

Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Update, August 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, August 26, 7:30PM. We will meet 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 Mothing with Us!

We celebrated [National Moth Week](#) in July at Riverton Memorial Park with our First Annual Riverton Moth Night! We had fun looking at moths and other invertebrates and talking about conserving night skies so those beneficial invertebrates can thrive. Thanks to everyone who came out for this fun evening! [Learn more on our website about how you can help conserve night skies.](#)



Photo by Dan Reed

Check Out Our New Benches!

Thanks to you for recycling flexible plastic! We have been collecting plastic that cannot be recycled curbside for the past several years at Borough Hall. Once the boxes are full, a volunteer (which has usually been Councilman Wilburn) delivers the plastic to a local recycling facility. We submit the number of pounds we have collected to the TREX company. Once we hit the goal, we receive a new bench for the community!

Examples of types of plastic you can drop off for this program:

- Cereal box liners
- Electronic wrap
- Plastic shipping envelopes
- Case overwrap (the plastic that encapsulates pallets of water bottles, for example)
- And more!

[Learn more about what you can recycle here.](#)

We now have TWO benches that have been installed at Riverton Memorial Park thanks to everyone's recycling efforts and our Public Works staff. One bench is on the Pompeston Creek Trail. The other is [near our new StoryWalk®](#). Check them out today!



We need YOU to Volunteer for the Native Plant Tour!

Want to learn more about adding native plants to your landscape? Or, maybe you just want to help the community access some cool gardens. Please volunteer with us! We need **volunteers to help with the tour (details below), which will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2026.** 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 know anything about native plants to help! If you

think you'll be available, please contact Councilmember and Green Team Chair Nicole Belolan: nbelolan@riverton-nj.com.

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 Places to Visit

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](#).

Want to learn the basics of birding? Join Feminist Bird Club Philly at on Sunday, August 30, 2026, 5:00PM, at the Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, to learn the ropes. This event will take place at 8601 Lindbergh Boulevard Philadelphia, PA 19153. [Register and learn more here.](#)

Go on a native plant tour! Join the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space and the Native Plant Society of New Jersey-Mercer County for their next “Pollinator Posse Garden Tour.” This tour will take place on Saturday, September 5, 2026, from 10:00AM-12:00PM, 13 W Shore Dr., Pennington, New Jersey 08534. The tour is \$5. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Let’s go butterflying! Join the New Jersey Butterfly Club, a chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, on a fieldtrip to Pinelands Nursery. This event will take place on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. FREE. [Learn more here.](#)

Concerned about data centers? Join ANJEC’s “Hour of Action: Data Center Pushback” on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 12PM, on Zoom. [Register here.](#)

Help collect trash at Amico Island Park! Join your neighbors on Saturday, September 12, 2026, 9:00AM-10:00AM, to pick up trash at Amico Island. This event takes place at 81 Norman Ave., Delran, NJ 08075. [Learn more here.](#)

Visit native plant gardens in our town! Join us on Saturday, September 19, 2026, any time between 10:00AM and 2:00PM, for a native garden tour in Riverton. Bad weather date: September 20. The tour starts in the gazebo area. There, you can pick up your map, buy native plants from Toadshade Wildflower Farm, and chat with folks from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, the Rancocas Conservancy, and the Native Plant Society of New Jersey. FREE! [Learn more 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 continues. 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?](#)

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).

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. Councilwoman 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, August 26, 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

