

Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Update, July 2025

Dear Neighbors:

Woohoo! We are no longer under a drought warning! But conserving water is still important. [Visit the NJ Department of Environmental Protection](#) to learn more about how you can help conserve water now so we can avoid warnings and emergencies in the future. [Learn more about the recent drought here](#).

Let's get to the update.

Upcoming Meeting

Attend our next Green Team and Environmental Commission meeting on Monday, July 14, at 7:30PM, at the Porch Club (213 Howard Street). We want to know what is on your mind. You can also get involved! We are always looking for volunteers.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a neighbor.

Join the Green Team Reading Group!

Are you interested in reading more about climate change and learning about what you can do to help? Join our climate change reading group! We will meet **every third Thursday** starting in July 2025 and ending in February 2026. We will meet at the Riverton Free Library from 7:00PM-8:00PM. You need not read the entire book or attend every session to participate! Free plus the cost of books. Register any time (including after July) by [filling out this form](#). Questions? Email Nicole at nbelolan@pm.me.

Books include: [What if We Get it Right?](#), [The End of Nature](#), [Nature's Best Hope](#), [Parable of the Sower](#), [This Changes Everything](#), [The Serviceberry](#), [The Floating Coast](#), and [An Environmental Leader's Toolkit](#).

This reading group was created in partnership with the Rutgers Environmental Stewards (RES) program. The program is funded by Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. For more information, visit envirostewards.rutgers.edu.

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

Repair Café, Burlington County Agricultural Center, 500 Centerton Rd, Moorestown, NJ 08057, in collaboration with regional Green Teams

[Learn more about repair cafés here](#), and **let us know if you're interested in being a volunteer repair coach.**

What Have We Been Up To?

The Environmental Commission and Green Team are exploring partnering with Burlington County and an engineering firm to conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment for Riverton. The goal is to identify key actions to help mitigate risks to the community.

We're also collaborating with the New Jersey Composting Council on developing a compost education and pilot program for Riverton residents.

We have been getting around! In the past few weeks, we set up info tables at food truck events and Juneteenth. Come say hi at the next food truck event on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

Stuff to Do

Learn about the Bats of New Jersey with wildlife biologist Leah Wells on Saturday, July 12, at 2PM, at The Discovery Center at Point Breeze. They are located at 101 East Park Street Bordentown, New Jersey. \$15 fee. [Register here](#).

Do you know a teen who is interested in cleaning shorelines? Join the Burlington County Park System's shoreline cleanup at Amico Island Park, 81 Norman Ave, Delran, NJ, 08075, from 9:30AM-12:30PM, on Monday, July 14. Participate is free. [Registration is required](#).

Enjoy visiting museums? Check out *Ecosystems at Risk: Threatened and Endangered in New Jersey*, an [exhibition at the State Museum of New Jersey](#), on view through March 15, 2026, 205 West State Street, Trenton, NJ, 08608. General admission is Free.

Things to Read

Worried about decreasing numbers of fireflies? [Check out these tips](#) from Homegrown National Park about what you can do to help.

Interested in solar and wind power? Check out Sun Day, which, [according to its web site](#), is "a day of action on September 21, 2025, celebrating solar and wind power, and the movement to leave fossil fuels behind."

Resource Spotlight (no pun intended...)

Did you know? Dark skies are a [natural resource](#)! [Learn more here about what you can do at home to help lessen light pollution.](#)

Nature Neighbors—Q&A

This month, Nature Neighbors is featuring Kim Piotrowski, a Green Team member.

Nature Neighbors: How did you first get involved with the Riverton Environmental Commission (EC) and/or Green Team?

Kim: A few years ago, along with the overall buzz about the climate crisis, I kept hearing about the decline of birds and insects specifically and was really troubled by this. Around that same time, I learned about Doug Tallamy's books ([Nature's Best Hope](#), in particular), and became really interested in the concept of each house doing a little something to help even if it's just a single flowerpot with a beneficial plant on your porch. Another impetus for joining was that I wanted to have a voice and find others in Riverton with similar interests and concerns. I have been really passionate about helping generate awareness; again, even if it's just about making one small change to one's normal routine.

Nature Neighbors: What is your favorite natural spot or feature in Riverton?

Kim: Like many people, I see my own backyard as a sanctuary. Not only for me, but for our local wildlife! We have a small screened-in porch where I often sit and observe hawks, crows, songbirds, squirrels, and other critters going about their day. I can also hear a tree frog and screech owl at certain times of the year. Similarly, I like to watch the various mosses, plants, shrubs, and trees morph and change while maintaining the garden as the seasons change. As a photographer, I am always taking pictures of some interesting detail that wasn't there just days or weeks prior.

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

Kim: I learned about the benefits of native plants for birds and insects (again, from the Doug Tallamy book along with various online groups). I sought out and started to introduce [native plants](#) into our backyard whenever I had a spot available. Secondly, our household does a lot of recycling for anything that can be separated, and a lot of composting for any plant-based kitchen waste. [With a compost heap](#), I have found that it is totally unnecessary to put our regular garbage can out every week. We only have a full can of actual garbage about every 4-6 weeks. Plus, compost also helps put nutrients back into the soil for the garden beds rather than buying mulch or introducing expensive treatments.

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

Kim: Come to some of our meetings (second Mondays, 7:30PM, at the Porch Club)! We are doing our best to make education (including guest speakers) and participating in more local events (like Food Truck Night) a big part of what we do. Lots of people come with great questions and ideas too. I have learned so much from the knowledge and wisdom of other team members and attendees over the last couple of years.

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

Kim: I would like to see (and hear!) less of the [intense and unnecessary gasoline-powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers, and similar landscaping tools](#). Merchantville, Maplewood, Montclair, West Orange, and Princeton are some of the New Jersey municipalities that have implemented seasonal bans, are having valuable community discussions about alternative practices for the future, and/or are offering incentives to help individuals and businesses get started with electric equipment for property maintenance which are far less polluting and noisy for other residents.

Nature Neighbors: Thank you, Kim!

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 Monday, July 14, at 7:30PM!

Sincerely,

Michael Gawbill and Nicole Belolan

Borough of Riverton Environmental Commission and Green Team

