

Environmental Commission News

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2022

2021-2022 Accomplishments

Volunteer Opportunities

- Monthly—2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6-8pm; and 3rd Saturdays, 9am-noon: Woodland Trail Mulching
- Monthly—3rd Thursdays, 6-8pm: Invasive Plant Removal
- Weekly-Thursdays, 5-7pm: Crop Swap: all summer. Solar Village corner of North Valley and Farm
- Monthly, 3rd weekend, 10am-noon, Stream Monitoring

Upcoming EC Events

- Aug. 28th, 10am-noon. Mushroom Walk (only if it rains)
- Sept. 10, 10-11am: Compost: Building a simple wire leaf bin. Compost Display area, trail head at the School
- Nov. 5, 10-11am: Native plant seed collection. The garden at 10 North Valley Rd.
- Dec 24: Winter sowing workshop (growing native plants and hardy perennials). 10 North Valley Rd.

Other Fall Community Events

- Monthly-1st Fridays, 6-9pm-ish: First Fridays. all summer/fall (Potluck neighborhood get-together, weather permitting). Host yards needed!
- Aug. 27, 1-4pm: RAP Program, "Saving Schlinski: Show and Distribution". Fence Line Gallery, 10 North Valley Rd.
- Sept. 17, 1-4pm: RAP Program, RAP Art and Garden Tour
- Oct. 29, 1-4pm: RAP Program, Art Walk. Trail head at School

Over the past year, the Roosevelt Borough Environmental Commission has worked on a number of projects. Many of these are ongoing efforts and we are always looking for volunteers! Please email rooseveltborgreenteam@gmail.com and find out how you can help.

Arbor Day Celebration

The mayor helped plant a tree for Arbor Day at the Roosevelt Public School. This highlights the importance of trees to the Borough of Roosevelt.



Roosevelt Woodland Trail

The Roosevelt Woodland trail travels through the Borough of Roosevelt green acres, and Assunpink Wildlife Refuge. It is maintained by the Roosevelt Green Team volunteers. Spreading mulch has been a priority as this helps in the low-lying muddy areas and the erosion around the tree roots on the trail. However more is needed, so please come out and join the Roosevelt Green Team!

The Borough Council has supported this trail maintenance and improvements through a special allocation of funds for material. Problems on the trail should be reported to the Environmental Commission by contacting the Borough Hall

This year Roosevelt also took part in National Trail Day events with a lead nature walk and trail maintenance.

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Environmental Resources & Activities

EC Document Library

Want to know more about Roosevelt Environmental Commission and its initiatives? There is some great information to be found on the Roosevelt website: click on Boards/Commission and select

Environmental or go to <https://www.rooseveltnj.us/boards-commissions/environmental-commission>. Scroll down to find the Environmental Commission Document Library, where to find fresh local produce and information on adopting a storm drain.

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2021-2022 Accomplishments (cont.)

Trailhead Kiosk and Compost Display

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Compost Display and Trailhead Kiosk area was held on July 4th. This project was funded through the Sustainable Jersey Grant.

The new trailhead kiosk is two sided, with a trail map on one side and Environmental Commission and Green Team news on the other.



This area is also the site of our new composting display. So far, we have an example of a commercial compost bin and a three-bin composter, made from recycled pallets. Please visit this area to get some great information on how to compost. A series of workshops covering different aspects of compost have been held here on a monthly basis. The first was in June and was a general introduction to composting, the second one held in July was a hands-on activity where we built a three-bin composter using donated pallets. The next will feature a simple wire cage that will be perfect for your fall leaves.

The Environmental Commission and Roosevelt Art Project are teaming up to make some benches for this area. The benches will be built by the Environmental Commission and painted by artists in town.

Invasive Plants

The third Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm is set aside for invasive plant removal, focusing on the area behind the amphitheater where lots of multiflora rose, burning bush, and autumn olive are being removed. Clean up of that area also included cutting up a large tree that had fallen and stacking the logs. The sticks and the pulled invasive plants were moved further back

into the woods, leaving the beginning of a nice cleared wooded area. This was once a picnic area for the town and there is a grill still there from that time. Please come out and help us remove more of the invasive plants and spread some mulch paths in this area so it can once again be usable for recreation.

Sustainable Jersey and NJ Urban Community Forestry (NJUCF) grants

The Environmental Commission received a \$2,000.00 grant from Sustainable Jersey for a public information and engagement campaign and a grant from NJUCF for a Street Tree inventory and hazardous assessment study. The Forester doing this study will also do a tree inventory for our open space areas.

Tree Identification Signs on Trail

Want to know more about Roosevelt trees? There will soon be identification labels on some trees on the trail, between Valley bike path and Tamara Lane. Thanks goes to the Borough Council for this funding.

Nature walks

Steven Taylor did a great nature walk in June. It was titled Tree Identification, but Steven covered it all.

Rod Tulloss will lead a Mushroom Walk soon



after we get a good soaking of rain, hopefully on August 28th. So, do a little rain dance and come out and learn all about Mushrooms.

(cont. on Pg 3)

Accomplishments (cont.)

Roosevelt Water Story

Hilary Wilder has volunteered to research the story of Roosevelt's water based on the Sustainable Jersey Water Story action guidelines. The water story looks at all aspects of water from the water in our pipes to where our rain goes. Please stay tuned for more information about this fascinating subject.

Adopt a Storm Drain Challenge

Speaking of water, when it rains in Roosevelt, the rain water flows into the streets and into the storm drains. This water then goes directly into our streams. If the drains are not cleaned of debris, pollution will end up in our stream; and it goes without saying that a clogged drain can also flood our properties. Adopt a Storm Drain is a community challenge that addresses this problem. If your house is near a storm drain, please adopt it and keep it clean. You may already be cleaning a drain, so make it official and adopt it. More information can be found at www.rooseveltnj.us/storm-drains-pledge or scan the QR code.



Roosevelt Stream Stewardship

Through our partnership with the Watershed Institute, Roosevelt volunteers do monthly tests to monitor the health of our streams and wetlands. Roosevelt also teamed up with the Watershed Institute this past April to do a stream clean up. Please contact the Environmental Commission if you would like to join our team to do stream testing. Training will be provided.

Resources & Activities (cont.)

Crop Swap

The problem of food waste and fresh food deserts meets a home-grown solution with Roosevelt's Crop Swap. Garden season is in full swing and it is a time of plenty. Perhaps you have grown too much of some vegetable from the garden or purchased too much from the produce stand. Please come to the Crop Swap and share/trade your bounty with your neighbors, Thursday evening 5:00-7:00pm at Solar Village corner of North Valley and Farm. You do not have to have a garden to participate, frequently the produce stands have better deals if you buy larger quantities. Food that is not exchanged at the swap will be given to the Solar Village residences.

No, this will not solve all the food waste and food desert problems but it is a step in the right direction. Sort of like planting a seed. If it is nurtured it will grow.

First Fridays

This is the second year of First Friday events. First Friday's start up as begin when the weather warms up and are held outside in the yards of volunteers. Everyone brings a dish to share, musicians bring instruments, and stories and poems are all part of the celebration. The First Friday in August will be at Solar Village and the theme is stories about Roosevelt. Please consider hosting one of these First Fridays. It is a great way to meet the neighbors.

This newsletter is made possible by a grant from Sustainable Jersey

Roosevelt Borough Green Team: to volunteer send email rooseveltborgreenteam@gmail.com

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Buy Fresh, Buy Local, Roosevelt, NJ

Why is locally grown food important?

- ♦ It tastes better because it's picked when fresh, not harvested in advance for long-distance shipping.
- ♦ It's better for your health because fresh food contains more nutrients.
- ♦ It's better for the environment because it maintains open space and promotes sustainable practices.
- ♦ It's better for the community because it supports and creates a connection with local farm families.
- ♦ It's better for the climate because it reduces carbon emissions from long-haul transport of food.

In Roosevelt, locally grown food is available at Mendies Farm, which operates a roadside stand and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture, where members buy a share of the produce grown on the farm) The Farm is owned and managed by Roosevelt residents, Lawrence and Heidi Mendies.

- *Mendies Family Farm*; 65 N Rochdale Avenue, Roosevelt, (609) 820-8809. www.mendiesfarm.com/

Other Farm Stands offering locally grown food (open during the growing season)

- *Appelget Family Farm*: 135 Conover Road, West Windsor. (609) 902-8372 www.appelgetfarm.com/
- *Bullock Farms*: 83 Emleys Hill Road, Cream Ridge. facebook.com/bullockfarms. Also at Bullock Farms: Screamin' Hill Brewery <https://screaminhill.com/>
- *Corner-Copia*: 619 Mercer Street, Hightstown. (609) 208-9116 www.corner-copia.com/farm-market/
- *Cranbury Brook Farm*: 308 Federal Road, Monroe Township. (609) 918-0351 www.cranburybrookfarm.com/for-sale-at-the-farm.html
- *Hyland Farm*: 1042 Windsor Road, Millstone. (609) 575-4039 facebook.com/hylandfarmstand/
- *KJD Farms*: 1510 Old York Rd., Robbinsville. www.facebook.com/Kdjfarm/
- *Krackerjacks Farm Market*: 1009 NJ-33W, Monroe Township. (609) 495-5034 facebook.com/Krackerjack-Farms-950641208295799/
- *Kyle Family Farm*: 831 Windsor Perrineville Rd, East Windsor. kylefamilyfarm.com/
- *Lee Turkey Farm*: 201 Hickory Corner Road, East Windsor. (609) 448-0629 www.leeturkeyfarm.com/
- *Moonshot Farms*: 415 Imlaystown Road, East Windsor. www.moonshotfarm.com/
- *Pop's Farm Market*: 238 Cranbury Station Road, Monroe Township. (609) 655-4175 popsfarmmarketandgardencenter.com/
- *Produce Paradise*: Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, 325 Clarksburg-Robbinsville Rd by the large sycamore trees.
- *Red Wagon Farm Market*: 437 State Route 33, Manalapan. redwagonfarmnj.com
- *Rising Sun Farm*: 26 Rising Sun Road (571), Millstone. (609) 462-9508 facebook.com/therisingsunfarmnj/
- *Stargazer Fields*: 17 Olde Noah Hunt Road, Millstone. (732) 675-0593 Blueberries only facebook.com/stargazerfields/

To learn more about Farmers Markets and other local food businesses go to www.rooseveltnj.us/boards-commissions/environmental-commission.

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