

# 2021 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grants for Environmental Commissions

*In 2021, 14 commissions received the good news that they were selected from a field of nearly 50 applicants to receive a 2021 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant.*

The grants enable commissions to carry out hands-on projects in their towns. Funded projects for 2021 included: riparian restoration; rain garden 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.

ANJEC's Open Space Stewardship 2021 Grant Program is underwritten by the Candace McKee Ashmun Grant Fund, established in 2020 with funds raised in the memory of ANJEC's first executive director and by generous donors like you. ANJEC is always looking for additional sources of revenue to support grants for environmental commissions. If your organization would like to hold a fundraiser to support the grant program, or if you would like to make a donation, please contact ANJEC at [info@anjec.org](mailto:info@anjec.org).

## The 2021 Environmental Commission Grantees were

- Ridgefield Borough, Ridgefield Community Garden Project
- Sayreville Borough, Sayreville Community Garden
- Chester Borough, Seward Hill Preserve ecological restoration: bluebird houses
- Dennis Township, community garden restoration
- East Greenwich Township, demonstration pollinator garden
- Fair Lawn Borough, Fair Lawn riparian zone restoration project
- Hamilton Township (Mercer County), Pollinator-Friendly Hamilton
- Long Branch City, Jackson Woods Park Message Center & Native Garden
- Milltown Borough, Mill Pond Pollinator Garden
- Neptune Township, rain garden
- New Brunswick City, Buccleuch Park Pollinator Garden
- Montvale Borough, wetlands restoration/pollinator plantings
- Wayne Township, flood plain restoration and rain garden
- Parsippany-Troy Hills Township, Invasive species community education project