

Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Update, December 2025

Dear Neighbors:

Brrr! It feels like winter. Let's get to the update!

Upcoming Meeting

Attend our next Green Team and Environmental Commission meeting on Monday, December 8, 7:30PM, at the Porch Club, 213 Howard Street.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a neighbor. You can just observe or get involved with our programming!

Tips for a More Sustainable December

Did you know? According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, "American households generate about 1 million additional tons of trash between Thanksgiving and the New Year." You can [read some tips from the DEP about how to reduce trash output here!](#)

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](#) through the [Winter Salt Week website](#).

There is Still 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!

State-Wide Drought Warning

We are currently in under a [state-wide drought warning](#). Some NJ DEP recommendations for conserving water this winter include but are not limited to: install low-flow shower heads; run washing machines and dishwashers only when they are full; compost veggie waste instead of using your garbage disposal; as you plan your spring

and summer gardens, consider planting native plants; figure out where your water valve is so you can turn off the water immediately if a pipe bursts. And more!

Upcoming Events

Multi-week programs

Want to become a local environmental expert? Consider registering for the 2026 Rutgers Environmental Stewards continuing education program! The class convenes online weekly on Tuesday nights, Jan. 20-May 12, 2026. Certification requires a community service project. Fee is \$325 with a limited number of discounts are available to those in need. [Join today!](#)

Do you want to learn more about green infrastructure? Register for the Rutgers Green Infrastructure Champions Program! Workshops take place online on Fridays, 10AM-12PM, 2026, starting January 9. Participants must attend five workshops to earn a certification. FREE. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Do you want some help turning your outdoor space into wildlife habitat? Register for a four-week workshop, led by Sarah F. Jane and hosted by the Native Plant Society of New Jersey. Workshop dates: Monday, February 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2026, 6:30PM-8:30PM. Online on Zoom. Registration cost: \$160. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Are you interested in learning more about how Riverton can mitigate flooding, extreme heat, and more? Attend the “Nature-Based Solutions” webinar, hosted by the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center, Rutgers-New Brunswick. This webinar is FREE and will take place on Wednesday, December 10, 12PM-1PM. [Register here.](#)

One-off events

Do you want to learn more about ducks? Do you want to spend a little time outside? Join Burlington County naturalist Gina DiMaio for “Wildlife Watch: Weird Ducks of Winter.” This outing will take place at Willingboro Lakes Park, 60 Beverly-Rancocas Rd, Willingboro, NJ 08046, on Thursday, December 11, 2025, from 10:30AM-12:00PM. FREE. [Register here.](#)

Hoping to put some outdoorsy events on your January calendar now? Register for “Wildlife Watch: Hibernation Hike” with Burlington County naturalist Gina DiMaio. This hike will take place on Thursday, January 8, 2026, 10:00AM-12:00PM, at Amico Island Park, 81 Norman Ave., Delran, NJ 08075. FREE. [Register here.](#)

Long-term opportunities

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.

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.

Led by Borough Council member Edgard Wilburn and thanks in part to a grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission (ANJEC), volunteers from the Green Team and Environmental Commission, along with student volunteers from St. Joseph's Prep School, started clearing the trail along the Pompeston Creek next to Riverton Memorial Park. The next step will likely involve lining the trail with some railroad ties. If you want to get involved, let us know!

We're also collaborating on developing a compost education and pilot program for Riverton residents—stay tuned for more information about this soon!

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. There are three meetings left (December-February). 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](#).

Curious about how you and our community can manage climate change? Review Rutgers-New Brunswick New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center and the Nature

Conservancy, “New Jersey Nature-Based Solutions: Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring Reference Guide,” June 2025, [available here](#).

Nature Neighbors—Q&A

Nature Neighbors will be back next month!

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, December 8, 7:30PM, at the Porch Club.**

Sincerely,

Michael Gawbill and Nicole Belolan

Borough of Riverton Environmental Commission and Green Team



See next page for our November 2025 update.