

Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Update, February 2026

Dear Neighbors:

We hope you enjoyed the snow we had a few weeks ago! Let's get to the update.

New Day for Our Monthly Meetings

In 2026, the Environmental Commission and Green Team will meet the fourth Wednesday of each month. Attend our next Green Team and Environmental Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 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!

Bird Flu in NJ

In a recent communication, the Burlington County Health Department explained that **“The general risk [of bird flu] to the public remains low. NJ does not have any reported human cases of H5N1 bird flu.”** That said, you may still be interested in resources on this issue. [You can report sick or dead wild birds here](#). To report sick or dead poultry, contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health (609-671-6400). If you are concerned your pet (such as a cat or dog) may have bird flu, contact your veterinarian immediately. Check out the [NJ Fish and Wildlife website for more info](#).

Help! I found a Baby Animal

Wondering what to do if you found a young animal that is not in its nest? Check out this website from Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge for [guidance on baby raccoons, rabbits songbirds, squirrels, and deer](#).

State-Wide Drought Warning

We are still 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!

New Invasive Species Law

You might have heard that the state of New Jersey passed the [Invasive Species Management Act](#). [According to the Native Plant Society of New Jersey](#), this law “prohibits the sale, distribution, import, export, and propagation of certain invasive plant species without a permit from the Department of Agriculture. It also reestablishes a permanent New Jersey Invasive Species Council in statutory law.” You can find a [current listed of “prohibited” species here](#). Limiting invasive species in our landscapes helps our health and the health of the larger ecosystem. You can help with this by planting native plants! [Check out our website for more resources on this](#). And if you want to get involved in state-wide invasive species removal projects, connect with the [NJ invasive species strike team](#).

Save the Date

Want to help clean our waterways in Riverton? Save the date! Please Join us for our annual Waterways Cleanup on Saturday, April 18, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, in partnership with State Senator Troy Singleton’s office. This event is open to residents of Riverton and beyond. All are welcome to help care for our local waterways.

Watch for upcoming volunteer opportunities and additional details!

Upcoming Events

One-off events

9th Annual New Jersey Watershed Conference, February 26 (online)-27 (in-person), 2026. The in-person location is the College of New Jersey, Ewing. [Learn more and register here. \\$65-130.](#)

Want to learn more about natural and cultivated salt hay fields? Register for the Cohansey Meadows Farms Tour. This event will take place on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 10:30AM-2:00PM. The tentative meeting spot is 291 Morton Ave., Millville, NJ. The program is free, but [registration is required](#).

Moonlit Trail Walk at Crystal Lake Park. This event will take place on Thursday, March 5, 2026, 6:00PM-7:15PM, at Crystal Lake Park, 2401 Axe Factory Road, Mansfield, NJ 08505. FREE. [Register here](#).

Pinelands Short Course, March 7, 2026, 9AM-4PM, Stockton University Campus Center, 101 Vera King Farris Drive, Galloway, NJ 08205. \$60. [Register here](#).

Native Plant Sale, Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, April 18, 2026, 10AM-1PM, 4 Sawmill Road, Medford, NJ 08055. [Learn more here](#).

Native Plant Sale, Pinelands Alliance, April 24, 2026, 3:00-6:00PM (Pinelands Alliance members only), and April 25, 9AM-12PM, 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton, NJ 08088.

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 concerns 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!

Our new native plant subcommittee is working on exciting initiatives such as a native plant garden tour. If you want to get involved, email Councilwoman Nicole Belolan at nbelolan@riverton-nj.com.

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

Things to Read

Want to learn more about how important native plants are? Check out Steven Yergeau's essay, ["The Birds & The Bees: Pollinators in your Garden."](#) Earth Day Every Day Newsletter, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, February 17, 2026.

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 **Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 7:30PM, at the Porch Club.**

Sincerely,

Michael Gawbill

Borough of Riverton Environmental Commission Chair and

Nicole Belolan

Green Team Chair and Borough of Riverton Councilwoman

