

Environmental Commission News

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2022

On the Trail

A recent Trail Assessment Walk shows the Roosevelt trail in better condition now than at the beginning of the year. Thanks to the care of the Trail maintenance volunteers, a solid portion of the trail has been mulched, puncheons have been maintained and invasive plants have been targeted. The Compost Display area and the woods behind the Amphitheatre have been cleaned up and many invasive plants have been removed.

More work is needed, mulching is needed for more than half of the trail, puncheons are always in need of maintenance, damage trailhead signs need to be replaced, the trail need to be rerouted in some places, invasive plants need to be removed, and a planned exclosure needs to be built to protect our native flora. In fact, the trail needs your help more than ever.

If you are interested in being a part of the Trail team, please sign up to our email list for up-to-date information on events. We all have crazy schedules if you are interested in volunteering for trail work virtually.

Sign up and adopt a section, or a type of task. There are volunteer release and trail maintenance report forms, and the trail to do list all on the Borough's website under the Environmental Commission page. If you are part of a group that would like to adopt part of a trail that would be wonderful also. Youth groups would be especially welcome, please contact us about this possibility.

Roosevelt collaboration with Watershed Institute

The stream water testing continues

The Roosevelt stream water testing team is working closely with the Watershed Institute. The data collected is an important part of our stream monitoring program.

Roosevelt Green Team participated in the Watershed's stream clean-up program in 2022 and are making plans to do so again in 2023.

In 2022 the Watershed Institute began organizing an Assunpink watershed group, Roosevelt is part of this group and we are looking forward to working with our surrounding municipalities to protect our watershed.

Environmental Resources & Activities

The EC Document Library is growing. Check out the Roosevelt Water Story draft and call for public comment. This is also the place to join the green team for trail work. Where you will find the Trail Maintenance Plan, To Do List for the trail, and volunteer forms. Don't forget to sign up to our email list to get up-to-date information

Join us on FaceBook—www.facebook.com/friendsofrooseveltec

More information on the EC can be found on the Roosevelt Boro web page — www.rooseveltnj.us/boards-commissions/environmental-commission

Sign-up for our green team email list — www.rooseveltnj.us/events-and-volunteers

Order a Green Team T-shirt

Roosevelt Environmental Commission is starting a new collaboration with Millstone Environmental Commission, we will be working together to protect and monitor open space area, and other environmental actions

Sustainable Jersey Grant closing out and NJ Urban Community Forestry Grant to be continued

The Sustainable Jersey Grant which helped jump start a public information and engagement campaign for the Roosevelt Environmental Commission will close out by the end of 2022, but the public involvement campaign continues. The NJUCF grant for Street Tree inventory and hazardous assessment study is still in the works with a new Forester. It looks like this study will be scaled back and not include the open space area plot inventory that was originally planned.

This Fall a seed library was started in Roosevelt.

Seed libraries are collections of open pollinated and heirloom seeds. These seeds are available to all residents of Roosevelt. Please sign up on the Green Team email list to request seeds or donate seeds. Many of these seeds have been collected from plants in our neighbors' yards. So far, they are primarily native plants and vegetables.

If you would like to get involved, collect seeds from open pollinated native plants, flowers, and vegetables and donate them. These can be plants in your own landscape, or from a commercial seed company. After all, how many of us have room to plant all the seeds in a seed packet? A form for seed donation will be on the Environmental Commission page on the Borough's website. You will find a list of seeds available there, as well as events related to the growing of seeds. Our next workshop is on December 17, 10:00am -11:00am, Winter Sow, Growing Native Plants, and hardy perennials. This workshop will be at the Silverman's garden at 10 North Valley Road. Come join us, Here is a partial list of seeds available to plant: Spotted Joe-Pyeweed, Cardinal Flower, New England Aster, Amsonia hubrichtii, Echinacea, and Ironweed.

Environmental Outreach programs

Compost Display area: Leaves

The best practice is to leave falling leaves alone in your garden. However, if you prefer that your lawn is leaf-free, please consider collecting and donating them to our town's compost display area. This area is located at the school trail-head. Bring your leaves and place them in one of the open wire or board bins. No plastic bags please.

Stay tuned for more environmental workshops, walks, and talks scheduled in our Compost display area in 2023.

Roosevelt Families take Action for the Environment

A new environmental commission outreach program is in place for 2023. The theme is "Roosevelt Families take Action for the Environment" The start-up meeting will be Jan 7 at the Borough Hall with a Dessert and Discussion.

Crop Swap

Crop Swap was a successful program this summer and fall. Neighbors shared their extra vegetables and other food items. Mendi's Farm also shared some of their wonderful organic produce. What did not get traded, was shared with Solar Village residents.

Roosevelt Water Story

The primary focus of this water story is to provide a blueprint for continuing the ethos of working WITH rather than AGAINST nature and our environment. This is as relevant today as it was when Roosevelt was founded, especially since climate change, loss of habitat and biodiversity, and disruption of terrain that is integral to a natural water cycle will progressively impact our way of life. At a minimum, we will see greater flooding of our roads and homes, and more pollution of our wetlands and downstream creeks.

A secondary focus of this water story is to give the current and future residents of Roosevelt Borough a comprehensive understanding, in plain language, of the public health, fiscal, and environmental challenges and benefits that

guide policy decisions surrounding a publicly owned, town-operated drinking and wastewater facility. These municipal-run water and wastewater treatment facilities are also a part of what makes the Borough of Roosevelt's water story unique .

Long-term outcomes:

- inform residents and policy makers of sustainable, environmentally friendly actions that can be taken to best accommodate our continually changing surface water and stormwater
- provide residents with a comprehensive understanding of the drinking and wastewater systems, including the fiscal, environmental, and public health impacts that result from current and future decisions made by the municipality.

Please review the Water Story Draft on the Environmental Commission page of the Borough of Roosevelt's website. You can submit your comments in writing to Environmental Commission Chairperson: environmental@rooseveltnj.us or by statement at the Environmental Commission meeting.

The Environmental Commission meeting are held the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. The meetings are held on zoom, please go to the Environmental Commission agenda post, on the Environmental Commission page for the information needed to join the meeting.

Request for public comment in Roosevelt Water Story draft

The purpose of your engagement in this document is three-folds.

1. Validate: We need you to validate if the information gathered for the water story thus far, is correct, and to assist in identification of key issues and their priority ranking, or relative importance to us the residents of Roosevelt.
2. Share: We need you to share your water stories, experiences, and concerns so that we may have a fuller understanding of common values, themes and the importance and meaning of water in our municipality.
3. Actions: What do we need to do next? How can we inform and inspire local action? How can we participate in sustainable conservation and protection of water resources to create a new municipal water story?

Adopt a Storm Drain

Don't forget to adopt a storm drain! If we all do our part, we will definitely have less flooding and non-point pollution in our streams. The sign-up sheet is on the Environmental Commission page on the Borough's website.

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofrooseveltec

Submit your comments on the Water Story to:
environmental@rooseveltnj.us

Green team email list:
rooseveltgreenteam@gmail.com

Upcoming events: Winter/Spring 2023

- Dec. 17, 2022, 10:00-11:00am: Winter Sow, Growing Native Plants, and hardy perennials. This workshop will be at the Silverman's garden. Come join us, here is a partial list of seeds available to plant: Spotted Joe-Pyeweed, Cardinal Flower, New England Aster, Amsonia hubrichtii, Echinacea, and Ironweed. 10 North Valley Rd.
- Jan. 6, 6:00-8:00pm: First Friday New Year Traditions. Come and share your New Year Traditions, music, food, and resolutions with your neighbors. Bring food and drink to share. Borough Hall.
- Jan. 14, 7:30pm: Cultural Events Presented by RAP (Roosevelt's Creative Team). "Prose-evelt" Join us for an evening of storytelling. Come hear Rooseveltians share their stories, both remembered & imagined, weaving tales that captivate and inspire. Borough Hall.
- Jan. ³¹~~17~~, 7-9pm: The first "Roosevelt Families take Environmental Action" program: Dessert and Discussion. What does cheesecake have to do with nature walks? What do cupcakes have to do with waterfowl habitat? Find out at the Roosevelt Environmental Commission's Dessert and Discussion Series! Presented by Roosevelt Environmental Commission, Borough Hall.
- Jan. 18, 7-9pm: Presentation of Roosevelt Water Story. Start-up call for public comment at Environmental Commission's January Zoom meeting. Ongoing: Public comment on Roosevelt Water Story draft, email environmental@rooseveltnj.us to submit comments or for Zoom information.
- Feb. 2, 10am-12pm: Roosevelt Seed Library. Seed Swap event. Borough Hall.
- Feb. 11, 7:30pm: Mark Zuckerman's music. Roosevelt composer Mark Zuckerman will share some of his recent work, with a special focus on his vocal settings of quotations by Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Borough Hall.
- Mar. 25, 7:30pm: The Shahns: An Artistic Family. *We are requiring all attendees to wear a mask for this event. Jeb Shahn will give a talk about the Shahn family of artists. The talk will focus on Ben, Jonathan & Bernarda, and will include extended family who have continued in the arts. Roosevelt Public School.
- Apr. 1, 7:30pm: Roosevelt Poevent: Side by Side. As Baba Ram Dass once said, "We are all just walking each other home." Come for a walk with the Roosevelt Poets. We'll walk with you, side by side. Borough Hall.
- May 7, 3:00pm: Roosevelt String Band. "We Protest! Songs Protesting Injustice, Hatred, Violence and War" This year's RSB concert will focus on the theme of protest music and will include David Brahinsky, Paul Prestopino, Ed Cedar, Howie Jacobson, Joe Pepitone, Nancy Wilson and Noemi Bolton. Borough Hall.
- May 20, 1:00 - 4:00pm : RAP Art and Garden Tour. Explore some of Roosevelt's gardens designed by the artists that live here and see their work in their natural habitat. The urge to create, whether with brush, chisel, or trowel, thrives in Roosevelt. Come see for yourself.
- Jun. 10, 1:00-6:00 pm: Mind and Body: Art and Science. You are invited to participate in a show that draws on the visual and written word as it relates to mind and body, and also the world of research as it relates to the same. New Jersey artists and poets will present their work alongside Rutgers University researchers who will explain their most recent scientific endeavors. This will be an informal gathering bridging the gap between art and science. Come and be inspired! Assifa Space, 40 Tamara Drive.

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