

Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Meeting February 2025

Dear Neighbors:

We hope you've stayed safe in the high winds! Let's get to the update.

Upcoming Events

Who: Brooke McMinn, botanist and founder of Heritage Habitats

What: "Natives Make Great Neighbors"

McMinn will talk about which plants are native to our area, what they do for us and the environment, and how to easily (and beautifully!) incorporate them into our local landscapes.

When: Monday, March 10, 2025, at 7:30PM

Where: The Porch Club

Free! Join us!

You can also check out our [native plant resources on our web site](#).

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, February 20, 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!

Please note: Starting in March 2025, we will meet the second Monday of each month.

Some agenda items for February will include:

-Discussion of planning 2025 events such as a Fix It Fair, speakers, and film screenings.

-Trex Challenge update.

-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.

-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.**

Are you in the Know?

If you know a neighbor who may want to sign-up for the Environmental Commission and Green Team monthly email (which is what you're reading now!), they can do so by texting the word NEWSLETTER to 888777. They will be prompted to share their email address. Or, you can [access this notice on the Borough website](#).

Save the Date

Want to mark your calendar for our 2025 meetings now? This month, we are meeting on February 20. Starting in March, we will be meeting the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm.

Saturday, March 22, 2025

Delaware River and Pompseson Creek Clean-Up, in collaboration with regional Green Teams

Sunday, September 21, 2025, 1-4PM

Repair Café, Burlington County Agricultural Center, 500 Centerton Rd, Moorestown, NJ 08057, in collaboration with regional Green Teams [Learn more about repair cafés here.](#)

Stuff to Do and Things to Learn

Are you concerned about the environment but aren't sure how you can help? [Check out this essay by Michele Bakacs](#), Rutgers Associate Professor and County Agent.

Are you already a native plant gardener and ready to learn how propagate your own native plants? Check out this webinar, "Propagating Woodland Wildflowers and NJ Meadow Plants with Ken Druse," organized by the [Native Plant Society of New Jersey](#). It will take place on Wednesday, February 19, at 7:00PM. [Register here.](#)

Want to learn more about grassroots organizing as it relates to environmental issues? Attend the Pinelands Preservation Alliance Grassroots Organizing Network workshop on February 26, 6:00PM-8:00PM. This event will focus on protecting the Pine Barrens and the [Pinelands National Reserve](#), but skills may be applicable to other contexts. [Register here.](#)

Want to help reduce the use of plastics in your community? Join the "Hour of Action: Fight against Toxic Plastic Waste," which will be hosted by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) on Thursday, February 27, 2025, 12:00PM-1:00PM. [Register here.](#)

Attend the New Jersey State Climate Conference. It will take place on Friday, March 21, 2025, 8AM-5PM, Piscataway, NJ 08854. Topics range from "Contextualizing Climate Mitigation and Resilience in New Jersey" to "Accelerating Climate Resilience Within the Changing Federal Landscape." [Register here.](#)

Did you miss the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) webinars about how you can work on climate change issues locally? View the recordings [here](#) and [here](#).

A collective of Burlington County Green Teams will meet on Monday, June 2, at 6:30PM at the Lower Forge Brewery in Medford, NJ. Everyone is welcome! No need to be a formal member of the Green Team to join us.

Want to learn more about trees and how to identify them once they've lost their leaves for the winter? Register for Winter Tree ID, a free program offered by the Burlington County Park system. The event will take place on Monday, February 24, 2025. Mark your calendar now and [register here](#).

Spring is coming! Are you thinking about tree care? Be sure to avoid mulch volcanoes! They look cool, but, they could cause you to rot your tree trunk or make your root strangle your tree. Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

Nature Neighbors—Q&A

Nature Neighbors will resume next month! If you want to be featured or would like to suggest someone to feature for our Nature Neighbors Q&A, 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](#). Also be sure to [leave your stems in the winter](#) instead of pruning them or cutting them down. They provide important habitat for overwintering insects and other beneficial critters. Let us know if you have questions.

If you do move or remove some of your leaves, avoid using gas-powered leaf blowers. They pollute the air and contribute to global warming. [According to the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions \(ANJEC\)](#), “Gas Leaf Blower emissions for 30 minutes are equivalent to the CO 2 produced by driving a truck from Anchorage to Houston.” Yikes! You

can [learn more about how leaf blowers they damage our health and the environment here](#).

Please also keep in mind best practices in salting your sidewalks this season. To balance safety with environmental needs, experts encourage us to use less road salt than we often do. 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 \(ANJEC\) webinar](#).

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, February 20!

Sincerely,

Kathy Simon and Nicole Belolan

Borough of Riverton Environmental Commission and Green Team

