



ANJEC REPORT

Local Environment Matters

SPRING 2026

Inside:

- Special section – Celebrating NJ's coastal lands
- New laws passed in lame duck session
- Meet the new DEP Commissioner



ANJEC
*Executive
Director*
Jennifer Coffey
Photo by Taylor McFarland

Director's Report

A new hope

The lame duck legislative session ended with actions that give me new hope for protecting and restoring our shared environment and creating healthier communities across the Garden State.

Lame duck is the period of time between election day and the inauguration of newly elected officials. In New Jersey, legislative sessions are two years and gubernatorial terms are four years. The last lame duck session ended on January 20 when Governor Sherrill was sworn into office; the 2024/2025 legislative session ended one week prior.

Throughout 2025, ANJEC hosted regular virtual meetings called "Hour of Action." In these sessions, we focused on advancing one action, often a policy, sometimes education, for officials or the general public on one issue. The theory is simple: focus on local action to advance statewide change. In lame duck, we challenged ourselves and you to focus on an ambitious agenda of issues that we have heard are priorities for you. We held three hours of action, and you really came through for your families and communities. You met the challenge! You made hundreds of phone calls, sent text messages and emails, passed resolutions, and reached out to your local officials to encourage the same.

Here's what we accomplished together:

New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threats Resilient Environment and Landscapes (NJPACT REAL) Rules will save lives and reduce property damage by requiring new development to be built to climate resilient elevation standards and better manage stormwater runoff (page 24).

Food Waste Reduction Law (S2426/Azogo) – Signed into law, requiring every solid-waste management district to develop

plans to cut food waste by 50 percent by 2035 and expand composting.

Skip the Stuff Act (S3195/A5157) – Signed into law, reducing unnecessary single-use utensils and condiments for takeout and delivery (page 30).

Protecting Against Forever Chemicals Act (A1421/S1042) – Signed into law, strengthening protections for our drinking water and reducing use of forever chemicals (PFAS) in everyday products, including carpets and cookware.

Regulating Forever Chemicals in Fire Fighting Equipment (S5223/A5195) – Signed into law, protecting our first responders, public health and the environment.

In addition, ANJEC worked with numerous advocates and organizations to successfully stop several dangerous bills that would have severely undermined government transparency and accountability, such as S4924, which would have stripped the New Jersey Comptroller and Attorney General of their watchdog investigative powers, and the NJ DOGE bill.

There are several bills that did not pass in lame duck, including the Climate Superfund and Green Amendment as well the *Clean Energy Act (S237/A1480)* and *Open Space Conservation Tax Incentive Act (S3287/A197)*. The groundwork we laid was critical and they will be reintroduced this year.

We know that managing both flooding and drought are priority issues for many of the 5,000+ environmental commissioners in 300+ communities we serve. ANJEC will be hosting education and training programs this year about ensuring we have enough clean water for everyone, including our drinking water webinar series later this year, forums on compliance with municipal separate


stormwater sewer (MS4) permits and NJPACT REAL rules that are scheduled go into effect this summer. As of printing, ANJEC is aware of efforts in the legislature and court to prevent the implementation of the NJPACT REAL rules. We are working with our colleague organizations to fight back and will have more information soon.

We know that providing housing in the right places and establishing access to open space for people and wildlife are persistent and consistent issues of concern. ANJEC will work with Governor Sherrill’s administration, legislature, businesses and advocates to represent your voice in Trenton and across the great Garden State.

None of this happens without you. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your actions, your financial support, your commitment to environment and community. ANJEC is your resource for sound science and education, and you are our inspiration.

Jennifer M. Coffey
 Jennifer M. Coffey (she/her)
 Executive Director

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Local Environment Matters

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564 MUNICIPALITIES ONE ENVIRONMENT

Executive Director Jennifer M. Coffey
 Editor Julie Lange Groth

The mission of ANJEC is to promote local action to protect and restore New Jersey’s natural resources and to ensure healthy communities for today and the future. ANJEC advances its mission by engaging in equitable and inclusive practices through leadership, partnerships, education, advocacy for strong public policy, and in support of environmental commissions, public officials, and communities throughout New Jersey.

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In this issue:

- 2** Director’s Report
- 4** A microforest grows in Long Branch
- 6** Environmental champion to lead the DEP
- 7** Acting Locally

Special section: Celebrating NJ coastal lands

- 11** NJ’s coastal areas: A rich historical, cultural and ecological legacy
- 13** Tools for coastal resilience in NJ
- 14** Ripple effects: Horseshoe crabs and informed coastal decision-making
- 17** Ship strikes are the #1 killer of whales along the Jersey Shore
- 19** Maritime forests in NJ are rare and threatened
- 20** Celebrating NJ’s coastal treasures
- 23** 2026 ANJEC grants for open space stewardship projects
- 24** The new NJPACT REAL Rules
- 26** A REAL change to protect New Jersey’s wildlife
- 27** New lead disclosure law passed
- 28** New report to inform NJ climate policy
- 30** From local ordinances to State law: Making Skip the Stuff work
- 39** 2026 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions Training

On the cover: Horseshoe Crabs on the Jersey shore
 Photo by Susan Allen

A microforest grows in Long Branch

By **Matt Vicari** and **Chris Chambers**, WPBWA; and **Mike Petriello**, volunteer

A group of volunteers is preparing the ground to plant a microforest at Ross Lake Park in Long Branch in the Spring of 2026. The park is along the north shore of Whale Pond Brook, where it provides critical riparian and freshwater habitat to this watershed ecosystem.

When Faith Teitelbaum, environmental chair and director of the Long Branch nonprofit Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association (WPBWA), heard of a grant opportunity from American Water in early 2024, she began looking for ways to bring more green infrastructure practices to the city. The initial concept was to install a rain garden just south of Ross Lake Park on Red Oaks Drive, but it hit several roadblocks. This led Teitelbaum, who also chairs the Long Branch Environmental Commission, to seek alternative green infrastructure practices.

The book *From Wasteland to Wonder* by author and arborist Basil Camu inspired Teitelbaum to ask the park's volunteer curator, Matt Vicari, "What if we installed a microforest at Ross Lake Park?"

Both Teitelbaum and Vicari are Rutgers' Certified Green Infrastructure Champions (GIC) and have learned about the many ways to implement green infrastructure in



Long Branch microforest entrance gate with eight-foot deer fence.

by Faith Teitelbaum

residential, commercial and public spaces. Although microforests are not traditionally taught as one of these tools, Teitelbaum's forward thinking inspired the pair to further research microforest feasibility and benefits to the area.

Prior research from the US Forest Service has shown that a 1,000-square-foot microforest can intercept 30,000 gallons of rainwater per year from its canopy footprint alone. This is in addition to absorbing and filtering runoff from surrounding semi-impervious surfaces, such as mowed turf. The benefits a microforest can offer in a riparian watershed are many, including improved water quality, less erosion, reduced flooding and enhanced biodiversity through a dense, multi-layered planting structure.

The plan started to gain traction. Teitelbaum and Vicari started researching different types of forest ecosystems,

determining where to source the plants, and choosing species-specific microsites within Ross Lake Park for plantings. Luckily, Teitelbaum and Vicari were not alone in this endeavor.

The Garden Friends of Ross Lake Park is a volunteer group of GICs, including Monmouth County Master Gardeners, retired ecologists and educators, and faithful land stewards. Teitelbaum and Vicari rely heavily on the advice, creativity, expertise and dedication of these group members, whose 2025 accomplishments include:

- establishing a 200-square-foot garden planted with a variety of native flowering perennials;
- hosting its first native plant sale, where the Garden Friends of Ross Lake Park grew and sold more than 500 native plants to raise over \$1,400 for the WPBWA;
- planting more than 200 locally and sustainably collected oak acorns to be distributed as first-year saplings at Long Branch's 2027 Arbor Day event.

High density, small size

The team aims to create an oak-hickory ecosystem in the microforest, a type typically found in the inner coastal plain of the Mid-Atlantic biome. Land disturbance, mostly due to development and overgrazing, has significantly threatened these ecosystems and their restoration and protection is vital. The dominant trees in this ecosystem are white and red oaks as

well as pignut and mockernut hickories. Other common woody plants of this forest include red maple, black walnut, sassafras, flowering dogwood, paw paw and many other trees and shrubs.

Prior to Camu's book in 2024, Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki advanced the concept of reforestation using small, densely planted areas to decrease maturation times and increase biomass. These "Miyawaki forests" are planted at a density of three to five plants per square meter. The Ross Lake Park microforest will include about 250 plants from over 20 different plant genera in 1,000 square feet. According to Miyawaki a densely planted microforest can reach maturity within 20 to 30 years, bringing the maturation date for the Ross Lake Park microforest to about 2050.

Thanks to a generous \$3,000 donation from the New Jersey Road Runners Youth Foundation, an eight-foot fence now defines the microforest to limit overgrazing by deer and to provide sufficient time to establish the resilience needed to endure light grazing. The group intends to remove the fence after five to six years.

The Ross Lake Park Microforest is among several examples in NJ of the large and positive impact that can be made in small spaces. Beyond their many inherent ecological benefits, microforests in public spaces are also valued educational tools.

The Garden Friends of Ross Lake Park hope to inspire visitors to take similar steps in their communities and in their own home landscapes. 🌱



Long Branch members of The Garden Friends of Ross Lake
by Andrea Phox

Environmental champion to lead the DEP

G

overnor Sherrill has tapped Ed Potosnak, former Executive Director of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, to head the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as Commissioner. Potosnak is recognized as one of NJ's most trusted voices on clean energy and environmental protection. He also serves his community as a Councilmember in Franklin Township (Somerset County) and previously as President and member of the local School Board.

In his new role, Potosnak will lead the State's efforts to become more flood resilient, mitigate harmful PFAS chemicals and remediate contaminated sites. In the new administration, the DEP will work to cut red tape, develop clear timelines for permitting and foster economic growth while protecting NJ's air, land and water.

"Ed Potosnak is a proven leader who will be critical in our efforts to protect New Jersey's residents from flooding and extreme weather and remediate contaminated sites," said Governor Sherrill. "He will bring his experience as a licensed contractor to the department to prioritize cutting through red tape and reducing permitting times. Ed has a strong track record of bringing people to the table to develop


solutions that work best for the communities they serve."

Potosnak was formerly Co-Chair of the New Jersey Keep It Green Coalition, the NJ State Lead for the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed and was appointed by former NJ Governor Phil Murphy to the Delaware Valley Regional

Planning Commission Board at Rutgers University. He shares his passion for public service and sustainability as a lecturer, inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in the environmental field.

Before his career in environmental policy, Ed taught high school chemistry and started a successful home improvement company as a licensed contrac-

tor to supplement his teaching income. His dedication to public service earned him the prestigious Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, which took him to Capitol Hill to help craft national science and education policy.

Ed holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in education from Rutgers University. 



Ed Potosnak
courtesy of NJLCV

Acting Locally

By **Randi Rothmel, PhD**, ANJEC Project Director; **Michele Gaynor**, ANJEC Resource Center; and **Sheila Baker Gujral**, ANJEC Resource Center Director

New raingardens for Winslow Township

ANJEC is a partner in two recently installed green infrastructure projects in Winslow Township. They were funded by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) Landscape Makeover Program for Lake Communities Grant awarded to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Other partners on the grant included Rutgers Cooperative Extension for Water Resources (RCE), and the NJ Highlands Coalition.

The overall strategy of the grant was to transform chemically laden impervious areas and lawns within lakesheds in the NJ Pinelands and Highlands regions. Grant partners were responsible for identifying and installing up to two green infrastructure projects within each of five identified lakesheds in the Pinelands and five in the

Highlands. The program also provided technical assistance and funding for homeowners within the lakesheds to install their own green infrastructure projects, such as raingardens or bioswales.

ANJEC worked with RCE and landscaper Ernie Davis to design and install projects at Winslow Elementary School #3 and at the newly renovated Camden County New Brooklyn Park. Both projects are located in Sicklerville, an overburdened community in Winslow Township within the New Brooklyn lakeshed that drains into the Egg Harbor watershed.

The Winslow Elementary School #3 raingarden consists of a 340-square-foot landscaped area planted with 55 native perennials and shrubs to manage 20,565 gallons of stormwater runoff annually from



Children help to plant a rain garden at the Winslow School.

By Sheila Baker Gujral

a 660-square-foot roof drainage area. ANJEC worked with the principal, teachers and students (kindergarten and third grade) to plant the raingarden last fall.

On a yearly basis, nearly 68,500 gallons of stormwater runoff from a parking area of 1,205 square feet is being managed at the raingarden (a 1,335-square-foot landscaped area) installed at the Camden County New Brooklyn Park. Coordination with the

Camden County Commissioners and Park Department made this project possible. Over 550 native perennials and shrubs were planted in this raingarden last fall with help from ANJEC, local volunteers, watershed ambassadors and our contractor.

Here's to the upcoming spring growth!

– Randi Rothmel

Regional environmental roundtable held in Morris County

ANJEC hosted a Morris County Regional Environmental Collaborative Session in December. Environmental Commissioners from Morris County towns were invited to hear presentations, network and collaborate. More than 20 attendees were treated to an engaging and inspiring talk from County residents John and Susan Landau and ANJEC Project Director Dini Checko.

The Landaus completed the Rutgers Environmental Stewards program in 2021, where their capstone project focused on restoring Foote's Pond Wood Park, a 24-acre park in Morristown. The Landaus have been recognized by the Morris Parks Alliance, the Garden Club of America, and recently received the "Best Community Effort" award at the Land Ethics Symposium.

Their presentation focused on ecological landscaping propositions, such as reforestation projects for parks, schoolyards and homes. They have incorporated a beautiful pocket forest on their own property that not only helps the natural environment and wildlife but is also truly stunning to look at.

ANJEC Project Director Dini Checko gave an update on waste reduction efforts in NJ and the new *Food Waste Reduction Law* that was recently passed. She presented facts and figures regarding the amount of food waste generated and which sectors generate the most food waste. Also included were municipal food waste options ranging from education to school and municipal compost programs. She also discussed why *NJ's Skip the Stuff* legislation (page 30) that Gov



Volunteers help restore Foote's Pond Wood Park in Morristown.
By Susan Landau



The Linden Renewable Energy Project is anticipated to be the largest food waste-to-renewable natural gas generator facility in the US.

photo credit enr.com

Murphy signed into law in January is a win for businesses, consumers and the environment.

Checko talked about the Linden, NJ Renewable Energy Project, which is projected to be the largest food waste-to-renewable natural gas generator facility in the US.

Attendees had time to mingle and exchange ideas. Members of local ECs and Green Teams had a chance to discuss their concerns, projects and plans for future collaborative events. – Michele Gaynor

Crossing the line: Development in one town, environmental consequences in another

Have you experienced this before? There's a dangerous tree on your neighbor's property, but they're not taking care of it. After politely reminding them, you go the certified mail route, officially recording that

you warned them of a potentially dangerous situation. And then you hope their inaction doesn't cause damage or a power outage.

A similar situation is playing out right now in Essex County between neighboring municipalities. On October 27, 2025, the Maplewood Township Committee (MTC) voted unanimously to pass a resolution opposing a proposed 496-unit development in West Orange, which would clear 30 acres of forest. The 120-acre intact forest presently provides:

- biodiversity, groundwater recharge, clean air and CO₂ storage;
- natural habitats for pollinators, birds and other wildlife;
- clean water to Essex County communities along with reduced flooding and erosion;
- a major cooling zone to offset the urban heat island effect; and
- critical open space in an urban area.

The MTC expressed concern "...that unmitigated construction in the location of the Second Watchung Mountain Ridge Forest will exacerbate the dangers of

damaging stormwater runoff. While the Township supports the production of affordable housing, it urges West Orange to carefully consider and mitigate the impact of this development on the environment and on its neighbors.”

The Verona Town Council passed a similar resolution in 2024, and the Environmental Commissions of Essex County, Caldwell, South Orange, West Orange, Verona, Montclair, Livingston and Millburn have also passed resolutions requesting the application be denied.¹

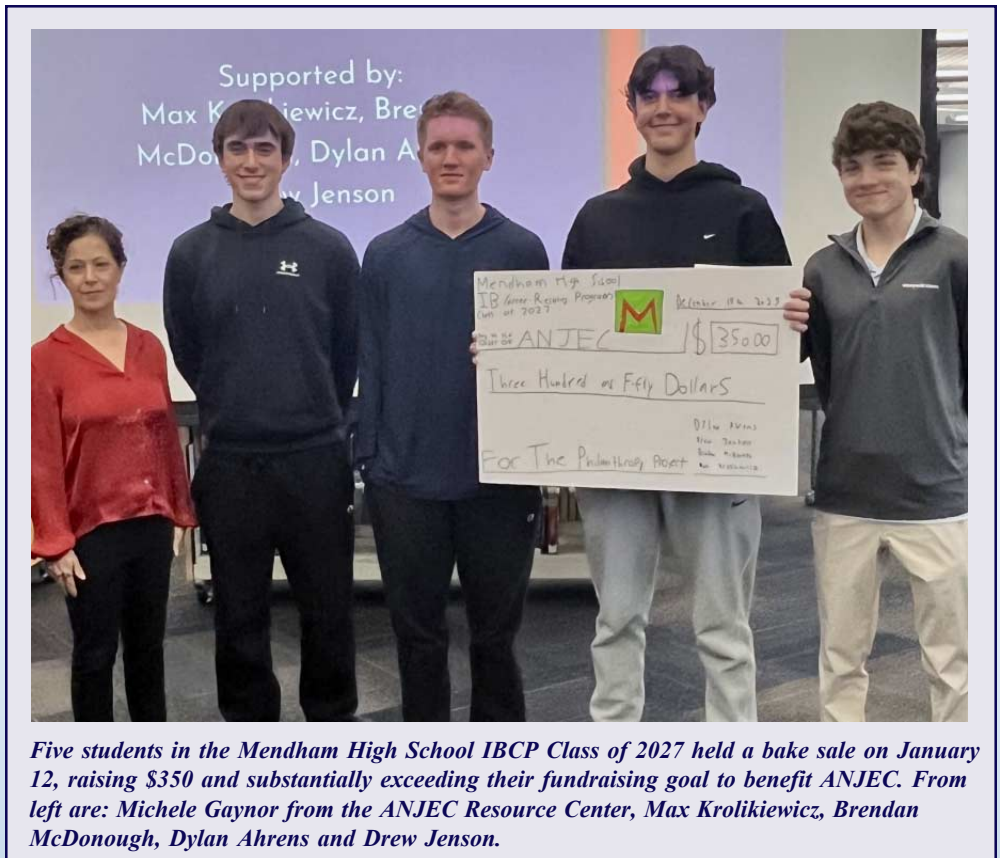
On January 28, the West Orange Planning Board met to discuss this proposal and met with a “flood” of critics. Close to 100 residents, environmental advocates, community members and

municipal leaders attended to express their opposition to the project.

West Orange has dealt with the aftermath of unsound environmental decisions before. In 2021, after approving the removal of many trees for an artificial turf field, a downhill apartment complex had to be evacuated and demolished after heavy rains caused a landslide (<https://tinyurl.com/ycxe6xfr>). Hopefully this time they will thoroughly evaluate all consequences before moving forward.

– Sheila Baker Gujral

¹ <https://patch.com/new-jersey/westorange/flood-critics-blast-billionaires-plan-raze-north-jersey-forest-apartments>



Five students in the Mendham High School IBCP Class of 2027 held a bake sale on January 12, raising \$350 and substantially exceeding their fundraising goal to benefit ANJEC. From left are: Michele Gaynor from the ANJEC Resource Center, Max Krolikiewicz, Brendan McDonough, Dylan Ahrens and Drew Jensen.

NJ's coastal areas: A rich historical, cultural and ecological legacy

By **Jessica Yorke**, Executive Director, the Bayshore Center at Bivalve

Coastal New Jersey communities have a vast history tied to the economic benefits our thriving ecosystems generate. Our ecosystems are crucial for biodiversity, natural flood mitigation and storm protection, watershed resilience as well as crucial habitat for wildlife from the sea beds to the sky. As environmental education leaders and community members in NJ, it is our responsibility to steward our ecosystems, learn about our communities and share in our rich culture and history along the water.

Throughout history people in New Jersey survived off the water. The region features barrier islands, salt marshes, sea grass beds and estuaries that serve as nurseries for shellfish, fish and shorebirds. Oysters are a common keystone species in

waterways throughout NJ. They provide food for blue crabs, mud crabs, whelks, sea stars, snails, flounder, drumfish, sheepshead and even oystercatchers (shore birds). Oyster reefs create natural habitats for crabs and fish and help create natural protections for our shorelines from erosion and storm impacts.

Looking back

The shad and sturgeon populations once fueled waterfront economies. Both populations have been impacted by overfishing



The AJ Meerwald
by John Brady

and water quality. Regulations and research programs are helping both species to rebuild.

Originally, coastal NJ was inhabited by the Lenni Lenape, who relied on fishing, clamming and gardening. Over time, European explorers began to settle in our coastal communities. Coastal shipbuilding was common throughout NJ. Boats were built in Barnegat Bay and along the Maurice River in the early 1900s. While shipbuilding has since slowed, there are still several active shipyards in both areas.

In the 1900s, the oyster industry was booming in Southern NJ along the Delaware Bay in a town called Port Norris. They referred to it at the time as “The Oyster Capitol of the World.” An entire community was built to sustain the working waterfront with hundreds of oyster schooners (sailboats) and a migration of workers to shuck the oysters before they were shipped all over the country via rail car. The shallow waters at the mouth of the Delaware Bay provided the perfect environment for delicious oysters.

A living legacy

The Bayshore Center at Bivalve, the nonprofit that restored, owns and operates NJ’s Official Tall Ship, the *A. J.*

Meerwald, and houses the Delaware Bay Museum, sits at the mouth of the Maurice River in the historic 1904 Oyster Shipping Sheds in Port Norris, NJ. The river is active daily with crab boats, oyster boats and vessels heading up to local shipyards for repairs and annual maintenance. The Maurice River is still home to shipyards, sand plants, oystermen and women, oyster and clam plants, and even a research facility. Seafood is still distributed throughout the US from this tiny town, just like many others still active in NJ.

Historic fish houses, which once served as crucial, rustic and often makeshift structures for storing gear and processing shad along the Delaware River in NJ, mostly disappeared as industrial pollution decimated the fishing industry by the early 20th Century. In contrast, Barnegat Bay transitioned from a working waterfront to summer homes and water recreation when compared with the NJ Delaware Bayshore.


While there are some cultural differences, most coastal NJ communities have strong relationships to the land and the health of the waterways. The working waterfront community and culture reflect life working on the water year-round. For many, our ecosystems



Bayshore wetlands are routinely flooded by the tides of the ocean, rivers, streams and bays in NJ’s Coastal Zone.

by Sarah Schuck

and culture have changed very little over the past hundred years. Conversations focus on ice in the river, impact to vessels and moving oysters before the freeze sets in. There is a daily awareness of winds, weather, pending storms and tides. Common culture themes throughout coastal NJ include the health of the watershed, the economics of the fisheries and shellfisheries and ensuring the entire ecosystem is in balance, from the oysters to the menhaden to osprey and bald eagles.

Coastal New Jersey has a plethora of hands-on science opportunities that connect learners to our local ecology. After winter snow melts, our waterways will come alive again and our shorelines will be filled with shorebirds, fishing boats and shellfish. Local watermen and women will be harvesting oysters, clams and fish from our local waterways. To keep this way of life, it is vital to protect the health of our waterways. 

Special Section:

Celebrating NJ coastal lands

Tools for coastal resilience in NJ

By **Julie Lange Groth**, *ANJEC Report* Editor

Storms like Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Irene have underscored the urgency to improve the resilience of New Jersey's coastal communities. Superstorm Sandy resulted in over \$50 billion damage, with more than half – \$37 billion – in NJ alone.

NJ's coastal zone boundary encompasses approximately 1,800 miles of tidal coastline, ranging in width from 100 feet to 16.5 miles. The coastal zone is comprised of inland, seaward and interstate boundaries (<https://www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/>).

As New Jersey faces a changing climate, accelerating sea level rise and more frequent and intense coastal storms, the Coastal Resilience Program led by The Nature Conservancy examines nature's role in reducing coastal flood risk. The program includes a web mapping tool to support hazard mitigation and climate adaptation planning (<https://tinyurl.com/5favhr9f>).

The NJ chapter of The Nature Conservancy is leading the NJ Resilient Coastlines Initiative, a NOAA-funded project aimed at building the resilience of NJ's coastal habitats. With the support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the New Jersey Resilient Coastlines Initiative has spent the past two years



*Atlantic City
boardwalk*
by asapphotography

developing tools to support the identification, implementation and monitoring of nature-based solutions to coastal risks (<https://tinyurl.com/5favhr9f>). For example:

- A new mapping tool helps practitioners and local stakeholders explore the potential need for restoration among Atlantic coast back-bay salt marshes.
- The Future Habitat application was created to help visualize how salt marshes will be affected by sea level rise by 2050.
- The mapping feature of the Restoration Explorer application allows users to zoom

into an area within their community that is seeing high levels of coastal erosion and to learn about which shoreline enhancement techniques could be effective in combating it.

- The Ecosystem Service Valuation Guidebook helps to incorporate ecosystem service valuation in coastal restoration projects using local data.

Communities can also view municipal summaries in each of these applications to learn more, find data specific to their coastlines and learn how living shorelines can be applied locally. 🌊

Special Section:

Celebrating NJ coastal lands

Ripple effects: Horseshoe crabs and informed coastal decision-making

By **Danielle McCulloch**, Executive Director, American Littoral Society

Each spring, New Jersey's Delaware Bay becomes one of the Atlantic Coast's most remarkable natural spectacles. Shorebirds sweep overhead, fish flash in the

shallows and beaches seem to move as hundreds of thousands of horseshoe crabs emerge to spawn. Often called "moon crabs," they synchronize reproduction with

the full and new moons, using tides to reach sandy shorelines and deposit millions of pale green eggs beneath the sand.

Delaware Bay supports the densest horseshoe crab spawning population in the world, reflecting a life history shaped over 450 million years. Horseshoe crabs are among the planet's oldest living species, predating dinosaurs or trees. The Atlantic horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) can take up to 12 years to reach full maturity. That slow growth, combined with a dependence on sandy beaches for reproduction, makes the species especially vulnerable to overharvest and habitat loss. Though they survived mass extinctions and dramatic climate shifts, today they face increasing human-driven pressures.

The egg that feeds the bay

Horseshoe crabs are often associated with shorebirds, particularly the federally threatened rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), which relies on horseshoe crab eggs to fuel its migration to Arctic breeding grounds. Red knot stopover population density in Delaware Bay is used as a key ecological indicator within the management framework that informs horseshoe crab harvest decisions. Though the red knot is our best "canary in the coal mine" for

crab egg availability, they are only one part of a much larger story. Numerous shorebirds, including ruddy turnstones, sanderlings and semipalmated sandpipers, depend on these lipid-rich eggs. Horseshoe crab eggs and juveniles also sustain forage fish and striped bass, weakfish and black drum, either directly or through food-web pathways. The seasonal pulse of eggs jumpstarts spring productivity in Delaware Bay, sending energy rippling through the entire coastal ecosystem.

Saving lives and livelihoods beyond the Bay

Horseshoe crabs also play a critical role in human health. Their copper-based, blue blood contains immune cells called amebocytes, which rapidly coagulate in the presence of bacterial endotoxins. This reaction became the global standard for ensuring the safety of vaccines, medicines and medical devices before they reach the public. Although synthetic alternatives have been approved in recent years, adoption remains limited, and horseshoe crabs are still collected for biomedical bleeding.

The species also supports bait fisheries, which provide livelihoods and are managed coastwide by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission through an Adaptive

Horseshoe crab eggs are a staple food of migrating red knots. by Shane Godshall



Resource Management (ARM) Framework. The ARM uses population surveys and ecological indicators, including red knot data, to balance conservation with limited use and to adapt as new science emerges.

Current management restricts harvest to males only, reflecting the species' slow maturation and the critical importance of females for egg production. NJ has gone further, maintaining a moratorium on commercial bait harvest since 2008.

Balancing use and protection

There are early signs that horseshoe crab populations may be increasing, likely reflecting years of precautionary management and targeted habitat restoration.


Following Superstorm Sandy, spawning beaches were rebuilt in Delaware Bay by the American Littoral Society and partners with support from the US Fish and Wildlife

Service. Because horseshoe crabs mature slowly, scientists are still working to understand how restored habitat, historical losses and harvest controls are contributing to current trends. To help answer these questions, the Society leads horseshoe crab tagging through the Service's Cooperative Tagging Program, engaging trained volunteers across Cumberland and Cape May Counties and at expanded sites such as the Shark River.

As numbers improve, proposals to allow limited female harvest have resurfaced. Increasing harvest, especially of females, before fully understanding the drivers of recovery risks undermining decades of progress. This is particularly concerning given pressures beyond fisheries management, including coastal erosion, sea-level rise and the loss of sandy spawning habitat. In a changing climate, fisheries management remains one of the few tools we can actively control.

Decisions that ripple

Protecting horseshoe crabs is not just about conserving a single species. It is about sustaining coastal food webs, protecting vulnerable shorebird populations, supporting fisheries and maintaining the ecological productivity of the Delaware Bay. Horseshoe crab management demonstrates how environmental decisions can have cascading effects across interconnected coastal systems. As coastal challenges grow more complex, this species offers a clear case study in why precautionary, adaptive and science-based decision-making matters.

While the spring spawning season in Delaware Bay is brief, the policy and management choices that shape it will influence ecosystem function for generations. 



Red knots feeding
by Sue Allen

Ship strikes are the #1 killer of whales along the Jersey Shore

By Cheryl Reardon, ANJEC Project Director

Just as whales and other species of marine mammals are returning in record numbers along the Jersey Shore, there is a dramatic increase in ship traffic because the Port of New York and New Jersey is now the number one port in the United States. As a result, ship strikes are the top cause of death to whales along the NJ coast.

Over the years, water quality has been improving along the Jersey Shore due to laws put in place since the establishment of the *Clean Water Act* of 1972, as well as countless people volunteering to help clean up our environment. Cleaner waters have brought about increasing amounts of baitfish, especially Atlantic menhaden

Ship strikes kill more than 20,000 whales every year globally.

by Michael Heck



or bunker. More food in local coastal waters, and greater protection for whales and other marine mammals from the establishment of the federal *Marine Mammal Protection Act* of 1972 have helped to bring about increasing sightings of whales feeding, migrating and swimming near the coast of NJ – and they are staying for longer periods of time because they are finding sufficient food resources to sustain themselves for a longer duration. Over the last several years, however, global warming is making it more difficult for whales to find prey in warmer waters.

Why are there so many ships along the Jersey Shore?

There are over 26 million people living in New York City, New Jersey and Long Island (that’s like the entire population of Australia within a small corner of the East Coast). With so many consumers, it is no wonder the Atlantic Ocean is one of the busiest international maritime shipping routes in the world. The Port of New York and New Jersey is the largest port on the East Coast and ranked as the busiest port in the United States. The Port of Philadelphia is also one of the country’s largest shipping areas.

Whale deaths from ship strikes are not just happening here; there has been increasing incidences of ship strikes around the world due to increasing global shipping activities.

According to research carried out by the nonprofit Friends of the Sea, ship strikes kill more than 20,000 whales every year globally. That’s nearly 55 whales every day. The bulbous bow or front section of a fast-moving boat’s hull is like a battering ram, easily smashing the bones and internal organs of a sleeping or tired whale, a slow-moving sea turtle or an unsuspecting sea creature.

How can ship strikes be avoided?

Research has shown that if ships slow down, it can reduce the risk of fatal ship strikes, but one of the challenges can be knowing when and where to slow down. A large container ship can be 1,000 feet long and 200 feet high, making it very difficult for captains and crews to spot whales with enough time to respond. To avoid whale strikes, ships should reduce speeds to 10 knots or less in high-risk areas, maintain dedicated lookouts and follow seasonal management, say NOAA Fisheries and other expert groups. Utilizing technologies like the WhaleSafe system and maintaining and altering routes to avoid migration corridors also significantly reduce the risk of collisions. 🌊



*In honor of
ANJEC’s Founder and
First Executive Director*

Candace McKee Ashmun Memorial Fund

ANJEC established the Candace McKee Ashmun Memorial Fund in her honor to support the **ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant Program**. The annual program provides small grants to help environmental commissioners carry out local stewardship projects.



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Celebrating NJ coastal lands

Maritime forests in NJ are rare and threatened

By **Pedram P. Daneshgar**, Coastal Forest Ecologist, Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy Program, Monmouth University

Where the land meets the sea, maritime forests persist despite the impacts of salt, storms and development. Referred to as salt spray climax communities because they are the products of dune succession over time, maritime forests are coastal woodlands primarily found on barrier islands and ocean-fringing sand dune systems where they are subject to the direct impacts of aerosolized ocean water.

In New Jersey, these forests are typically mixes of evergreen species, including cedars, hollies and pines, with hardwoods like oaks, cherries and maples present particularly when the soil is wetter. Often these wooded communities are buffered by salt marshes on the bay side of barrier islands, where tidal flooding-tolerant marsh grasses like salt marsh cordgrass and salt marsh hay persist.

Maritime forests have tremendous ecological, economical and societal value through the services they provide. Maritime forests deliver essential ecological services such as wildlife habitat, particularly for amphibians, birds and mammals. The maritime forests in Sandy Hook (Gateway National Recreation Area)

at the northernmost part of the New Jersey Shore, which features the oldest American hollies in the country, are prime migration stops for more than 100 forest birds like snowy owls. Protecting habitat and the nearby communities, the trees in these ecosystems stabilize soil from erosion and also provide hurricane protection by dissipating wind and wave impacts. Maritime forests act as a filter for the water, which primarily comes as precipitation, before it enters the lens below the barrier island. The forests play a major role in conserving groundwater by cooling soil temperatures and reducing evaporative loss.

Challenges to maritime forest protection

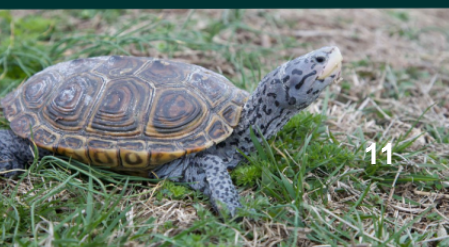
Despite the numerous benefits of maritime forests, conservation of these crucial ecosystems has been challenging because these lands are often not identified as such and become open to development. The lack of scientific literature describing the ecology of these ecosystems may be partially to blame for local communities not recognizing maritime forests as distinct ecosystems worthy of conservation. *(Continued on page 22)*



Celebrating NJ's coastal treasures



▲ Sprucing up a living shoreline in Point Pleasant with Christmas trees.



Photos courtesy of: #9 Larry Doucet, #1, 3, 7, 8, Bruce Emmerling, #2, 12, Pixabay, #4 Tinton Falls, #11 Wikipedia and #5, 6, 10, 13, 14 ANJEC Archives



3



4



Tinton Falls osprey pole



8

Protecting and restoring New Jersey's salt marshes will sequester climate-heating carbon emissions.



5



6



7



Maritime forests in NJ


(continued from page 19)

Published studies about maritime forests are rare and most of the publications that exist focus on the development and ecological function of barrier islands, which can contain multiple ecosystems and are not limited to the forests.

NJ's maritime forests are unique compared to maritime forests in other regions of the country, such as the southeastern USA, because they are considerably more developed. Of the 48,000 acres of barrier islands in NJ, less than three percent are forested (1,266 acres), comprising less than one percent of the State's total acreage. While most of NJ's maritime forests are on public lands like parks, several acres occur on private lands as well. As such, many privately owned maritime forests have been eliminated or are currently threatened by development due to their prime location by the ocean. Research pertaining to New Jersey maritime forests simply describes the existing plant communities and little work has examined the ecology of these forests, which is necessary for future management in the face of climate change.

The evidence so far suggests rising atmospheric CO₂ and climate change may have both positive and negative effects on maritime forests. Forest growth benefits from rising CO₂ and forest productivity generally rises, suggesting these ecosystems may increase as carbon sinks. Climate change induced alterations in disturbance regimes could also result in significant declines in maritime forests. While they do buffer our coasts against storms, an increase in coastal assaults would ultimately cause tree mortality in maritime forests and eventually losses of all the valuable services they provide.

In addition to storm surges, forests may also be susceptible to major

losses associated with tree mortality due to sea level rise. Current projections of sea level rise predict about 1.6 mm per year in New Jersey. While both storm surge and sea level rise will impact forests in primarily negative ways, together their impacts are more devastating. During storms, more salt is put into the air as an aerosol due to increased winds and breaking waves. Direct exposure to salt is fatal to most forest species as it can damage terminal buds of trees and decrease primary growth. Meanwhile, submergence of terrestrial lands in salt has led to the formation of ghost forests, stands of dead trees with a vacant understory, along our coasts. The soils in these areas after flooding are changed as salt is retained in them, making it more challenging for the original plant species to reestablish. This leaves these communities open to invasion by salt marsh species or by opportunistic species like phragmites. What remains is a haunting reminder of what was. 

A dead cedar from Superstorm Sandy at Sandy Hook

by Pedram P. Daneshgar



ANJEC is pleased to continue offering grants to environmental commissions in NJ for projects to advance stewardship and community involvement in parks and other preserved spaces. In this 13th year of the program, ANJEC will accept applications for grants of up to \$1500 each for local stewardship projects.

Applications may be submitted at <https://anjec.org/open-space-stewardship-grants/> The application deadline is Monday, April 13.

Funding for this program is made possible by generous contributions from ANJEC supporters to the Candace McKee Ashmun Memorial Fund and our sponsors, Veolia Water and the LSRPA Foundation.

2026 ANJEC grants for open space stewardship projects

Projects in the Veolia Water service area may be eligible for increased funding amounts.

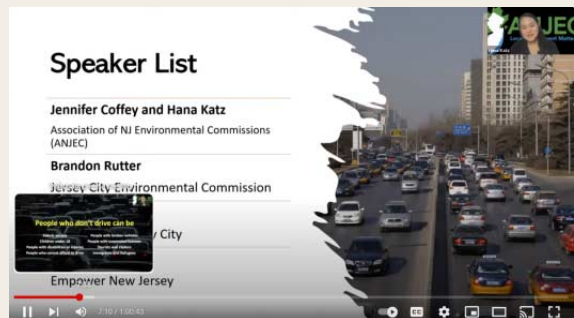
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The new NJPACT REAL Rules: What towns need to know

By **Michael L. Pisauro, Jr., Esq.**,
Policy Director, The Watershed Institute

On January 20, the New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threats Resilient Environments and Landscapes Rule, better known as REAL or NJPACT REAL, was finally adopted. The genesis of these rules is the recognition that the standards of the past are no longer sufficient to protect our communities in the face of rising sea levels, increased storm intensities, and the ever-expanding impervious cover in our State.

From Superstorm Sandy, Hurricanes Irene, Ida and Henri to the devastating rains in the summer of 2024 and 2025, our communities are flooding. Beach erosion is threatening homes, and streets along our coast are increasingly under water during storms and sunny day flooding (high tide flooding). Not changing how we do things in the face of change is a recipe for continued disasters.

Not just a coastal rule

While many think of NJPACT REAL as a coastal rule, that is only part of the story. Yes, the REAL Rules do require new coastal development to incorporate sea level rise so that critical structures (residential homes, access for first responders, etc.) are built higher and above anticipated tide and storm levels. The REAL Rules do not, however, require all structures to build to this increased standard.

It makes sense to build to withstand the future. What we build today will be here for decades and it isn't sensible to build something we know will be flooded in the near future. Doing so would put people's lives and property at risk. And after each storm the State, individuals and businesses will spend millions, if not billions, to address the destruction by these increasingly powerful storms. Why not be proactive in reducing the costs to you and to society?

Other aspects of the Rules make it easier and preferred to restore wetlands, shorelines, etc. to address flooding. Nature-based solutions are more effective and, in the long term, less costly than bulkheads and other "engineered" solutions. Nature-based solutions also provide secondary benefits to habitat.

Another aspect of the Rules is that all municipalities must update their stormwater control ordinance. The Rules modify the stormwater management rules (N.J.A.C. 7:8-1 et seq.), thus requiring updates. Two of the changes are requiring a volumetric reduction standard and requiring redevelopment sites to incorporate water quality treatment.

Volumetric reduction standard

The addition of the volumetric reduction standard recognizes two truths. First, the stormwater rule's quantity standard did not actually reduce the quantity or



City of New Brunswick flooded after Hurricane Ida. IStock

volume of stormwater running off a site. The quantity standard was really a rate reduction standard. New development would reduce how fast stormwater ran off a site and into our streams, but it would increase the volume of stormwater entering streams. This increased volume of runoff resulted in increased flooding. This makes sense; more water equals flooding.

Another outcome is that the increased volumes of runoff caused or accelerated stream erosion – carving steep banks and suspending the dirt and pollutants into the water column – thus increasing the pollution and impairing waterways. The volumetric reduction

standard will require new development or redevelopment to hold back some of that rainfall and infiltrate it into the ground or reuse it. This will help reduce the amount of stormwater leaving a site and overwhelming our streams. This should help reduce flooding. It should also help mitigate stream erosion, resulting in less water pollution.

Redevelopment sites must incorporate water quality treatment

The other change requires redevelopment sites to incorporate water quality treatment into the site. Before REAL, a site that did not increase the square

footage of parking lots, driveways, roads, etc. from the existing condition by a quarter of an acre did not have to install water quality treatment. Many sites that are redeveloped do not increase these types of surfaces. So, if a site did not have stormwater management before the redevelopment, it would not be required to treat the polluted runoff. This was a missed opportunity to make things better.

New Jersey only started requiring basic levels of stormwater management with the passage of the *Stormwater Management Act* in 1982, and water quality treatment only became required in 2004. Since much of our State was developed prior to the 1980s, much of the stormwater runoff carried untreated pollutants into our waterways. The requirement for water quality treatment for redevelopment sites is a major change and will over time lead to a reduction in water pollution.

Why wait?

Municipalities have a year to update their stormwater control ordinances to reflect these changes. But why wait? If your municipality adopted The Watershed Institute's enhanced stormwater control ordinance (<https://tinyurl.com/znrvgdan>), you have already met these new requirements. 🌱

A REAL change to protect New Jersey's wildlife

By **Rebecca Hilbert**, External Affairs Associate, The Nature Conservancy

Here in New Jersey, more than nine million people live side by side with a rich variety of wildlife species and New Jerseyans have consistently raised their

voices to defend the natural places they love. But nature itself cannot speak. The animals that share this beautiful space with us rely on people to do what's best for them. And with the Resilient Environments and Landscapes (REAL) Rules adopted, NJ has a powerful opportunity to protect our wildlife by using nature as a tool.

Take New Jersey's coastal salt marshes. Grassy wetlands support countless marine species, including flounder, blue crab, even sharks, and these places are critical resting and nesting grounds for migratory shorebirds.

Storms and flooding have drowned thousands of acres of this habitat and are threatening to wash away more. The regulations in the REAL Rules will help us explore how we can build up marshes by spreading clean mud and sand that have eroded into nearby boating channels back onto the marsh. It is a way to "keep sediment in the system" while giving grasses a foothold and keeping boating channels navigable.

Land dwelling wildlife will also benefit from the REAL Rules. Development, highways and fences have cut off critical habitat, impeding the movement necessary for animals to survive and forcing them onto dangerous roadways, especially hazardous for struggling species like bobcats.

By encouraging that wildlife passage be considered when roads are built or repaired, the REAL Rules create safer crossings through the inclusion of culverts and overpasses that allow animals to go over or under roads or avoid them completely. It's a win-win for everyone; animals enjoy greater freedom and people have fewer costly collisions.

Let's celebrate the win that the REAL Rule provides for everyone, human and wild. 🌱

New lead disclosure law passed

By Julie Lange Groth, ANJEC Report Editor

Residential landlords must inform current and prospective tenants if a property is served by a service line that does or may contain lead, thanks to a new State law passed in September. The legislation also:

- prohibits landlords from obstructing the replacement of lead service lines;
- requires testing of residential rental units for lead drinking water hazards at the request of the tenant;
- allows a tenant to terminate their lease at no charge or penalty if the landlord denies access to a lead service line for replacement at the property.

The new law, sponsored by Assemblyman Gary Schaer and Senator Linda Greenstein, continues a series of State efforts to improve the standards for lead detection in drinking water. The legislation also received support from housing

and water industry stakeholders, who recognized it as an important step toward replacing all lead service lines by 2031.

According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) there are more than 100,000 known lead service lines being prioritized for replacement. The DEP also estimates that there are still more than 800,000 service lines with a water system that has been identified as being composed of unknown material.

Studies from NJ Future show that the highest concentration of households with lead service lines in their water utility service area are major cities like Passaic, Newark, Trenton and Camden, where a large proportion of residents are renters. 🌊

Resilience tips

How to finance stormwater upgrades in frugal times

Does your town need money to upgrade aging stormwater systems? To prepare for the next flooding event? To comply with state-mandated requirements of the MS4 Permit?

The answer could be a stormwater utility, which provides a reliable, dedicated stream of local funding to address these challenges by collecting fees, usually based on the amount of impervious cover on a property. A resident or business can reduce the stormwater utility fee they owe by installing green infrastructure or otherwise reducing the impervious cover on their lot. Several NJ communities have already implemented this approach.

More information is available at <https://anjec.org/stormwater-utility/> and by contacting the ANJEC Resource Center at info@anjec.org.



New report to inform NJ climate policy

By Julie Lange Groth, ANJEC Report Editor

“... there is high confidence that the future resilience of New Jersey’s coastal environments will be shaped by how effectively planning and management approaches integrate process-based understanding, account for nature-based strategies, and consider the differing capacities of communities to adapt.”

New Jersey’s coastal hazards are accelerating due to a combination of human-caused climate change and regional geological factors, according to the 2025 Science and Technical Advisory Panel report, *New Jersey’s Rising Seas and Changing Coastal Storms*. Without recommending specific solutions, it aims to inform NJ initiatives and existing strategies that recommend various approaches for coastal resilience. The report is available at <https://tinyurl.com/274m7cjf>.

Key findings

Accelerated sea-level rise

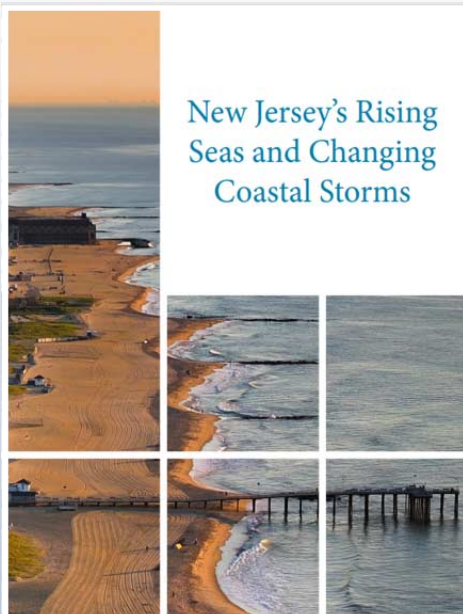
- Land subsidence played a major role in NJ’s sea level rise of approximately 1.5 feet between 1912 and 2021, almost three times the global average.
- Regardless of future emissions, sea level will likely rise 0.9 to 1.7 feet by 2050 compared to 2005 levels.
- By 2100 sea levels could rise 5.2 feet if rapid ice-sheet loss occurs and, in high emissions scenarios, could approach 16 feet by 2150 with devastating impacts.

Coastal flooding and storms

- “Sunny day” or high-tide flooding has increased from less than one day per year in the 1950s to 23 days in 2024. By 2100, Atlantic City is “extremely likely” to exceed 131 flood days annually.
- While the total number of hurricanes may not increase, their wind speeds, intensification rates and rainfall intensity are expected to increase as the climate warms.
- The report predicts a growing risk of compound flooding, where rising seas, storm surges and heavy inland rainfall interact to intensify flood hazards.

Environmental and infrastructure impacts

- Even under low-emissions scenarios, sea level rise may soon exceed the ability of coastal wetlands to build up sediment, threatening their survival.






- Saltwater intrusion into groundwater aquifers, driven by rising seas, will threaten drinking water and irrigation supplies, particularly on barrier islands.
- As hurricane-force wind risks are expanding, NJ's inland counties now face the same level of risk that coastal counties did in the 1980s.

The report concludes that addressing the impacts of sea level rise and coastal storms requires an integrated and adaptive approach that considers the dynamics between coastal erosion, wetland loss, saltwater intrusion and groundwater flooding.

Planning resources for communities

The NJ Adapt Tool developed by the Rutgers Climate Change Resource Center provides multiple means to help communities understand site-specific risks (<https://njclimateresourcecenter.rutgers.edu/nj-adapt/>). For example:

- The Climate Planning Tool (<https://tinyurl.com/5y94d5au>) – assists State and local officials, communities, hazard planners and others to understand the impacts of climate change on coastal flooding in NJ, and explains how to use data to analyze different flooding scenarios.
- The Local Planning Navigator (<https://tinyurl.com/4ahvrmxc>) – provides NJ-specific data to better understand climate-related hazards in their localities. Users can assess climate-related hazards as required or recommended by various State and federal programs and can be specifically used to complete certain elements of a Climate Change Related Hazard Vulnerability Assessment as required by NJ's *Municipal Land Use Law*.
- NJ Flood Mapper (www.njfloodmapper.org/) – is an interactive mapping tool that allows users to conduct flood exposure analysis based on the best available science for sea-level rise and numerous other parameters, including total water levels, hurricane surge, FEMA flood zones and Superstorm Sandy surge.
- Climate Snapshots – provide easy access to information about the people, places and assets at risk from climate impacts in each of NJ's municipalities, counties and the State as a whole. Snapshots include reports on built infrastructure, critical assets, natural and working lands, public health, vulnerable populations and forestry. 

From local ordinances to State law: Making Skip the Stuff work

By N. Dini Checko, ANJEC Project Director

We're in an affordability and waste crisis – but there's a bright spot worth celebrating. One of Governor Murphy's final actions before leaving office was signing into law the "Skip the Stuff" bill (STS), also known as Accessories Upon Request.

Each year, more than 36 billion single-use plastic utensils are handed out in the US. Laid end to end, they would wrap around the Earth 139 times – most used for just minutes before heading to the trash! Under the new *STS Law*, customers must opt in if they want disposable utensils or condiments with takeout or delivery orders. This is not a ban – it simply requires asking.

In addition, full-service restaurants with onsite seating for 10 or more customers must provide reusable utensils for dine-in use. The *STS Law* places a strong emphasis on education and the harms associated with single-use plastics. Enforcement is progressive: a warning for the first violation, a \$100 fine for the second and \$250 for the third.

Communities led the way

Environmental Commissions (ECs) and Green Teams were among the first to recognize the triple win of STS: it saves money for businesses, reduces waste and respects customer choice. Advocacy by



over 90 municipalities that passed local STS ordinances or resolutions directly paved the way for the statewide law. The Westfield Green Team, Beyond Plastics NJ and Clean Water Action led STS efforts by developing a toolkit for communities, including business surveys, postcards, posters and sample op-eds. Volunteers engaged with business owners and customers to build awareness and support. Westfield passed their STS ordinance unanimously in June 2024.

Now, that same level of local engagement is needed to ensure the *STS Law* is understood and implemented statewide. For example, EC members can:

- visit local restaurants and takeout spots with one-page STS explainers;
- partner with Chambers of Commerce or downtown associations to host short info sessions;
- include STS materials with business licensing agreements.

As this law rolls out, ANJEC will update the NJ No Plastics website (<https://njnoplastics.org/the-law/>). Please join the

coalition to reduce plastics at beyondplasticsnj@gmail.com.

Learn more

- Clean Water Action (<https://cleanwater.org/skip-stuff-new-jersey>)
- NJ Clean Communities (<https://litterfreenj.com/index.php/downloads>)

Thanks to ANJEC member communities

We are grateful to the thousands of volunteers serving as local officials in more than 300 municipalities and counties that are members of ANJEC. These dedicated people – from municipal and regional environmental commissions and green teams to open space committees, planning boards, governing bodies, shade tree commissions and zoning boards – dedicate their time and efforts to assure a clean environment and high quality of life in their communities throughout our State. Thank you! 🌱



Climate Resilience Tip Dog parks as communication spaces

Dog owners who use dog parks appreciate preserved open space. Why not make them aware of the important role natural areas play in offsetting the impacts of climate change. An informative sign, even a small one, can educate visitors about how the park helps to improve air quality, absorb storm water and cool urban heat islands.

Sample sign language: This dog park helps your community offset the harmful effects of climate change by reducing carbon dioxide and absorbing stormwater.

Apply for ANJEC's 2026 Lechner Scholarship

ANJEC will award a \$1200 scholarship to a New Jersey college student entering their junior or senior year. The scholarship is granted to encourage qualified students to pursue a career in a field

related to environmental protection. The Lechner Scholarship Fund is a living memorial to Hermia Lechner, in recognition of her many years of dedicated service and contributions to the preservation of open space and natural resources in NJ.



Scholarship eligibility

- New Jersey resident
- Attending an accredited NJ four-year college or university
- Entering junior or senior year in the fall of 2026
- Majoring in natural resources, environmental science, environmental law, parks and recreation or a related field
- Cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher
- Demonstrated activism in the preservation of New Jersey's open space, wildlife or water resources

Application process

- Application deadline: April 30, 2026
- Scan the QR code or type the link into your browser to complete the application. Please remember to submit the required documents noted within the Google form.
- The scholarship will be awarded by May 31, 2026. The winner will be honored at ANJEC's annual Environmental Congress in the autumn of 2026.

For questions, contact Georgia Madiba, ANJEC Membership and Development Manager, at gmadiba@anjec.org

2026 Lechner Scholarship
Application (ANJEC)



SCAN HERE, or go online to:
<https://forms.gle/uFHBL31ucnkVb1w8>

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2026 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions Training

Virtual Sessions:

Tuesday, March 24
Wednesday, March 25
Thursday, March 26
All Sessions: 7:00 PM
Via Zoom Webinar

Tuesday, March 24

- Environmental commission powers & responsibilities

Wednesday, March 25

The municipal land use processes:

- The environmental resource inventory
 - The municipal master plan
 - Municipal ordinances
- Development/site plan review

Thursday, March 26

- Effective communication strategies for environmental commissions
 - Resources for strong advocacy solutions

Registration:

ANJEC members, no charge to attend
Non-members: \$35 for all sessions

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/bd684r5p>

SAVE THE DATE!

In-person session – Saturday, May 2

9:00 – 11:30 AM

Cherry Blossom Center
Branch Brook Park, Newark
Registration coming soon

<https://anjec.org/conferences-workshops/>



**Register now! Fundamentals for
Effective Environmental Commissions (page 39)**