

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
23A North Main Street
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512**

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TO: Cranbury Township Committee
FROM: Barbara Rogers, Environmental Commission Chair
DATE: July 2019
SUBJECT: Environmental Commission 2019 Goals

The following goals have been established for the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission for 2019.

2019 Master Plan Re-exam – Review and provide updates to the Master Plan for the MP Re-exam Subcommittee for Chapter 6: Conservation Element and Chapter 13: Green Buildings and Environmental Sustainability Plan. Identify sustainability items to be included in the MP.

Brainerd Lake Dredging – The EC will identify members to participate with the Township and provide advice on environmental issues regarding Brainerd Lake dredging.

Environmental Resource Inventory – The EC will maintain the ERI and develop a plan to continue to promote the use of the ERI to ensure that all development is undertaken with sensitivity toward the natural environment. The EC Member on the DRC will continue to use the ERI to review Land Use Applications.

Preserve Management Plans –

- The EC will continue to identify and eradicate invasive species in the Cranbury Brook Preserve, as well as plant wildflowers in the grasslands, and promote the growth of native species in all of the Preserves.
- Trail development and maintenance and habitat management will be ongoing in all preserves with partnerships developed with volunteers, non profits and the DPW.
- Each EC member will be assigned an open space and provide maintenance updates and ideas.
- Plant dogwoods along edge of entrance to Cranbury Brook Preserve.

Alfred Meiss Environmental Appreciation Award – The EC will sponsor the tenth annual award to be presented to a Cranbury School Middle School student who embraces the ideals of environmental stewardship.

Sustainable Jersey –

As the Green Team, EC members will gather documents associated with completed actions and upload them on the SJ website to meet submission requirements for 2019 recertification. Complete necessary action items to achieve Bronze level and identify additional items to achieve Silver certification in the future. In order to recertify, certain action items totaling 150 points must be completed.

- Sustainable Land Use Pledge
- Community Paper Shredding Day
- Recycling Depot
- Reusable Bag Education Program
- Create Green Team
- Farmland Preservation Plans
- Environmental Commission
- Tree Hazard Inventory
- Community Education and Outreach
- Innovative Community Project 1
- Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly
- Establish a Creative Team
- Buy Local Campaign
- Environmental Commission Site Plan Review
- Municipal Communications Strategy
- Tree Planting Programs
- Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities
- The EC will continue its work to promote Cranbury as a Sustainable Jersey township.
- The EC will continue to work with the Cranbury School Wellness and Sustainability Council to help educate and involve students in promoting water quality and recycling initiatives in the school.
- A student liaison from Cranbury School will be invited and included at the monthly meetings for communication and assistance of the School's participation with Terracycle and other activities.

Village Park Rain Garden –

- The EC will continue to maintain the rain garden through weeding, new plantings and mulching, and promote its purpose and use.
- A maintenance schedule was developed and will be followed with the help of DPW and volunteers.

NJ Invasive Species Strike Team –

- The EC will continue membership and work with volunteers to identify and eradicate invasive species on Township properties.
- Commissioners will attend the annual conference at Duke Farm to obtain and disseminate to the public the latest information on invasives.

The Watershed Institute – The EC will continue membership and work with the Watershed on the annual Stream Clean Up, monitor water and environmental impacts of planned development and other water quality initiatives.

ANJEC – The EC will continue membership, applying for available grants and attend the annual conference. Dr. Rogers will become a board member and provide updates to the EC about ANJEC’s activities and role in educating the public about environmental commissions.

Regulatory and Advisory Activities The EC will continue to have members on the DRC and the Planning Board, and attend Township meetings to provide environmental guidance in an advisory role when necessary. The EC will comment on proposed legislation that affects the environment and identify areas that the TC could create policy initiative beneficial to the environment.

Household Environmental Activities - The EC will promote the following:

- Reduction of single use plastic bags and encourage reusable bags
- Use of rain barrels to prevent stormwater runoff
- Use rain garden in Village Park to educate the public about green infrastructure
- Proper use of fertilizers and grass clippings on lawns to reduce nutrient runoff
- Use of native plant species to diversify habitat and encourage pollinators
- Household energy conservation practices to reduce energy consumption

Educational Activities – The EC will promote educational activities as follows:

- Place documents and articles on the Township’s website.
- Host a Cranbury Day booth with environmental activities for visitors.
- Participate in Wellness Fair with activities that promote the importance of a healthy environment in everyday life and walking trails on the preserves
- Place articles about EC activities in each of the Township’s newsletters.
- Promote green building and sustainability as contained in the Master Plan.
- Promote the Cranbury Brook Preserve as an educational area, i.e. the Pollinator Garden
- Continue to participate in the annual Watershed Institute’s “Stream Clean-Up”.
- Seek PHS student liaison to foster collaboration with Environmental Commission and high school environmental club activities.
- Sustainable Jersey School activities regarding recycling and water quality will continue at the School
- Work with the Parks Commission on common goals for the Town’s open space.
- Develop educational material about conservation easements for distribution to the public.

Applications – Applications for development will be reviewed, and comments submitted to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment, as appropriate.

Vacancies – Advertise and fill all Commission positions.