

Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Meeting September 2024

Dear Neighbors:

We hope you are enjoying the cooler weather!

Let's get to the update.

Upcoming Events

Want to learn more about native bees? Join us on Thursday, September 19, 2024, 7:00PM, at the Porch Club (213 Howard Street) for "Meeting Bees' Needs: Promoting Native Pollinator Populations in Managed Landscapes," presented by Dr. Kimberly Norris Russell. EVERYONE is welcome. Please bring a neighbor or family member!

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, September 19, immediately following Dr. Russel's talk. Thank you to the Porch Club for sharing their space! Everyone is welcome. You do not need to be on the Environmental Commission or Green Team to join us. Bring a neighbor or family member!

Some agenda items will include:

-Working on getting certified with [Sustainable Jersey](#). We will be dedicating about 15 minutes of each meeting to getting our application in order. If we succeed in getting certified, we can qualify to earn some grants for Riverton through this program. We could use everyone's help putting the application together. Again, no experience necessary!

-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.

Nature Neighbors—Q&A

This month, we are starting a new feature called Nature Neighbors. Each month, we'll feature a short Q&A with someone about their interest in and involvement with environmental and sustainability concerns in Riverton and beyond. If you know someone who you'd like us to interview, please be in touch!

For our inaugural Nature Neighbors Q&A, we are featuring Kathy Simon, Chair of the Borough of Riverton Environmental Commission.

How did you first get involved with the Riverton Environmental Commission (EC)?

At least ten years ago - maybe more - Michael Robinson (the outgoing secretary for the Environmental Commission) asked me to step in as chair of the EC. Sustainable living and landscapes have long been of interest to me, and I thought it was a good way to get involved and educate myself and my neighbors.

What is your favorite natural spot or feature in Riverton?

I have to say it's the Pompeston Creek. Though I love the Delaware riverbank, the Pompeston has shown me green night herons, beaver, swimming deer and even a black swan once. We forget what diversity these waterways host in terms of plant and animal life.

What actions do you take at home to help the environment?

I plant native plants to help support our insect and bird life. ([You can learn more about native plants on the Borough website](#)). I am very mindful of

what I put on my lawn and garden beds because this close to the Delaware river, it all ends up in our water.

What steps do you think anyone can take to be greener?

Reduce your waste and reuse or donate whatever you can. Everything we have required resources to make. Respect those resources and send less to the landfill.

What sustainability or environmental initiative have you seen other municipalities that you think would be great idea for Riverton to consider adopting or promoting?

A free coffee with a refillable cup initiative with our local businesses.

Thanks, Kathy!

Learning Opportunities and Upcoming Events

[Pinelands Nature Fest, September 22, 2024, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 17 Pemberton Rd, Southampton, NJ 08088, featuring everything from dragonfly walks to an intro to fungi in the Pines to moth night!](#)

[“NJ's Interagency Council on Climate Resilience asks: What does a hotter NJ mean for our health?,” Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 11AM-12PM Eastern.](#)

[Birdability Week 2024, Various events, October 21-27, including “\(Accessible\) Joys of Backyard Birding Workshop” and more!](#)

Reminder

Don't forget! Environmental best practices suggest leaving some or all of the leaves on your property in the fall and through the spring. Leaves are great, free mulch and fertilizer, and they provide habitat for beneficial insects and other wildlife. If this practice is new to you (and that's OK – it is new to many of us!), consider leaving the leaves in one or two garden beds. Of course, if you have excess leaves, the Borough will pick them up

as usual. [You can read more about the benefits of leaving the leaves here](#), and feel free to let us know if you have questions.

Social Media

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

Green Team Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/riverton_green_team/

Green Team Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Riverton-NJ-Green-Team/100082748494990/>

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, September 19!

Sincerely,

Nicole Belolan

On behalf of Kathy Simon and Katie Lucas

Borough of Riverton Environmental Commission and Green Team