

# 2019 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grants for Environmental Commissions

*In 2019, 18 commissions received the good news that they were selected from a field of nearly 50 applicants to receive a 2019 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant.*

The grants enable commissions to carry out hands-on projects in their towns. Funded projects for 2019 included: enhancement and preservation of trails; green infrastructure improvements; community and pollinator gardens; butterfly gardens and enhancements; birding habitat improvements; and invasive species education and removal. The primary objective of the Open Space Stewardship Grant Program is to increase residents' awareness and appreciation of local open space, ultimately increasing public support for open space stewardship.

Community outreach and involvement is an integral element of the projects, to increase public understanding and support for open space preservation and also to raise the profile of the environmental commission in the community.

No cash match is required for the grants, which ranged from \$500 to \$1500. The grants often act as a catalyst, drawing additional financial support from the municipality to round out the project budget. All projects require an in-kind labor contribution from the commission and other volunteers totaling at least 80 hours. Projects often bring in many times that amount from community groups and individuals who help with physical labor or even donate professional skills or materials.

## The 2019 Environmental Commission Grantees were

- Belvidere, The Pollinator Prerogative
- Bernardsville Borough, Green Infrastructure
- Bordentown City, Park Beautification
- Brick Township, Habitat Awareness
- Ewing Township, Pollinator Garden
- Glen Rock Borough, Rain Garden
- Hopatcong Borough, Rain Garden
- Hopewell Township, Organic Community Garden
- Lambertville City, Wildlife Habitat Garden
- Liberty Township, Meadow Garden
- Long Branch City, Dune Planting/Restoration
- Mansfield Township (Warren County), Solitary Bee Program
- Marlboro Township, Green Learning Center
- Readington Township, Community Pollinator Garden
- South Orange Village, Invasive Species Removal
- Swedesboro-Woolwich, Bluebird Habitat
- Washington Township, Trail Enhancement and Tools
- West Milford Township, Creek Cleanup and Enhancement