

Holland Township Environmental Commission Achievements of 2024 Goals

Waterways



Delaware River

- Successfully applied for and was awarded a \$5,000 grant in 2024 from the Lower Delaware River Wild & Scenic Management Council, and submitted a summary report and video of the signage and benches installed at O'sakame Preserve.
- Provided a presentation of the new signage and arranged for two public walks at the O'sakame Preserve with the Hunterdon County Parks naturalist.
- Applied for a \$5,000 grant for 2025 from the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management Council for additional benches at the O'sakame Preserve.
- Participated in the Lower Delaware River Wild & Scenic Tributary Study to determine if any tributaries to the Delaware in Holland Township should be included in the Wild & Scenic designation.
- Participated in the Delaware River clean up in September 2024.

- Participated in the meetings with the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management Council.

Musconetcong River

- Attended meetings of the Musconetcong River Management Council (MRMC) and reported back as liaison to the Environmental Commission.
- Gave updates on anything occurring in Holland, such as the Holland Solar tree cutting incident.
- Reviewed and provided feedback on River Management Plan.
- Member of 319 plan committee for Hunterdon County portion of Musconetcong. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) uses the 319(h) grant program from the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to fund projects that address water quality issues caused by nonpoint source pollution (NPS).
- Participated in Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) events.
- Collected macroinvertebrates at Mt. Joy Road. The types of bugs found are an indicator of the quality of the water. This is a semi-annual event for assessing the health of the Musconetcong River.
- Planted trees at Hughesville dam site.

Trails



- Promoted use of Township trails with two interpretive trail “Walk and Talk” programs that were conducted with a Hunterdon Park naturalist and Environmental Commission members. Participants were directed to the trees that were newly identified with tree signage and QR codes.
- Supported the upkeep and maintenance of Township trails by noting clean-up needs on the Holland Trail and improved signage on the Holland Highland’s trail. There are plans to repair the Milford Bluffs trail with volunteer help from the Environmental Commission and funding from The Nature Conservancy.
- Continued placement of Birds and Trees of Holland Checklists at trail kiosks and on Holland Township Website.

Trees



- Identified six additional species of trees on the O'sakame Preserve with an identifying sign and QR code that leads to further information on the Holland Township Website.
- Continued to implement activities in the Community Forestry Plan.
- Increased public knowledge about trees through a program that promoted proper care and planting of trees with a member of the Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission.
- To replace trees destroyed in super storm Sandy, we distributed 120 free seedlings provided by the NJ Community Tree Recovery Program.
- Planted a crabapple tree for Arbor Day at the Municipal Bldg.
- In March 2024 Holland Township Committee adopted the state-mandated tree ordinance regarding "Tree Removal and Replacement." Environmental Commission members attended three Webinars produced by the New Jersey Association of Planning & Zoning Administrators. The Webinars were

designed to orient municipal board members to the new regulations and model ordinance adopted by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

Community Education and Outreach



- Presented four educational programs on the following topics:
 - “Know the Bear Facts”** by Debra Reed, Hunterdon County Parks
 - “Trees! What, How, When and Where to Plant Them”** by Neil Hendrickson, arborist
 - “Birds of Holland Township”** Slide Show and Commentary by David Harrison from our Environmental Commission
 - “What is the State of Recycling in New Jersey?”** by Rebecca Lunger, Hunterdon County Recycling Coordinator
- Provided a page of articles for Holland Happenings both spring and fall on Environmental Commission achievements and other activities. This listing publicized future speaker programming.

- Provided a presentation of the new signage and arranged for two public walks at the O'sakame Preserve with the Hunterdon County Parks naturalist.
- Placed posters advertising the speaker series at: Municipal Building, Holland Trail and O'sakame Preserve kiosks, Milford kiosk, Holland Library, Riegel Ridge Community Center.
- Made regular updates to the Environmental Commission Website and Facebook Page to advertise programs.
- Updated Tree Map on Website.