

Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Update, September 2025

Dear Neighbors:

The leaves are starting to get crunchy! That must mean it's almost fall...

Let's get to the update.

Upcoming Meeting

Attend our next Green Team and Environmental Commission meeting on Monday, September 8, at 7:30PM, at the Porch Club (213 Howard Street). We want to know what is on your mind.

Want to help? We are currently looking for a school and youth liaison, and outreach and education lead, a communications coordinator, and a data and impact analyst.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a neighbor.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 7:00PM, Riverton neighbor Dan Reed will give a talk about solar panels and renewable energy and how you can integrate this technology into your home. Location in Riverton TBD – watch social media and the Borough website for updates! Dan's talk is coordinated with [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.”](#) This is a Borough of Riverton Green Team and Environmental Commission event. Free. Join us!

Friday, September 12, 2025, 10:00AM-11:30AM, Audio Book Nature Walk, Historic Smithville Park & Smith's Woods, 803 Smithville Road, Mt Holly, NJ 08060. Listen to an audio book and take a walk! This program is co-organized by Burlington County Parks and the Burlington County Library System. [Free! Register here.](#)

Sunday, September 21, 2025, 1-4PM, Repair Café, Burlington County Agricultural Center, 500 Centerton Rd, Moorestown, NJ 08057. The Borough of Riverton Green Team helped with this event in collaboration with other regional Green Teams. This event is FREE. Bring your broken jewelry, torn clothing, bicycles, and more, and we'll connect you with a repair coach who can help you fix stuff on site!

[Learn more about repair cafés here](#), and **let us know if you're interested in being a volunteer repair coach. We still need folks to assist with small appliance repair and knife sharpening.**

Attend the 52nd Environmental Congress, hosted by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC). This event will take place on Friday, October 10, 9AM-4PM, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, 35 Seminary Place, New Brunswick NJ. Cost: \$115/135. In-person. [Register here](#).

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.

Have a Green Halloween!

Kiddos looking for a Halloween costume but want to be more environmentally friendly? Pick one up that has been gently used! Or donate one you are ready to part with. Visit one of these free Halloween costume shops in nearby municipalities.

- Evesham: Saturday, September 27, 10:00AM-4:30PM, Harvest Festival, Main Street, Marlton
- Bordentown: Sunday, September 28, 9:00AM-1:00PM, Bordentown Farmers' Market, 207 Crosswicks Street Bordentown, NJ. You can also donate costumes at the Farmers' Market other Sundays in September.
- Delran: Saturday, October 4, 10:00AM-1:00PM, Municipal Building, 900 Chester Avenue, Delran, NJ.
- Maple Shade: Sunday October 19, 9:00AM-11:00AM, municipal building at 200 Stiles Avenue, Maple Shade, NJ
- Maple Shade: Sunday, October 26, 9:00AM-11:00AM, Fox Meadow apartments clubhouse, 100 Fox Meadow Drive, Maple Shade, NJ
- Mount Laurel: Sunday, October 26, 10:00AM-3:00PM, Rancocas Woods Fall Harvest, 118 Creek Road, Mount Laurel, NJ, 08054. Costumes can be donated at the Mount Laurel Library through September 30.

It's That Time of Year Again—Time to Leave the Leaves

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. Tag us on social media with your fall leaves pics!

What Have We Been Up To?

The Environmental Commission and Green Team, along with Council liaisons, have been listening to and researching resident related to environmental issues such as pollution drift from Philadelphia and possible code violations at sites within the Borough.

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 developing a compost education and pilot program for Riverton residents—stay tuned for more information about this soon!

Come say hi at the next food truck event on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. We'll be debuting a few handouts for the kiddos!

Finally, we kicked off our Climate Change reading group in July. 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** of the month through February 2026. We will meet at Calvary Presbyterian, 300 4th St, from 7-8PM. 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.

Things to Read

Want to learn more about stormwater management? Check out ANJEC's resource paper, "Stormwater Management for Municipalities: Green Infrastructure Designs and Options," [available here](#).

Renewable Energy

Interested in tapping into renewable energy sources without getting solar panels? [Check out this resource from our neighbors in Delran](#). Riverton residents are welcome to register.

Nature Neighbors—Q&A

This month, we're interviewing a monarch butterfly we saw floating around Riverton!

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

Monarch Butterfly: Well, since I've always been a part of nature, I guess I've been involved with the EC and GT my entire life! I started out as a little egg my mom stashed on the underside of a milkweed leaf. Then, I munched on milkweed as a caterpillar. If you find one of my caterpillar friends in your garden, [you can figure out how old they are using this guide](#). Perhaps you're aware that [butterfly populations are down throughout the U.S.](#) I'm so grateful your readers planted milkweed so I could grow up to be a butterfly!

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

Monarch Butterfly: I really appreciate all your native plant gardens throughout town, including the one at the Riverton School! It's fun to flit around and snack on milkweed. I'm the last generation of the season, so I'll live about nine months. Some of my friends who were born earlier in the season were around for about 2-6 weeks. [You can learn more about our lifecycle and biology from our friends at the Monarch Watch](#). The Monarch Watch, along with the Xerces Society of Invertebrate Conservation, are [working hard to protect us from pesticides](#). You can help us too!

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

Monarch Butterfly: I make more butterflies and contribute to [biodiversity](#)! But I suggest that your readers consider planting milkweed if they haven't already so my friends and I can continue to fly around and contribute to the ecosystem. I really like [common milkweed](#) (*Asclepias syriaca*), [butterfly weed](#) (*Asclepias tuberosa*), joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum* and *Eutrochium purpureum*), [swamp milkweed](#) (*Asclepias incarnata*), and [poke milkweed](#) (*Asclepias exaltata*). But I also like other native plants, like [asters](#) and [ironweed](#)! We need butterflies because, as our friends at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation said, we're not just pretty...["Butterflies play a significant role in the pollination of flowering plants, including agriculture."](#) My butterfly friends and I ([and there are more of us than just monarchs!](#)) are very busy!

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

Monarch Butterfly: Plant a butterfly garden! Butterfly gardens should have native plants that provide my friends and me with food for all stages of our life cycle. Our friends at the Monarch Watch have some [plant lists to get you started](#).

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?

Monarch Butterfly: The people who planted the native garden where I like to hang out visited a town in Michigan recently where they noticed some residents had little signs that read, "This yard uses NO CHEMICALS OR PESTICIDES. It may not be perfect but it's Not Harmful to Kids, Animals or Waterways. Traverse City Neighborhood Green Initiative." I would love for our neighbors to consider [cutting back or eliminating pesticide use](#) and planting native plants! Doing those things will help my relatives come back to hang out with you again next year. I heard you can learn more about native plants at the [Borough of Riverton's website](#).

Nature Neighbors: Thank you, Monarch!

[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](#).

[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, September 8, at 7:30PM!

Sincerely,

Michael Gawbill and Nicole Belolan

Borough of Riverton Environmental Commission and Green Team

