements and make planning decisions. The commission set up a website (www.geocities.com/ctecnj) with easement information for landowners, including a map of the township's easement inventory. The website explains the benefits of selling or donating a conservation easement to the township or a land trust, and lists other websites and organizations to contact for additional information.

Franklin Township Environmental Commission (Gloucester)

After completing its Natural Resources Inventory in late 2002, the Franklin Commission recognized a need for an

Chatham (Morris), Mendham (Morris), and Franklin (Gloucester) Commission representatives.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HOGAN

educational supplement for residents. Commission members collected and organized material, focusing mainly on water resources protection and wrote a 12-page booklet, *OUR WATER—The Streams, Lakes and Groundwater of Franklin Township*. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission donated professional graphic services for the layout. An NJDEP grant and matching township funds covered printing costs. When NJDEP released its proposed Stormwater Management Rule, commission members revised their booklet to help fulfill the public education requirement. The commission distributed copies to local schools, at the municipal building and at the commission's Community Day festival booth and is planning to mail a second printing to lake area residents.

Mendham Township Environmental Commission (Morris)

The Mendham Township Commission, which is responsible for the care of existing open space properties, wanted to build voter support for an upcoming referendum (which passed in November) to remove the sunset provision on the local open space tax and to increase residents' use and appreciation of existing preserved properties. Commission members created a color brochure with text, a map and photos featuring existing open space, key features and historical notes. The booklet also demonstrates the economic benefits of open space acquisition, comparing the financial and environmental costs of preservation versus development of an approved subdivision plan for a parcel acquired in 1997. A local architectural firm donated professional design services for the color publication, and an NJDEP grant and township matching funds paid for printing.

Montclair Environmental Commission (Essex)

At the request of the township manager, the Montclair Commission created *The Sustainable Montclair Planning Guide*, which describes how the municipal government can incorporate the concept of sustainability into its decision-making, operations and purchasing. The *Guide* describes tasks and strate-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HOGAN

Montclair (Essex)
Environmental
Commission

gies for current implementation including an energy audit of all buildings, converting the vehicle fleet to electric/hybrid and alternative fuels, purchasing recycled products, converting to a "pay as you throw" trash system, and adopting integrated pest management. During development of the *Guide*, commission members educated and lobbied interest groups, council members and other officials. On March 18, 2003, the council unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the *Guide* and adopting a sustainability policy for Montclair. The township has purchased its first four CNG (compressed natural gas) vehicles and expanded the municipal recycling program. The commission compiled an RFP for an energy audit, and sponsored a presentation on the pros and cons of "Pay as You Throw."

Union Township Environmental Commission (Hunterdon)

Over a very short period of time, the Union Township Commission has completed five significant projects: a tree protection ordinance that received a Hunterdon County planning award, a full set of NRI maps, the



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HOGAN

Union Township Open Space and Recreation Plan through a contract with Morris Land Conservancy, a lighting ordinance, and an environmental commission newsletter. Representing the township on the Spruce Run Initiative, the commission also participated in the creation of the *Critical Areas Preservation Plan for the Spruce Run Reservoir Watersheds*.

Washington Township Environmental Commission (Gloucester)

In Washington Township, tetrachloroethylene and MTBE have contaminated several community wells. The commission sought to identify potential sources of pollution and management practices to reduce the risk of further contamination. In 1998, funded by an NJDEP grant and matching funds from the township and MUA, the commission began reviewing various approaches to groundwater protection. In 2000, it proposed a zoning ordinance that created an overlay district of wellhead protection areas. Over two years, the commission made many presentations before local boards, at the library and community events, and obtained frequent press coverage. After extensive review by state and local agencies, officials and staff, the council passed the ordinance, which has brought about significant change in the way development applications are scrutinized for their potential impact on groundwater. The township has obtained concessions on design and management practices from developers, and even the MUA. To keep the wellhead protection regulations in

Union (Hunterdon)
Environmental Commission



Washington (Gloucester) Environmental Commission PHOTO BY MICHAEL HOGAN

place, the township has appealed a Superior Court ruling on a suit brought by the NJ Fuel Merchants to dismiss the ordinance.

ENVIRONMENTAL NON-PROFITS

Newton Creek Watershed Association (Camden)

In the fall of 2001, the Newton Creek Watershed Association (NCWA) learned that a recreation task force was proposing ball field construction on a 25-acre parcel of township-owned parkland in Haddon Township known as MacArthur Woods. In an intense multi-pronged campaign to build support for preserving the site and buffer areas, the members researched the financial and ecological impact of athletic fields, and the parcel's history. For over a year they used tours, a website (www.macarthurwoods.com), literature, a petition drive, letters to

Newton Creek Watershed Association



PHOTO BY GARY SZELC

the editor and public meetings to convince the governing body to leave the land in its natural state. In the spring of 2003, the township agreed to protect the 25 acres permanently with a conservation easement, crafted with the help of NCWA representatives.

Save the Environment of Moorestown (STEM) (Burlington)

For 31 years, STEM, a non-profit, citizens' group, has been a leader in open space preservation and stewardship in Moorestown. STEM understands the need to maintain support for open space preservation by educating the community and getting residents to take an active role in stewardship. The organization holds regular tours, events, restorations and cleanups at the town's preserved sites. In 2002, at the "STEM Steps Out" event over 200 participants traveled between preserved sites on shuttle buses, enjoying nature walks and talks, bird and turtle watching, children's activities, a photo contest display, and tea and scones. Many area merchants and residents donated goods and services, and local newspapers offered extensive coverage.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Clinton Township Environmental Commission (Hunterdon)

The commission worked with Princeton Hydro to create a comprehensive NRI in both paper and digital format. They entered the extensive data into a user-friendly GIS program that township boards and professionals can use to create specialized local maps.

Upper Freehold Environmental

Moorestown (Burlington) STEM members

Commission (Monmouth)

To raise awareness about the impacts of development on the community, the commission sponsored and assisted a student project to create a narrative and photographic *Chronicle of Upper Freehold's Environmental and Scenic Treasures* focused on the township's rural/agricultural areas.

Verona Environmental Commission (Essex)

Commission members created and piloted an elementary school curriculum on recycling and reducing waste that included videos, discussion and hands-on activities like a statistical analysis of students' lunchbox waste.

Denville Township Environmental Commission (Morris)

To increase environmental awareness, the commission sponsored a student *Earth Day Grocery Bag Project*, an Arbor Day seedling giveaway and tree planting, and also worked with other municipal councils to establish a lake water-monitoring program.

Through the awards application process we get a snapshot of the vast amounts of time, talent and effort environmental commissioners are contributing to their communities all across New Jersey. We know that this year's round of winning projects will inspire other commissions to action, and that next year will bring new and exciting initiatives to light.


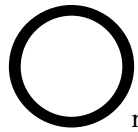
Look for this year's Achievement Award application on the spring 2004 *ANJEC Report*. 



PHOTO BY GARY SZELC

Balancing Groundwater Supply and Ecosystem Needs

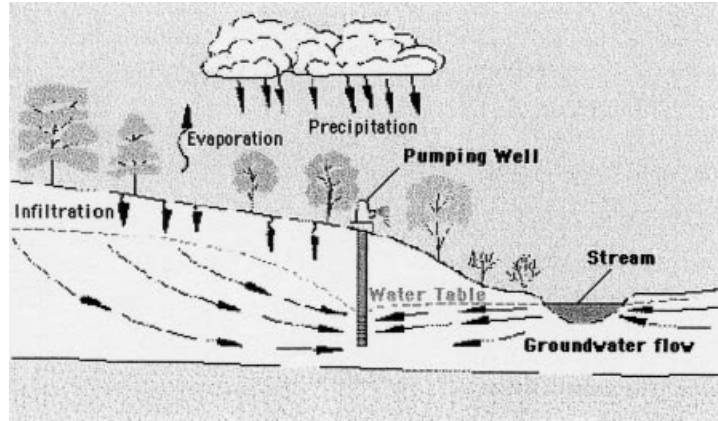
By Richard Bizub, Project Manager for Water, Pinelands Preservation Alliance from his presentation at the ANJEC 2003 Congress.



On a cold and snowy morning in January 2003 over 350 people packed into a firehouse to voice their concerns at an NJDEP public hearing, held at the request of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. At issue was whether the NJDEP should allow the Crestwood Village Water Company to withdraw an additional 95 million gallons of water per year from the shallow Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer. Would the increased withdrawal cause local streams to dry up? This aquifer, like most other shallow aquifers throughout the state provides much of the water or baseflow to local streams, rivers and associated wetlands. NJ's groundwater is a very important resource. Half of our residents – and up to 100 percent in rural areas – get their water from wells. Nationwide and in NJ, 95 percent of all fresh water is groundwater. For every gallon of surface water in NJ, some 20 to 30 gallons are underground.

One of the best ways to minimize impacts to our streams from approved water withdrawals is to gain a better understanding of the state's water allocation process. NJDEP issues 10-year water allocation permits and almost always grants renewals with increased diversions. We can't afford not to become active in this process. Water allocations and the health of our aquatic ecosystems have been decoupled far too long!

The request of the Crestwood Village Water Company is just one example of a growing problem facing the state as a whole. Water is a precious natural resource and not an unlimited commodity. Unfortunately, we on the East Coast tend to view water as just another utility like telephone, electricity, sewer and cable TV. The attitude of the builders and



Adapted from USGS by Riverdeep

developers is "we just build the homes," there's plenty of water, just drill another well or have the local water utility supply the multitude of new homes.

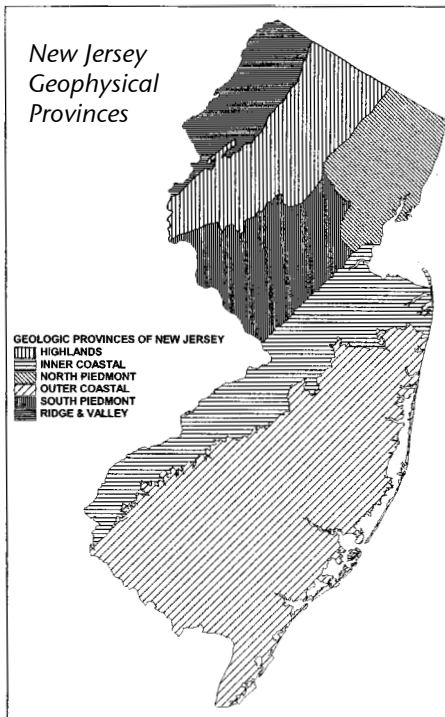
This cornucopian view that we have an inexhaustible supply of water, particularly as it relates to our shallow aquifers, is one of the greatest threats facing our wetlands and aquatic ecosystems today because of the inextricable connection between the shallow groundwater table and nearby streams, rivers and wetlands. The shallow groundwater table provides over 90 percent of the water to local streams and associated wetlands in NJ's Coastal Plain, particularly the Pinelands and a significant amount throughout the state. Particularly during the hot summer months, or worst yet, during times of drought, groundwater may be the only source of water sustaining our streams. At these times, ecosystems are most vulnerable to the added stress of wells removing the groundwater that is the life-blood of our streams.

How much water can be removed from a shallow aquifer without harming the ecosystem? The NJDEP

Bureau of Water Allocation has the responsibility for maintaining this delicate balance. But, based on a growing number of examples, it appears the Bureau has strayed from its charge of maintaining adequate water levels for **all** users of the resource. The Bureau rarely analyzes how a diversion will affect the plant and animal communities despite the fact that their survival depends on the groundwater supplying sufficient stream flows. *Water allocation is an aquatic ecosystem issue, not just a water supply issue.* Because we have overlooked this important connection, we are now literally drying up our streams to provide irrigation water to golf courses, nursery, horticultural activities and agriculture and potable water for new housing developments.

Water Allocation Basics

Any withdrawal of more than 100,000 gallons of water per day (approximately 70 gallons per minute) either from a single source or a combination of sources requires an NJDEP water allocation permit. The Water Supply Management Act (N.J.S.A. 58:1A et. seq.) sets the threshold of 100,000 gallons per day



for public water supply, industrial processing and cooling, irrigation, sand and gravel operations, remediation, and power generation. NJDEP-certified agricultural, aquacultural and horticulture activities using more than 100,000 gallons of water per day don't require a water allocation permit. Homeowners' wells generally do not require a water allocation permit because the flow rate is much less than 70 gallons per minute.

One of the permit requirements is an aquifer test to determine if the new withdrawal will impact other users of the aquifer in the area. Again, "user" up until now only included people and not ecosystems. The applicant must also demonstrate that the withdrawal is in the public interest and will not exceed the natural replenishment or safe yield of the water resource. (NJDEP's rules at NJAC 7:19-1.1 define "safe yield" as a "maintainable yield of water available continuously during projected future conditions including a repetition of the most severe drought, without creating undesirable effects.")

In general, all new municipal supply wells and golf courses require a water allocation permit since they withdraw more than 100,000 gallons per day. Also, NJDEP treats any request for additional water part of an existing water allocation permit as a

major modification. The applicant has to go through the same process as someone installing a new well, including a new aquifer test to determine if the additional withdrawals will have any impacts.

The Application Process

The first step in the water allocation process is to establish the *need*. Why is water being requested? If a golf course is being built, the need would be water for irrigation. If a municipal utility authority or private water purveyor is asking for water, the most common reason is to supply additional housing. The applicant has to show 10-year water demand projections.

Applicants typically ask for a pre-application meeting to discuss informally their need for water and lay out their proposed approach. If NJDEP indicates it is likely to approve their request, the applicant submits a formal application asking for and justifying a specific amount of water. The application also includes a Hydrogeological Test Proposal, which lays out the details of the required 72-hour constant rate aquifer test. The applicant's formal Hydrogeological Report summarizes the findings of the aquifer test and usually includes the results of groundwater modeling and conclusions regarding impacts of the proposed withdrawal on existing diversions. But rarely do these applications include information on the impacts on the ecosystems associated with the groundwater.

Based on the applicant's Hydrogeological Report, the NJDEP Bureau of Water Allocation makes official recommendations in a Draft Staff Report that includes findings of fact, analysis and justifications for specific recommendations. At this point, the regulations require NJDEP to publish a Public Notice in a local newspaper stating that an application has been filed, describing the proposed diversion, its source, location, amount of water requested and/or allocation. The Notice also includes the date by which all comments must be received (at least 30 days after publication of the Notice) and a statement that **any interested party** can ask for a public hearing. If NJDEP receives no negative comments on

the request, it almost certainly grants the request, issuing a final Staff Report and a 10-year water allocation permit.

What Can You Do?

Be proactive. Most people only have a general idea of where their water comes from. If you do not obtain water from your own well, your water is covered under an existing water allocation permit. The best place to start is to contact the Bureau of Water Allocation (609-292-2957) and make an appointment to review the file for your water purveyor. Specifically, ask for the Staff Report for the last water allocation permit. Gold mines of information, these reports generally include the following data.

- A history of how much water was granted, typically for the past 30 plus years
- Diversion amounts
- Population served
- Average and peak monthly consumption
- Specifics on wells and surface water sources
- Locations of wells and surface water sources
- Relationship of these wells and surface water sources to the *New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan*
- Inspection and violation history
- Interconnections
- Percent of unaccounted-for-water
- Other wells and surface water sources in the area
- Last but not least, recommendations on how many gallons per day will be approved.

As part of the justification of the need for water, the file will usually contain a listing of proposed developments for the next 10 years.


When you learn that a golf course is going to be constructed, automatically assume that it will need a water allocation permit. Contact NJDEP's Bureau of Water Allocation and ask for specifics on the allocation request. If the golf course is part of a larger development plan, chances are the homes will get their water from an existing local purveyor and the golf course will have to obtain its own water allocation permit.

When you see a Public Notice in the newspaper for a water allocation

Reviewing Public Notices

The NJ Press Association and the NJ League of Municipalities have put together a web site (<http://publicnoticeads.com/nj> - use no www) that includes legal ads from all NJ daily papers and most weekly papers. Laws require all levels of government to publish public notices announcing hearings, variance requests, permit applications, ordinance adoptions and other information. Many newspapers publish legal notices online. This site allows you to search by county, newspaper, date and keyword phrase. You can also sign up for a free service where you identify key words of interest and the public notices will be emailed to you as soon as they are published.

request, make an appointment with the Bureau of Water Allocation to review the file and Draft Staff Report. Remember, any interested party can request that a hearing be held to voice concerns.

Most of all when you follow-up on water allocation issues, always ask yourself the question, how will this allocation affect nearby streams, rivers, wetlands and ponds? If you have any doubts, you must respond, or be prepared to watch these water-bodies and their associated ecosystems vanish with time. 

For Further Information

- NJDEP Bureau of Water Allocation 609-292-2957
- NJDEP Water Supply Administration, (www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/)



Environmental Law's Top 10 for 2003

By Lewis Goldshore, Esq.

The top 10 legal environmental issues for 2003 deal with land use, pollution, redevelopment and endangered species.

1. Smart growth.

In his State of the State speech, the Governor indicated that smart growth – encouraging growth in the cities and older suburban areas, while discouraging it in the environmentally sensitive and agricultural areas – would be the year's leading environmental issue. While it may be comparatively easy to discourage growth, the provision of adequate incentives to promote private investment in less desirable areas remains illusive.

A number of NJDEP initiatives, including the BIG map and upgrading of various regulatory control programs, were designed to promote the desired goals. Due to adverse comments, the BIG map was withdrawn. However, the department will continue to implement its policies through the State Plan and various regulatory programs.

2. Brownfields redevelopment.

More than 10 years have passed since the state has recognized the need to encourage the redevelopment of brownfields properties. While governmental aid is needed to promote these activities, a private market must exist for the end product. Most of the easier to remediate properties have been, or are poised to be, redeveloped. The more difficult sites will only be redeveloped if affirmative steps are taken to expedite and facilitate the cleanup approval process.

In an effort to spur brownfields redevelopment, the NJDEP has begun to look at sites on an area-wide basis and has initiated a program to pre-qualify environmental consultants. The voters also weighed in by approving a constitutional amendment that



will expand the use of dedicated tax revenue to fund hazardous discharge cleanups.

3. Condemnation of contaminated properties.

The Supreme Court established the procedures to be followed in future condemnation cases where contamination is present or suspected of being present. The Court indicated that valuation and contamination issues should be considered separately. The property should be valued as if it has been remediated and the condemning authority may require that a portion of the award be set aside to satisfy the cleanup and transfer obligations. This ruling will make it easier for governmental entities to assure that there will be adequate funds to remediate property that is acquired through condemnation.

4. Monster Homes/Steep Slopes.

Two recent NJ Supreme Court decisions expanded municipal land use authority. The Court addressed the issue of whether a municipality could impose a limit – a cap – on the size of new homes. In upholding the local ordinance, the Court found that the municipality had not violated the Municipal Land Use Law's definition section or its uniformity rule. The

Court also upheld a more traditional environmental regulation in a second ruling. In that case a local ordinance that restricted development on steep slopes was sustained.

5. Endangered Species.

During the past year, NJDEP announced that it intended to propose regulations designed to protect threatened and endangered species habitat. One problem that the department may face is that the 1973 Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act, does not expressly vest NJDEP with direct authority to protect habitat. It may be preferable for the Administration to consider having the law amended than to face arguments regarding its apparent lack of authority.

6. Indoor Pollution.

A growing awareness regarding indoor pollution issues has frequently arisen in connection with mold-related issues. These concerns can usually be addressed by repair and continued maintenance of HVAC systems. Other indoor pollution issues that have been receiving increased attention include vapor pollution, an issue that has taken on increased significance in light of the redevelopment of contaminated sites.

7. Environmental Insurance.

Because of the substantial costs involved in environmental remediation, questions involving environmental insurance seem to continually arise. The NJ Supreme Court addressed the non-cumulation clause in liability insurance policies issued between 1967 and 1984. The issue was whether the policyholder's losses related to single, or multiple occurrences. Relying on previous decisions, the Court refused to enforce the policies' non-cumulation clause.

8. Self-reporting.

NJDEP has proposed regulations to encourage the self-reporting of environmental violations. The purpose of the new rules is to encourage regulated entities to voluntarily discover, disclose and correct environmental violations. The proposal authorizes 75 to 100 percent penalty


waivers for those that qualify.

A public hearing has been held and the proposal remains under consideration. While the business community favors concept, environmentalists see it as undercutting the enforcement process.

9. Natural Resource Damages.


NJDEP has begun assessing and collecting natural resource damages. One of the first targeted areas involves sites that contributed to the pollution of the Passaic River. These assessments are very substantial and are in addition to the cost of remediation as well as any monetary penalties. NJDEP has indicated that it intends to step up the assessment of such damages in the near future.

10. Water Resources.

The Private Well Testing Act, which requires the testing of private wells upon sale of property, took effect in September 2002. The initial anxiety surrounding its adoption and implementation has subsided and the real estate community has come to grips with the new requirements. The failure rate is higher than expected, although a considerable portion of the failures are due to naturally occurring conditions that can be addressed by water conditioning. 

Author's note: A partner with the Lawrenceville firm of Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein, Blader, Lehmann & Goldshore, P.C., Lewis Goldshore has been an environmental lawyer since 1968.

Available Funding

Through its Community Grants program, the Garden Club of Somerset Hills is offering up to \$1,000 per project for open space, water supply conservation, education and civic improvement through horticultural projects in public places in Somerset, Hunterdon and Morris counties. The program aims to support projects without other sources of funding. Applications are due March 1, 2004. For additional information, contact LisaNitze@earthlink.net. 

Smart Growth



Protecting Wetlands and Endangered Species Habitat

**By Sally Dudley,
ANJEC Report Editor**

In December, a three-judge panel of the NJ Superior Court Appellate Division rejected a challenge from the NJ Builders Association and upheld NJDEP's right to use Landscape Project maps and data to designate exceptional value wetlands in the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act rules. Under the law, exceptional value wetlands have the highest resource value. They require a 150-foot transition area to protect threatened and endangered species habitat.

In 2002, NJDEP adopted the Landscape Project maps as the criteria to identify exceptional value wetlands. Previously NJDEP's rules required that threatened or endangered species be sighted for an area to be designated exceptional. The amended rules broaden the basis to include habitat for breeding, resting and feeding and allow the classification whether or not a threatened or endangered species has been sighted there or not. As the decision noted, "The prior mapping was not based on the particular habitat needs of the sighted species, only on the species' given location at a particular point in time. This mapping method protected random fragmented habitat patches rather than the contiguous habitat area that many threatened and endangered species require for long term survival."

The decision notes the strengths of the Landscape Project, pointing out that it "uses species sightings in

conjunction with their known habitat characteristics, focusing upon actual land cover and land use to generate habitat mapping.” And it points out that the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act does not define habitat or restrict exceptional value wetlands designations to habitats where threatened or endangered species have been sighted.

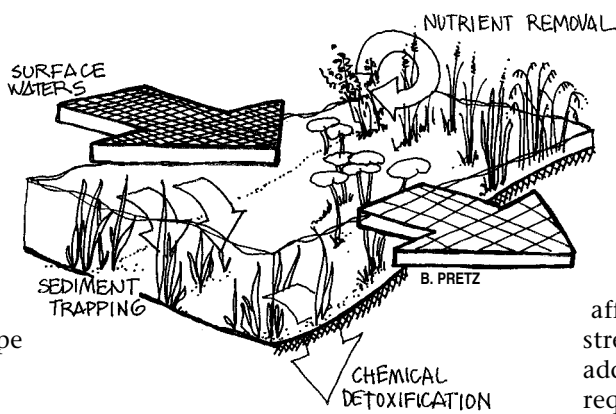
Stating that the broader Landscape Project approach includes actual sightings, physical evidence of endangered or threatened species, and contiguous wetlands habitat with suitable natural characteristics for specific species, the decision states, “The evident premise is that endangered or threatened species are not stationary.” It notes NJDEP’s undisputed examples of a 40 percent loss of the critical migratory bird stopover habitat on the lower third of the Cape May peninsula and approximately 50 percent of NJ’s bog turtle habitat. The court made it very clear that the Landscape Project is a proper and lawful approach to wetlands protection. “...The Landscape Project method...is neither inconsistent with the governing statute, unsupported by the record, nor arbitrary or capricious.”

Represented by Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic, ANJEC and five other organizations became party to the litigation as intervenors in support of NJDEP’s rule change.

Advancing Open Space Preservation

IN THE HEART OF THE PINELANDS

The NJ Conservation Foundation (NJCF) has put together the largest private land preservation deal in NJ history – 9,400 acres of important habitat surrounding the village of Chatsworth in Burlington County in the Pinelands. Crossed by more than a dozen streams at the headwaters of the Wading River, the 14 square mile property includes reservoirs, thousands of acres of wetlands, upland forests, 600 acres of Atlantic white cedar swamp, and endangered species including the bald eagle and the Pine Barrens tree frog. It connects more than 200,000 acres of state-owned land.



NJCF plans to operate the property as a wildlife preserve, managing and improving its special habitat and natural resources and opening it up for passive recreation like hiking and bird watching. To honor a long-time active conservationist and first chair of the Pinelands Commission, it will be named the Franklin Parker Preserve.

J. Garfield DeMarco has sold this property to NJCF for \$12 million, about half its estimated market value. While NJCF has received significant donations from foundations and individuals, they still have to raise a substantial amount of money to finance the purchase and a stewardship endowment. If you’d like to help preserve this very important property, check out the NJCF website (www.njconservation.org).

THROUGHOUT NJ

In November, 65 percent of NJ’s voters supported a state referendum to increase state open space funds by \$150 million. And two county and 34 municipal questions also passed. Voters in more than 200 municipalities and all 21 counties have supported open space funding.

State Adopts Strong Stormwater Management Rules

In early January, Governor McGreevey announced the adoption of new stormwater regulations, which will prohibit most new construction within 300 feet along an estimated 6,000 miles of Category 1 rivers, streams and reservoirs and their tributaries on as much as 300,000

acres. These rules aim to reduce flooding and protect water quality from the non point pollution that contributes close to half our water pollutants. In a major step forward, the new rules move beyond the traditional focus on new projects and also apply existing development.

The new regulations also will affect state freshwater wetlands and stream encroachment permits. They address USEPA Phase II stormwater requirements, calling for municipalities and large public complexes like hospitals and highway systems to develop stormwater management systems. To help mitigate future droughts and flooding, they establish a 100 percent groundwater recharge goal for new development and stress water quality standards.

The rules promote smart growth techniques, stressing stormwater management systems that maintain natural vegetation and drainage and reduce the unnecessary loss of trees and streamlining certain requirements in urban areas to promote redevelopment. They also require public education programs and waste disposal controls for existing developed areas.

An important element is the emphasis on public education. Few people realize the impact of everyday litter on their sources of drinking water. By promoting public awareness campaigns, these rules will help citizens realize that every person plays a critical role in keeping our drinking water safe and clean. The programs will emphasize common sense steps toward reducing non-point source pollution, such as discouraging unnecessary applications of pesticides, requiring proper disposal of yard and pet waste, retrofitting of storm sewer grates and improving municipal maintenance yard management.

During 2004, ANJEC will be offering Road Shows and workshops on the new stormwater regulations. For further information on these events, contact us at 973-539-7547 or info@anjec.org. For a copy of the rules and additional NJDEP information, go to www.njstormwater.org.

The Environmental Commission's Role in Reviewing Development Plans

Resource Center



By Michele Gaynor, Resource Center Director

In a perfect world, when a developer files applications with NJDEP and the local planning board, all the information would be correct and consistent. One would expect the site plans to have the same information pertaining to house and lot size, wetlands buffers and stormwater basins. What happens if the commission or planning board later finds out that the information given to them are different from those submitted to NJDEP?

For example: Plans for a development come before the planning board for preliminary approval. The environmental commission is aware that NJDEP has signed off on a Letter of Interpretation locating the wetlands and a Transition Area Waiver for the wetlands buffer. In one such case, a local planning board granted preliminary approval for an applicant to develop a residential project that bordered sensitive wetlands. A major planning board condition was that all residential property was to maintain the appropriate buffer separating the wetlands from the yards.

NJDEP granted a wetlands permit based on plans that showed smaller residential units than those in the documents submitted to the planning board. As a result, NJDEP was considering an application that would have resulted in much less space between the edge of the wetlands buffer and the houses themselves. This inaccurate buffer would make future residents of the houses vulnerable to enforcement action.

When the planning board discovered the inconsistency, it requested a meeting with NJDEP's Land Use Office. Once NJDEP realized there were two separate plans, it required the applicant to submit the planning board approved plans and corrected the buffer area and other discrepancies.

What an Environmental Commission Can Do

Developments that encroach on areas protected by state law like streams, floodplains and wetlands generally must obtain NJDEP permits. The environmental commission and planning board should confirm the accuracy of submitted site plans with what NJDEP is reviewing. To obtain more information from NJDEP than is contained in the public notices that all towns receive, you'll need state and local permit numbers, the block and lot and the name of the developer or development. If you want to look at the NJDEP application file, you may have to submit a formal request and pay the required fee under the Open Public Records Act. (Go to www.nj.gov/dep/opra/opraform.html for specific requirements.)

The planning board engineer should compare the documents submitted to the NJDEP and the planning board confirm that they are identical. NJDEP does not look at municipal applications; it only investigates if asked whether the applicant is indeed complying with NJDEP requirements. This is where the commission should step in.

In the course of planning board review, make sure the applicant is providing your planning board with ALL information contained in its NJDEP permit applications. Finally, double-check that the applicant's local proposal adheres to NJDEP's permit requirements.

The development application checklist ordinance should require that local applications include an inventory of all NJDEP permits needed. If

your municipality's doesn't, work with local officials to amend the application checklist to include all NJDEP permits. With this information in hand, the commission and the municipality have a better chance of insuring that the developer has obtained the necessary NJDEP permits before a building permit is issued

It takes some careful research and determination, and at times, convincing certain town officials to take a closer look at applications that involve state permits. If a commission can follow up on significant applications to ensure accuracy and consistency, it should prove beneficial to the town's natural resources in the long run.

For Further Information

- *Freshwater Wetlands Protection; Tools for Local Action*, (www.anjec.org/pdfs/wetlands_res.pdf)
- NJDEP Permits, including Coastal Area Facility Review (CAFRA), Coastal Wetlands, Freshwater Wetlands or State Open Water Fill, Freshwater Wetland Transition Area Waiver, Stream Encroachment and Waterfront Development: Land Use Regulation, 609-292-1235, (www.nj.gov/dep/landuse/contact/contact.html)
- Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, (www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/pdf/soilcondist.pdf) for County Soil Conservation District contacts. 



B. PRETZ

ANJEC in the City

By Veronique Koster, ANJEC Writer

An “Uplifting” Option for Greening Our Cities

Incorporating green spaces into urban landscapes is an environmental necessity. Traditionally, we have planted trees and set aside parks. A new method of greening our cities has taken us up to the roof. Although they have only recently begun to gain popularity in the U.S., vegetated rooftops have been used extensively in parts of Europe for several decades. In this innovative concept, construction modifies a conventional flat or gently sloping roof to provide the additional structural support, drainage infrastructure, and insulation necessary to support vegetation. Instead of soil, roof gardens use a special growing medium of organic and inorganic material in a layer from two to five inches thick. “Extensive” rooftop systems are lightweight and consist largely of shallow-rooted flowers and plants. “Intensive” systems support heavier plants such

as shrubs and small trees. Elevated gardens are relatively easy to maintain, requiring regular rainwater and occasional fertilizing, and periodic inspections of the roof infrastructure.

One major environmental problem in urban areas is the lack of permeable surfaces to absorb rainfall. Green rooftops offer a promising solution to this problem. Essentially replacing land that the buildings underneath them consume, these “sky gardens” can absorb up to 40 percent of their volume in rainwater and release it slowly over time. This can significantly reduce stormwater runoff and help to prevent sewer overflows. Vegetated rooftops also help to minimize the “heat island” effect in cities by absorbing excess heat, and improve air quality by filtering out pollutants. A study conducted in Canada has found that for every square meter of grass on a vegetated rooftop, 0.2 kilograms of airborne particulates are removed from the air each year. Toronto City Hall’s Demonstration Project in Canada is testing the potential use of green rooftops as butterfly gardens and bird habitat.

Economic Benefits of Green Roofs

Green rooftops also bring several economic benefits as well. On normal rooftops, ultraviolet rays from the sun break down the exposed materials over time. On green rooftops, the vegetation absorbs the sun’s energy and protects the underlying drainage layers, enabling the materials to last up to twice as long as traditional roofs. The vegetation also adds insulation to the building below and helps to reduce temperature fluctuations. This can significantly reduce cooling costs in the summer and heating costs in the winter. In addition, vegetated rooftops are estimated to increase property values by 6 to 15 percent. Despite the fact that they are more costly to install than traditional roofs, the many benefits of vegetated rooftops indicate that they can be a wise long-term investment.

Successful vegetated rooftop projects have been reported around the globe. In Europe, Germany has been leading the way in green roof construction, with 10 percent of the country’s total roof area, now green. It began installing vegetated roofs 30 years ago in an effort to reduce stormwater flooding in densely populated areas. Aware of the many benefits of “sky gardens”, the city of Tokyo passed an ordinance in 2001 requiring new buildings to devote at least one-fifth of their rooftops to greenery. In the U.S., two of the first major buildings to establish green rooftops are the Fencing Academy of Philadelphia and the Heinz 57 Center in Pittsburgh. So far, things are looking “up” for these major projects. The hope is that more cities will soon catch on to this innovative concept as a way of improving local environmental quality.

Sign Up for ANJEC’s Green City Gazette

This monthly email newsletter covers environmental and planning issues in urban and developed communities, highlighting conferences, meetings, get-togethers, hikes, books, articles, web sites. To subscribe, email us at info@anjec.org. *Green City Gazette* is also available on the ANJEC web site at www.anjec.org/html/greencitynew.htm. 



Heinz 57 Center, building restoration, Pittsburgh
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Book Reviews & Film



By Veronique Koster, ANJEC Writer

Cost of Community Services Studies: Making the Case for Conservation

By Julia Freedgood, Sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, American Farmland Trust, and Smart Growth Network.

Available through www.farmland.org, 88 pages, 2003

As the most densely populated state in the country, conservation and smart growth are critical issues for New Jersey. In this comprehensive publication, Freedgood outlines what Cost of Community Services (COCS) studies are and discusses how they can help communities make wise land-use decisions. COCS studies compare a community's public service costs versus revenues based on current land uses to illustrate the economic benefits of conserving agricultural land and other open spaces.

Over the past 15 years, COCS studies conducted throughout the U.S. have found that commercial uses of open space such as farms, ranches, and forests do not create significant economic burden and can actually help to offset the higher costs of nearby developed areas. The statistics may seem surprising. While the median cost of residential community services per dollar of revenue raised is \$1.15, farmland and other open spaces only cost communities \$0.36 per dollar raised. Overall, COCS studies are showing that open spaces are extremely valuable to communities, and should not be viewed as wasted land merely waiting to be developed.

COCS studies are helping communities achieve specific goals, shift public awareness and opinions towards the value of open space, and educate people about if and where development should take place. Their results can also help build a strong case for conservation in policy

debates about land use and development. They are presented so community members can easily understand them and apply their findings to specific situations and are designed to have a long shelf life, which enables communities to use their findings indefinitely into the future. Surveys of communities that have already used COCS studies indicate that this tool is most useful to areas experiencing constant development pressures. There is no doubt that New Jersey communities could benefit a great deal from this reliable, inexpensive, and invaluable smart growth tool.

The Pine Barrens: Up Close and Natural

Presented by The Pinelands Preservation Alliance and Natural Art Films. Color/VHS/30 minutes. 2003

Covering over one million acres in southern and central New Jersey, the Pine Barrens resembles no other place on Earth. *Up Close and Natural* brings viewers on a scenic and educational journey to many of the natural wonders of this unique region through breathtaking cinematography and fascinating accounts about its local ecology. Here, carnivorous plants prey on insects in order to

survive in nutrient-poor soils, and forests are adapted to withstand the intense fires that frequently sweep through the region. Despite water's harsh acidity, many aquatic plants and animals are able to thrive in the abundant lakes and rivers. This delightful documentary gives viewers a complete overview of the Pine Barrens ecosystem, even bringing them back in time to illustrate the natural processes that have helped to shape this extraordinary landscape.

The film also discusses some of the valuable resources that we depend on from the Pine Barrens. Although it is sparsely populated, many people depend on this region for fresh water, clean air, and open space. Among its many important functions, the Pine Barrens protects 17 trillion gallons of water within the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer system, and acts as a safe haven for several rare and endangered species. Like many natural areas, however, the Pine Barrens is at risk of degradation through pollution and urban sprawl. This film helps to educate the public about why this special place should be protected from pollution and development.

True to its name, this documentary brings viewers "up close" to nature, showing viewers places and events that most visitors could never witness first hand. Environmental managers, nature enthusiasts, students, and the general public would all gain from seeing this film; even those who are already familiar with the Pine Barrens are likely to come away enlightened in some way. 🌿



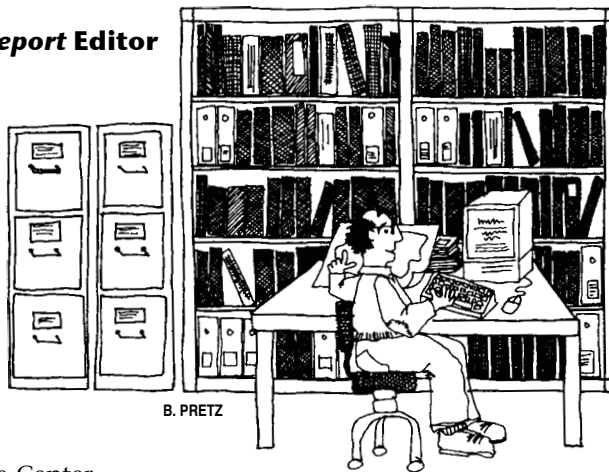
ANJEC's Activities & Accomplishments



ANJEC's Resource Center – the Heart of Our Efforts

By Sally Dudley, ANJEC Report Editor

ANJEC's Mission: *To promote the public interest in natural resource protection, reclamation and sustainable development, and to support environmental commissions working together with community officials and concerned citizens.*



Through ANJEC's Resource Center, we communicate every day with environmental commissioners and interested citizens to help preserve open space, fight inappropriate development, promote good planning, and prevent pollution. For nearly 30 years, the ANJEC Resource Center has been answering a wide range of questions. Many are very direct and related to commission operations and local government.

- What are the state law requirements for commission membership, appointment of the chair and the common planning board member or alternates?
- How can we put together a regional commission for two or more communities?
- What do we need to do to get an open space tax in place?
- How should we organize and find the data do to create or update our Environmental Resource Inventory?
- How can we deal with our anti-environmental planning board that makes it very difficult for us to obtain information about applications?

Others seek help to put in place smart growth initiatives like transfer of development rights (TDR) and zoning changes.

- What do we need to do to prevent a major subdivision from destroying a forested area, wetlands and/or endangered species habitat?
- How can our municipality address its affordable housing obligation and protect ourselves from those enormous builders' remedy developments?
- How can we prevent pollution of our municipal wells and reservoirs?
- Where and how can I obtain data to show that a specific land parcel should be preserved?
- Please provide me with information on preventing non point pollution, promoting recycling, monitoring and removing underground storage tanks.
- And where can we find a good planner for our municipality?

To answer these questions effectively, ANJEC Resource Center staff uses our extensive collection of publications and files, web sites, contacts at NJDEP, NJDCA, county and local government, universities, planning and engineering firms and other environmental organizations. For example, ANJEC staff calls Green Acres or the Office of Smart Growth to make sure we have current and accurate information on their grant application processes. Or if there's a question

about a recent Supreme Court decision, we'll contact Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic. Calls to other organizations do more than answer Resource Center questions. They also help ANJEC staff broaden its knowledge on current issues.

The Resource Center's extensive collection of documents includes 7,000 volumes of major reports, studies and plans from state and local government, environmental organizations and universities. More than 200 subject files offer background information on a wealth of topics including court cases, hazardous waste, open space, the State Plan, water resources and wetlands. And our continually growing database of some 500 ordinances contains local laws from NJ municipalities covering critical areas, land use, water quality, buffers, conservation tools, impact statements, secondary impacts and checklists. ANJEC also subscribes to the *NJ Register*, which contains all state agency regulatory proposals and adoptions.

The Tools and Resources section of ANJEC's web site (www.anjec.org) offers Resource Center on line information and scores of links on open space preservation, the urban environment, water resources, and integrated pest management. And the Smart Growth Toolkit section covers environmental resource inventories, the master plan and vision statements, open space plan, buildout and capacity analysis, affordable housing, and environmental ordinances, including a list of the major topics in our 500-ordinance database.

ANJEC established its Resource Center to offer our members and interested citizens an easily accessible source for all kinds of information that will help them be effective in protecting natural resources in their communities. Over the years, we have come to recognize that the Resource Center is the heart of our operations. Each staff member contributes to the Center's efforts, handling questions in their field of expertise like water resources, land use planning, open space preservation, affordable housing and tree protection.

To contact the ANJEC Resource Center, call 973-539-7547 or send your query to resourcecenter@anjec.org. We'll do our best to provide you with helpful information within a week. 🌱



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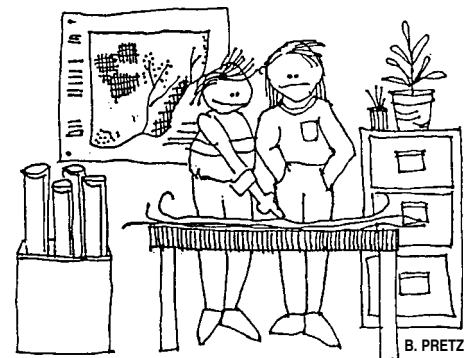
Every year since 1999, ANJEC Trustees have conducted Trustee Challenge fundraising drive. For the second year 100 percent of our trustees participated. And they surpassed their dollar goal and raised \$5,515 in unrestricted funds for ANJEC to use where most needed. We also greatly appreciate the donations of nine former trustees who serve on the Advisory Council members. Their contributions helped our trustees exceed their goal.

Those who helped our wishes come true


- Michele Gaynor, Duggan and Susan Kimball and Neil and Mimi Upmeyer for computer monitors
- Liz Ritter for a microwave oven
- Classic Cakes, Voorhees, and John William's European Pastry, Medford for donations of food for an ANJEC event.

A Very Special Bequest

ANJEC is the grateful recipient of a \$5,000 bequest from the estate of Mimi Upmeyer, a former employee and trustee who contributed to ANJEC in many ways over the years. She developed the concept and wrote our first Resource Papers - short pamphlets on topics of frequent concern to environmental commissioners. ANJEC has named our Resource Paper collection after Mimi. Future printings will carry a tribute to her. 



A Reminder and An Opportunity

It's annual report time for Environmental Commissions. The enabling state legislation sets for the responsibility very clearly: "An environmental commission shall (emphasis added) make an annual report to the governing body of the municipality " (N.J.S.A. 40:56A-4). Circulating the report among local officials and newspapers offers a great opportunity to publicize your commission's accomplishments and goals. It's a good idea to send copies to members of the governing body, planning and zoning boards, and the reporters who cover your municipality. And if your town or commission has a web site, post it there. Last but not least, please send a copy to ANJEC (email to info@anjec.org, or send to ANJEC, PO Box 157, Mendham, NJ 07945). These reports are a great help to us, providing success stories to share with other commissions and guiding us to areas where we could better serve commissions with training, information and guidance. 

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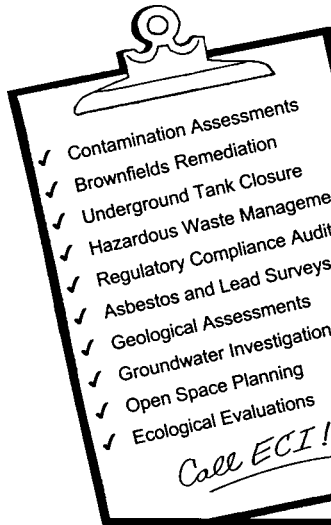
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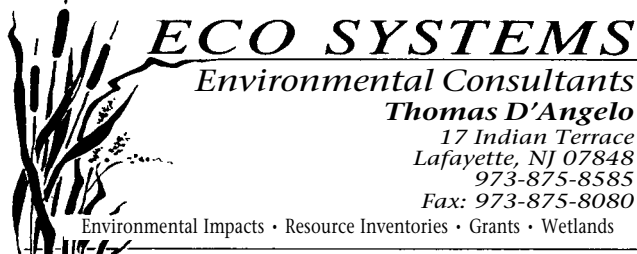
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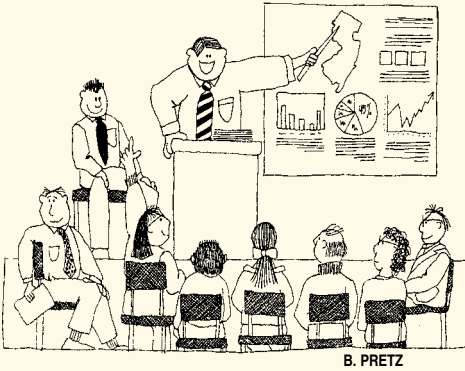
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Natural Resource Protection: An Environmental Commission Training Course

*Clifton, Saturday March 6,
9:00 am - 12:30 pm*

*East Amwell, Saturday March 13,
9:00 am - 12:30 pm*

*Clayton, Monday March 15,
6:00 pm - 9:30 pm*

These one-session workshops are an ideal introduction for new commissioners, and a good refresher for more experienced members. ANJEC staff and invited speakers will present an overview of environmental commission responsibilities and powers and discuss the basic tools and techniques used by commissions as they face the challenges of protecting their town's natural resources.

For further details, contact ANJEC at 973-539-7547, email info@anjec.org, or look on our website at www.anjec.org.

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