

Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Meeting May 2024

Dear Neighbors:

We hope everyone enjoyed Treasure Day. What a great way to get rid of your unwanted stuff without having to put it into the trash! 😊

We have a lot of info to share this month, so let's get started.

Upcoming Meetings

You are invited! This month, we will hold a joint Environmental Commission/Green Team Meeting in-person at The Porch Club (213 Howard Street) on Thursday, May 16, at 7:30PM. Thank you to the Porch Club for sharing their space! Bring a neighbor!

Some agenda items will include:

-Discussion of a prospective ordinance to regulate livestock in town. We'd love to get folks involved who have chickens or other livestock in their yards.

-Sign-ups for committees such as events, communications and grants, speaker series, plantings and rain garden maintenance, and Sustainable New Jersey certification. *We would like to create a NEW committee related to Borough ordinance/regulatory review and collaboration!*

-Hearing reports from the Borough Council and Planning Board.

-And more! As always, there will be opportunities for everyone to share what issues they care about most.

If you know a neighbor who may want to sign-up for the Environmental Commission and Green Team monthly email, they can do so by texting the word NEWSLETTER to 888777. They will be prompted to share their email address.

What We've Been Up To

Recycling flexible plastics

You know that flexible plastic packaging (often called "plastic film" - think cereal bags, plastic kitchen storage bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, etc.) that seems to be on everything these days? You may have noticed we cannot recycle it with our curbside recycling. We now have a way you can! The Environmental Commission and Green Team acquired two recycling bins for this plastic from Nextrex. We'll be placing them in two spots in town soon. (Stay tuned for those locations!) If we accumulate over 1,000 lbs in a year, we can send it in and get a bench made from recycled plastic materials for free! [Learn more about the program here](#).

Advocating for Riverton's Trees

Did you know? The NJ Department of Environmental Protection is [requiring that all municipalities pass a tree removal and replacement ordinance](#). The idea is that municipalities find a way to ensure they are maintaining their existing tree population to help mitigate the negative effects of stormwater. [Learn more about that here](#). The Environmental Commission and Green Team sent a letter to Mayor Jim Quinn and Borough Council expressing our interest in working with other community entities on this ordinance and our belief in the important roles trees play in our community. The Mayor brought us together with the Shade Tree Commission and others to work on developing suggestions for the ordinance. We look forward to continuing to work with our neighbors on shaping an ordinance that is right for Riverton. We can give you more updates on this in-person, and we encourage you to attend the next Council meeting to express your interest in this ordinance as well. The next Borough Council meeting will take place Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 6:30, at Borough Hall. Online Zoom access is also available. [Learn more here](#).

Integrating More Native Plants into Riverton's Landscape

On April 28, we collaborated with the Riverton Improvement Association on plantings--including native plants--at the War Memorial. On your next trip to the post office or Memorial, stop on by and take a look! If you want to learn more about the benefits on adding native plants to your landscape and where to find them, you can learn more on our website: <https://riverton-nj.com/environmental-commission/>. We're also happy to answer questions about planting natives at our meeting!

Local Learning Opportunity

Want to learn more about the shade trees (all the trees on the tree lawn between the sidewalk and the street) in Riverton? Barry Emens, chair of the [Shade Tree Board](#), will host a tour of Riverton's shade trees on Saturday, June 8, 2024, 10AM-12PM. If you want to attend, add your name to a sign-up sheet at Borough Hall. Or, you can call the office at 856-829-0120 and leave your name and phone number. The rain date is Saturday, June 15, 10AM-12PM.

Social Media

You can follow us on social media for more regular updates.

Green Team Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/riverton_green_team/
Environmental Commission Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RivertonEnvironmentalCommission/>
Borough Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RivertonNJ>
Borough Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/boroughofrivertonnj/>

We hope to see you Thursday, May 16!

Sincerely,
Nicole Belolan
On behalf of Kathy Simon and Katie Lucas
Borough of Riverton Environmental Commission and Green Team