

## Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Update, March 2026

Dear Neighbors:

Spring might be in the air! 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, March 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!

### Don't Clean Up Your Garden Just Yet!

Help pollinators and other beneficial insects by waiting to clear leaf debris and cut back perennials until:

- The air temperature is regularly in the 50s at night;
- Apple trees have finished blooming;
- Grass has grown long enough to require mowing;
- You (or your neighbor's) have planted tomatoes outside.

Or, leave your leaves and stems year-round.

Nature will thank you! And please, if you use a garden or lawn service, let them know as well. [Learn more from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.](#)

### Keeping Your Trees Healthy and Safe

Have the recent winter storms given the trees on your property a beating? The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County recently suggested on social media that New Jerseyans who are looking for help with tree care on their properties can consult the Rutgers Cooperative Extension fact sheet "[How to Hire a Tree Care Professional.](#)" If you have concerns about a Borough-owned street tree, please contact our wonderful [Shade Tree Board](#) via the [Borough Office](#) or the [Department of Public Works](#).

### Borough of Riverton Forestry Plan

Did you know? The Borough of Riverton's Shade Tree Board recently had its 6<sup>th</sup> Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) approved. This is a tremendous accomplishment and speaks to the time and effort our Shade Tree Board and others in

the Borough take to care for our tree canopy. [You can read the CFMP on the Borough website.](#)

## 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!

## 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*

Get your fresh veggies, local honey, and more! Check out the Burlington County Farmer’s Market Pre-season sessions: March 28, April 11, and April 25, 2026, 10AM-1PM, Burlington County Agricultural Center, 500 Centerdon Road, Moorestown, NJ, 08057. [Learn more here.](#)

Cohansey Meadows Farms Tour, 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](#).

[Native Plant Nursery, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve](#), opens April 9 (members) and April 10, 2026 (public), 1635 River Road, New Hope, PA, 18938.

Wildlife Watch: Heron Observations, Friday, April 17, 2026, 10:00AM-11:30AM, Amico Island Park, 81 Norman Ave, Delran, NJ 08075. [Free. Register here](#).

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

Bays, Glaciers, and Bog Iron in the Pines (2-mile walk), April 19, 2026, 10:00AM-12:00PM, Batsto Village, Wharton State Forest, Mount Holly, NJ. [Free. Register information 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.

National Faith and Climate Forum, April 25, 2026, 12:00-5:30PM, Mt. Zion AME Church, 300 Penn Street, Riverton, NJ, 08077—*We will be tabling at this event!*

### [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 Borough recently received a draft of the final Climate Change Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (CCRHVA) covering municipalities along the Route 130 corridor in Burlington County. The Environmental Commission reviewed the draft and submitted several suggested edits, including adding a recommendation that Riverton prioritize green infrastructure initiatives over the next ten years. We also provided several photos of real locations in Riverton to replace stock imagery and flagged a few minor proofreading corrections. The CCRHVA will help guide future planning efforts related to climate resilience, flooding, and infrastructure improvements.

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](mailto:nbelolan@riverton-nj.com).

For the past several years, the Borough has been collecting flexible plastic that is being recycled by [NexTrex](#). We have accumulated enough plastic from our community and surrounding communities to receive two benches! They will be placed soon in Riverton Memorial Park. Thanks to everyone who has sent their plastic our way and to the many volunteers (especially Councilman Wilburn!) who have helped transport it to the recycling center.

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 and Listen To

Want to learn some simple steps you can take to help pollinators? Listen to [“Bring Back the Pollinators: Four Simple Steps to Save the Bees.”](#) Bug Banter podcast, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, January 6, 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/](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, March 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

