




Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Meeting November 2024


Dear Neighbors:



We hope you are continuing to enjoy the fall. You may be aware that New Jersey is [under a drought warning](#). According to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, here are some key points to keep in mind:


“ Since June, NJ has seen 6-11 inches LESS rain than normal.



Will you help conserve water?

 Reduce usage by 65% and opt for a commercial car wash instead of washing your car at home. 

 Postpone water-intensive yard work, like reseeding your lawn, until conditions improve.

 Sweep, don't hose patios, driveways, and sidewalks. Never hose down paved surfaces! 

 Fix leaks around your home and irrigation system to prevent water waste.

 If you're still watering plants, use less water and consider a rain barrel or watering can. 

Learn more at dep.nj.gov/consERVE-water/why-consERVE-water/

Thank you – and remember, Every Drop Counts!”

Let's get to the update.

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, November 21, at 7:30PM. 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:

-An update on a collaborative, regional Fix It Fair in 2025.

-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.

-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.

Special News!

Rog Prichard and John Lavery won a historic preservation award: [Honorable Mention for Preservation Stewardship from Preservation New Jersey](#) for leading the citizens' roundtable that led to the creation of Riverton's Historic Preservation Commission. This is a great honor and shows how important historic preservation is to the town but also the state. As you are probably aware, historic preservation is environmentally friendly! Congratulations to Rog and John!

Nature Neighbors—Q&A

We'll get back to this feature next month! If you want to be featured, please email Nicole Belolan at nbelolan@gmail.com.

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. [They even help trap carbon](#) and prevent it from turning into carbon dioxide (which contributes to global warming). 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.

Here Comes Road Salt Season!

Road salt is not good for the environment, so experts encourage us to use less. Did you know that you only need about a coffee mug's worth of salt for the average twenty sidewalk squares? [You can learn more about how to "salt smarter" through this Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions webinar](#).

Bring us Your Flexible Plastic!

We've been collecting flexible plastic you cannot recycle in the County system. You can drop it off at Borough Hall (505A Howard Street). If we are able to collection 1,000lbs by May, we'll get a free bench! We have 569lbs to go. [Learn more about the challenge here, including what types of plastics you can recycle](#). Thanks to everyone who has dropped off their plastic with us so far!

Reading List

Did you know? Being outside and touching dirt and soil are good for your mental and physical health. [Read more about it here](#).

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions released its 2024 Annual Report. [You can read the whole thing here](#), including some content on “protecting NJ’s trees in a changing climate.”

Stuff to Do

Want to learn how to grow your own native plants from seeds? Check out this winter sewing workshop on December 5, 7-8PM, at the West Orange Public Library Community Room. [Learn more here](#). And don’t forget! [We have great resources about native plants on the Borough website](#), and you can visit the Riverton School’s native plant rain garden any time to see a native plant garden in action!

Want to go out and about but not too far? Check out [one of the many parks that are part of the Burlington County Parks system!](#)

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, November 21!

Sincerely,

Nicole Belolan

On behalf of Kathy Simon and Katie Lucas

Borough of Riverton Environmental Commission and Green Team