

Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Update, April 2026

Dear Neighbors:

We hope you have something planned for Earth Day on Wednesday, April 22! Let's get to the update.

New Day for Our Monthly Meetings

Attend our next Green Team and Environmental Commission meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 7:30PM (Earth Day!), at the Porch Club, 213 Howard Street.

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

THANK YOU For Joining us for the Delaware River and Pompeston Creek Cleanup!

Our Delaware River and Pompeston Creek cleanup on Saturday was a tremendous success. Thank you to everyone who came out; we estimate we had over 80 participants. A special shout-out to the Riverton Public Works team; Senator Troy Singleton and his team (who came out for their monthly volunteer project); St. Joe's Prep teacher Ronan Kelly and his students' work on the Pompeston Creek trail; and the many groups and individuals who joined as well. We all hope this work inspires regular engagement with local environmental issues.



It's Earth Day this Wednesday! Here are 7 Ways You can Be an Environmental Steward Year-round

1. **Consider using renewable energy.** *Renewable energy helps cut down on fossil fuel usage, which is accelerating climate change. [You might install solar panels where you live, work, or volunteer.](#) Or, you could consider signing up for [community solar for a utility credit.](#)*

2. **Take out the trash...to your backyard compost!** *Did you know? If you compost your kitchen waste, you'll divert it from landfills. Food waste in landfills emits methane. Methane, like carbon dioxide, contributes to global warming. [Learn more about composting here.](#)*
3. **Switch to electric yard equipment.** *Gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers pollute the air and contribute to global warming. [According to the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions \(ANJEC\)](#), "Gas Leaf Blower emissions for 30 minutes are equivalent to the CO 2 produced by driving a truck from Anchorage to Houston." [You can learn more about how gas-powered leaf blowers damage our health and the environment here.](#) You can also [consider leaving the leaves and ditching your leaf blower for good!](#)*
4. **Adjust your nighttime lighting practices!** *Excess lighting is bad for human health and wildlife. And more lighting does not necessarily make you safer. Consider directing outdoor lighting downward and closing your blinds or curtains at night. Consider switching to yellow or amber-colored LEDs too! [You can learn more about this issue here.](#)*
5. **Plant native plants.** *Native plants need less water than grass. They also help mitigate flooding during severe weather events and provide habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects. [You can get started on your native plant journey on our website.](#) **Save the date for our native plant garden tour, which will take place the weekend of September 19, 2026.***
6. **Visit a local natural or environmental site!** *Some great local spots include [Burlington County Parks](#), [Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge](#), or [Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve](#). In addition, organizations like the [Pinelands Alliance](#) and the [Rancocas Conservancy](#) offer many walks and other events you can participate in.*
7. **Subscribe to our monthly update!** *Text NEWSLETTER to 888777 and follow the prompts to stay on top of environmental issues all year!*

Happy International Dark Sky Week! (Well, it was last week)

As we noted above, you can [help preserve the night sky](#) as a natural resource all year long. Here are a few tips:

- Close window treatments at night to keep light inside your house.
- Point exterior lights downward (not up into the sky).
- Use exterior lighting only where it is needed for safety, etc.
- Eliminate lighting use for aesthetics only (such as lights that illuminate facades).
- Use motion-detecting lights where possible.
- Use timers on lights so they go on only when needed.

- Turn off exterior lighting if you don't need it.
- Use LED bulbs instead of incandescent bulbs. Dimmable, narrow-spectrum amber or yellow LEDs are best. (Avoid blue LEDs.) The correlated color temperature (CCT) should be less than 2200K.

[Learn more from the info sheet on our 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! [Read more about it here.](#)

Save the Date

Want to learn more about adding native plants to your landscape? Save the date! Please Join us for our first ever Riverton Native Plant Garden tour. It is scheduled for Saturday, September 19 (rain date Sept. 20). We will also need volunteers to help. If you think you'll be available, please contact Councilwoman and Green Team Chair Nicole Belolan: nbelolan@riverton-nj.com.

Watch for upcoming volunteer opportunities and additional details!

Upcoming Events

One-off events

Get your fresh veggies, local honey, and more! Check out the final Burlington County Farmer's Market Pre-season session: April 25, 2026, 10AM-1PM, Burlington County Agricultural Center, 500 Centerdon Road, Moorestown, NJ, 08057. [Learn more here](#). The regular season Farmers Market opens on May 9 at 8:30AM.

[Native Plant Nursery, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve](#), open through the fall, 1635 River Road, New Hope, PA, 18938.

Native Plant Sale, Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, April 18, 2026, 10AM-1PM, 4 Sawmill Road, Medford, NJ 08055. [Learn more here](#).—**This date has passed. But if they didn't sell all plants on the 18th, they often continue to sell after that date. Check their social media for info.**

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! Come say Hi. FREE.**

Adventures without Barriers: [The Big Sit Event, birding event for people with disabilities](#), April 25, 2026, 10AM-12PM, Rancocas Cranberry Preserve, 632 Onga Hat Rd, Southampton Township, NJ 08088. Also on May 16, 2026, 10AM-12PM, 17 Pemberton Rd, Southampton Township, NJ 08088.

[Wheaton Arts Eco Fair](#), May 2, 2026, 10AM-4PM, Weaton Arts and Cultural Center, 1000 Village Drive, Millville, NJ 08332, FREE.

[Maple Shade Green Fair](#), May 17, 2026, 11AM-1PM, Main Street & Forklanding Road. FREE.

Friday Forum ([birdwatching walk](#)), May 22, 2026, 9AM-11AM, Amico Island Park, 80 Norman Avenue, Delran, NJ 08075. FREE, but registration required.

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.

Led by Borough Council member Edgar Wilburn, the Green Team and Environmental Commission have utilized grant funding from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) to re-clear the walking trail along the Pompeston Creek at Riverton Memorial Park. Stop by to see the sustainable trail reinforcements that have been installed to reduce erosion and improve safety for residents! A special thank you to the St. Joseph's Prep Environmental Club for playing a key role in clearing the path and helping to install a sustainable ground layer during this past weekend's Earth Day event. If you want to get involved in regular trail maintenance, let us know!

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 more about climate, weather, and the current drought in New Jersey? Check out Salvatore Mangifico, "[How's the Weather in the Garden State](#)," April 13, 2026, Earth Day Every Day Newsletter, New Jersey Cooperative Extension of Salem County.

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

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.

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, April 22, 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

