

Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Update, July 2026

Dear Neighbors:

We're still under a drought warning despite recent rain! Be sure to [continue conserving water](#) so this doesn't turn into a drought emergency. Let's get to the update.

Join Us for Our Next Meeting

Attend our next Green Team and Environmental Commission meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 7:30PM. We will meet at the Porch Club, 213 Howard Street. *We are back to our usual location and time.*

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

Let's Go Mothing!—New Date due to Weather!

Celebrate [National Moth Week](#) with us! Join us **THURSDAY**, July 23, 9:15PM-10:00PM, at Riverton Memorial Park for the First Annual Riverton Moth Night! Note the date change due to weather. We'll shine a light on a sheet, wait for moths to come, identify them, and share our findings with participatory science project. This event is meant to help bring attention to the conserving night skies and beneficial invertebrates. Free! Bring a flashlight to walk out to us in the middle of the park, wear bug repellent, and check for ticks after the event. No need to have any past experience with moths! Dressing like a moth is encouraged but, of course, not required.

Save the Date and Volunteer for the Native Plant Tour!

Want to learn more about adding native plants to your landscape? Or, maybe you just want to tour some cool gardens. 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). This event is Free!

→ **We need volunteers to help with the tour. Volunteer needs include but are not limited to greeting visitors at private homes, taking to the public at our table at the gazebo, helping our visiting non-profits in the gazebo are, and going to each site to make sure everything is running smoothly. You do not need to be a native plant expert!** If you think you'll be available, please contact Councilwoman and Green Team Chair Nicole Belolan: nbelolan@riverton-nj.com.

Want to help conserve fireflies?

We all love chasing fireflies and watching them light up our gardens and yards in the summer months. Unfortunately, [like all insects](#), [firefly populations are diminishing](#). There are several things you can do at home to help conserve them. Consider doing a few simple things at home to help them out, as suggested by the [Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#), the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), and the [Firefly Atlas](#):

- Turn off lights at night, and close blinds and curtains.
- Plant native plants to promote firefly-friendly habitat.
- If you have grass, don't mow it too often. It should be at least 4" high.
- Avoid pesticides.

Want to help even more? [Register with the Firefly Atlas and record your firefly sightings!](#)

What can you do to cut down on mosquitoes safely?

Save Money and Save the Earth by Using BT dunks! Mosquito services typically target adult mosquitoes, whereas BT dunks target eggs and are more effective (and less harmful to beneficial insects and humans). Try using BT dunks to control mosquitos where you live, work, or volunteer.

- 1) Get a 2-gallon, black bucket (or a few).
- 2) Fill the bucket with water a bit more than halfway.
- 3) Add some hay, straw, or dead grass clippings.
- 4) Add a screen and/or a long stick so mammals don't get stuck in the bucket and place it near a spot that gets shade.
- 5) Secure the bucket if you have children (so they can't access the water).
- 6) Put the bucket in the sun so it develops algae and diatoms (which mosquito larvae eat).
- 7) Wait for mosquito larvae to come out and start wriggling.
- 8) Add a quarter of a bacillus thuringiensis (a bacterium) dunk per bucket.

Enjoy, and don't forget to remove other standing water from your property!

For more info, check out, [How Can I Help?: Saving Nature with Your Yard \(2025\)](#) (also available through the [Burlington County Library system](#)). See also "[Mosquito Bucket of Doom](#)" from Sidewalk Nature.

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

As noted above, we are still under a [state-wide drought warning](#). Some NJ DEP recommendations for conserving water include but are not limited to: limit watering grass; plant native plants; use rain barrels; and more! [Read more about it here](#).

Upcoming Events, Things to Do, and Place to Visit

Do you like hummingbirds? Who doesn't!?! Join park naturalist Gina DiMaio at Historic Smithville Park & Smith's Woods on Friday, July 24, 2026, from 9:30AM-11:30AM, to learn about and look out for native hummingbirds. Free. [Register here](#).

Want to learn more about what in nature glows under UV light? Join par naturalist Jen Bulava at Long Bridge Park, 895 Deacon Road Hainesport, NJ 08036, on Friday, August 28, 2026, from 7:30PM-9:30PM, to learn about visible fluorescence in nature. Free. [Register here](#).

Are you a bookworm? Visit Cedar Run Wildlife Preserve on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 10:00AM-1:00PM, for its first ever fall book sale. 4 Sawmill Road, Medford, NJ 08055. Proceeds will benefit Cedar Run. [Learn more here](#).

The regular season of the Burlington County Farmer's Market has begun. Check it out at the Burlington County Agricultural Center, 500 Centerdon Road, Moorestown, NJ, 08057, each Saturday, 8:30AM-1PM. [Learn more here](#).

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

What Have We Been Up To?

Led by Borough Council member Edgar Wilburn, the Green Team and Environmental Commission, along with the Parks and Recreation Committee, have utilized grant funding from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) to 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 install a sustainable ground layer in April. In June, we planted native plants along the Pompeston Creek to continue working on improving this trail. **Over the course of this project, the community contributed roughly 112 volunteer hours and planted 53 native plants (11 species). A huge thank you to everyone who support this project!** If you want to help with regular trail maintenance or native palnt monitoring, please contact Councilmember Edger Wilburn (ewilburn@riverton-nj.com) or Nicole Belolan (nbelolan@riverton-nj.com).

Here is a list of what we planted:

button bush (*cephalanthus occidentalis*), 4
common winterberry (*ilex verticillata*), 7
jack in the pulpit (*arisaema triphyllum*), 6
jacob's ladder (*polemonium reptans*), 3
nanny berry viburnum (*viburnum lentago*), 2
ostrich fern (*matteuccia struthiopteris*), 3
pepperbush (*celethra alnifolia*), 1
redosier dogwood (*cornus sericea*), 7
sensitive fern (*onoclea sensibilis*), 2
silky willow (*salix sericea*), 5
tussock sedge (*carex stricta*), 13

The state-mandated tree ordinance the Borough passed in 2024 was not approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. We are working with the Shade Tree Board and others in the Borough to craft an enhanced model ordinance that addresses tree removal and replacement and promotes the value of trees to our community. If you have ideas or suggestions for this ordinance, please contact Councilmember Nicole Belolan (nbelolan@riverton-nj.com). Attend the next meeting to learn more!

We recently assessed the archives of the Pompeston Creek Association, which are in our hands. They provide important insights into the history of that organization and its local environmental education efforts. We are deciding on next steps and the feasibility of a resident conducting and inventory of the archives and/or proposing alternative, preservation-friendly housing for those archives as part of a Rutgers Environmental Steward volunteer project.

Residents have recently raised concerns about litter, idling, and protecting dark skies. Passionate about any of those topics? Attend the next Environmental Commission and Green Team meeting to get involved!

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. Councilwomen Katie Lucas continues to communicate with our counterparts in Philadelphia, residents, the owners of the scrapyard to work toward resolving concerns.

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

[Bug Banter](#), Xerces Society Podcast.

Concerned about Climate Change? Check out New Jersey's annual [State of the Climate: New Jersey report](#). This report is meant to help local decision-makers plan for climate change.

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, July 22, 2026, 7:30PM, 213 Howard Street, Riverton, NJ 08077.**

Sincerely,

Michael Gawbill

Borough of Riverton Environmental Commission Chair and

Nicole Belolan

Green Team Chair and Borough of Riverton Councilwoman

