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Director's Report

Preserve DEP Local Grants

The proposed 2004 New Jersey State Budget released in February cuts the total funding for NJDEP's \$165,000 grants program for municipal environmental commissions. ANJEC and many environmental commissions have written to the Governor McGreevey and NJDEP Commissioner Campbell calling for preservation of this important program.

Since 1989, the NJDEP has given matching grants of up to \$2,500 to 249 municipal environmental commissions from every county. The State gets excellent value for a comparatively small amount of money. Municipalities must match the grant, doubling the dollars available. And commission members contribute their time as volunteers for the projects.

Through these grants, which support commissions' efforts to protect natural resources and curb pollution in their hometowns, the State has acknowledged the need for local environmental protection. The program has also given municipalities an incentive to complete essential projects that otherwise would not be done. The primary source of general funds for commissions, these grants have funded open space plans, resource inventories, trail designs, watershed protection, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping and educational programs on topics like stormwater management and nonpoint source pollution.

We are constantly impressed by the many ways that commissions have used this relatively small amount of money to accomplish quite a bit. Many commissions have used these grants for environmental/natural resources inventories. These documents result in a greater knowledge of the town's environment and the specific resources that need protecting. The commission also benefits under state law, which says that once a commission has completed a natural resources inventory, it should receive a copy of all development applications for the town.

As shown in ANJEC's annual Environmental Achievement Awards given each fall at our Environmental Congress, towns have used th NJDEP grants in other creative ways. For example, last year the Deptford (Gloucester) Commission created trail guides for two parks, with photographs that identified many species of flora and fauna that hikers might see along the trails.

Other environmental commissions have gotten grants year after year to do incremental projects. For example, Holmdel (Monmouth) has completed several greenway plans for the township's streams, resulting in significant

Cover Photo: *Variiegated Fritillary on purple coneflower by J. Michael Pollock, NJ Audubon Society. A good butterfly garden plant for both butterflies and human visual pleasure, purple coneflower is readily available as either seed or plants at most nurseries.*

land preservation and passage of a strict stream corridor ordinance.

More recently, environmental commissions have teamed up to do regional projects, with each commission requesting a grant for its part of the cooperative venture. Six environmental commissions, Allentown, Hamilton, Washington (all in Mercer), Millstone and Upper Freehold (Monmouth) and Plumsted (Ocean), are working with their planning boards and governing bodies to develop a regional greenway plan for the Crosswicks/Doctors Creek watershed. The plan will address preservation of stream corridors for surface water quality protection, future recreational trail access and historic vistas. Gregory Westfall, chairman of the Allentown Environmental Commission, said "the state grant is a flexible and proactive method to encourage sorely needed regional planning for natural resource protection and reduce the impacts of sprawl."

The grants are extremely valuable to the State's environment; however the State is facing significant financial difficulties where every State department must drastically reduce spending. In light of this, our letter to Governor McGreevey and NJDEP Commissioner Campbell suggested that this program be reduced, but advocated that it not be cut completely. We fear that it will be too difficult to restore the program if it is eliminated this year.

Commissioner Campbell has responded to ANJEC's plea saying that he is looking at internal options that may allow the Department to fund some worthwhile environmental commission projects, possibly at a reduced level. We hope this will be possible. The program is important for the future of the State's environment.

Sandy Batty
Executive Director

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The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions is a private, non-profit educational organization serving environmental commission and open space committee members, concerned individuals, non-profits, and local officials. ANJEC's programs aim to promote the public interest in natural resource preservation, sustainable development and reclamation and support environmental commissions and open space committees working with citizens and other non-profit organizations.

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At the Crossroads: Habitat and Species Conservation

By Eric Stiles, Vice President for Conservation and Stewardship
and Alex Leeds, Policy Associate, New Jersey Audubon Society

"Almost never, in all of my years, has there been so much public attention to, and promise for, the protection of New Jersey's wildlife.... Almost never has there been so much at stake." — Tom Gilmore, President, New Jersey Audubon Society

Habitat alteration and fragmentation take an enormous toll on New Jersey's wildlife, even as several species are making a recovery. Ten percent of the state's land sits under impervious cover like housing, cement, or asphalt, and we cover 16,000 acres with haphazard development every year. In only two decades, 40 percent of the bird habitat in the lower Cape May peninsula has been lost. Since the passage of the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act (ENSCA) in 1973, more than half of the state's bog turtle habitat has been eliminated.

NJ citizens benefit from an enormous diversity of natural resources and unique habitats. Despite its small size, the state has six vastly different ecological regions. Visitors to the Highlands, the Pine Barrens, and the coastal wetlands will be astounded by variation in geology and fauna. Forty-six states are bigger than NJ – and yet only three (Texas, Florida and California) maintain more recorded bird species.

Saving New Jersey's habitats and wildlife is not an option that can be weighed against other alternatives. Municipalities that fail to proactively conserve their environmental resources create the foundations for ecological disaster and social poverty. When ill-planned housing replaces forests, the water quality degrades, and, historically, humans and wildlife soon depart. No one wants to live in a wasteland. By comparison, many municipalities like Chatham Township (Morris) in the interior and Brick



Township (Ocean) on the coast have used careful growth planning and watershed maintenance to become ecotourist attractions and coveted places to live.

Protecting Habitat

Habitat maintenance and wildlife conservation cost little in the long term. They primarily require awareness and intelligent planning. Fortunately, the resources for sound local planning have never been better. The Landscape Project, which delineates critical, threatened, and endangered species habitat, provides a solid foundation for the integration of an environmental resource inventory

with planning and zoning ordinances. Organizations like ANJEC and the New Jersey Audubon Society offer expert guidance and contacts with other organizations to help with municipal planning. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is taking steps to support smart growth throughout the state.

Activities at the state level closely complement local participation in habitat conservation. When the NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act (ENSCA) became law 30 years ago, it was part of a body of highly progressive state and federal environmental legislation. ENSCA's special contribution to the new ecological paradigm of such federal contemporaries as the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Air Act was to prohibit harm to state-listed "threatened" or "endangered" species.

In concert with the stellar work of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP), ENSCA has since had several well-publicized successes. Breeding pairs of bald eagles have risen from one to 37 and peregrine falcons from zero to 14, meeting the federal species recovery goal. The return of ospreys and great blue herons has been a triumph.

Threats to Habitat Protection

But even the success of the state's Bald Eagle Management Project offers a cautionary tale. Although the US banned the use of DDT in 1972, its impact will linger for centuries. From



Thirty years after the ban on DDT, chemical pollution and habitat destruction still threaten bald eagles.

1982 to 1989, ENSP biologists had to remove and artificially incubate DDT-weakened bald eagle eggs from the state's only long-term active nest. Faced with young eagle mortality rates of over 75 percent, biologists introduced 60 eagles to the state over the course of eight years.

Today's three dozen eagle-breeding pairs are the result of considerable expense, care, persistence, and some force. Yet, even now, PCB's and development are a major threat to population recovery. Dr. Larry Niles, Chief of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program, observes that "the bald eagle population is growing because we have a huge number of dedicated volunteers working with staff on the project." He notes that three out of four eagle nests have moved at least once because of development or disturbance interfering with the nesting area. Thirty years after the ban on DDT, chemical pollution and habitat destruction still threaten progress.

Benefits of Saving Endangered Species

As of March 2002, NJ's list included 48 endangered species ("whose prospects for survival in New Jersey are in immediate danger," and who require "assistance... to prevent future extinction in New Jersey"). These include sperm whales, arroyos skippers (a species of butterfly), bobcats, piping plovers and brook floaters (a species of mussels). Even fewer species fall in the "threatened" category, defined as those species with the potential to become endangered.

These small numbers belie the great diversity of NJ's wildlife and habitat. It is considerably easier and less expensive to keep species within the state than it is to re-establish them, as the experience with bald eagles makes clear. Each species functions as part of a practical balance with the other forms of life around it. For example, banished predators no longer hunt the state's deer, and consequently, deer populations have grown out of control. Dense populations reaching over 100 deer for every square mile devour New Jersey's young forest growth.

Endangered species also provide necessary measurements of the ecological health of a region. If bog turtles decline, many other species reliant on wetland bog turtle habitat are unquestionably suffering losses as well. However, regulations do need to devote more attention to the bulk of the state's species. Jane Galetto, chair of the NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Council, joins many conservationists in observing: "It is a sad commentary on NJ as a state that it does not devote resources [directly] for the management of the majority of the species." Part of the solution is to tune protections for the characteristics of individual species. Additionally, the public plays a major role through the integration of habitat protection into growth plans.

State Protection Measures

Initially, NJ's protections did little to consider habitat. The 1973 ENSCA protects the site of a nesting Cooper's hawk only during the breeding season. When the hawk returns to its nest the next spring, it may well find that the site was converted into a gas station in its absence. But the 1988 NJ Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act (FWPA) extended much-needed habitat consideration to the existing protections. NJ freshwater wetlands with threatened or endangered species living in them now receive 150-foot buffers restricting significant invasions of the property.

State laws also protect endangered species in the Pinelands and the coastal (CAFRA) zone. The Pinelands Commission does an effective job promoting critical habitat protection. Not all developments in coastal zones require a CAFRA permit, resulting in inconsistent protection of those habitats.

To inform conservation and planning more effectively, the Landscape Project represents a giant revolution in the process of identifying critical wildlife habitat. Since 1994, ENSP has compiled extensive maps of land use and land cover, classifying all NJ property into 20 categories by examining units as well defined as 0.5 acres. The maps are a must-see for municipal planners. For example, these maps show potential and occupied habitat for all rare, threatened, and endangered species in the state. The Landscape Project maps should be used to prioritize open space acquisitions and to guide regulators and municipal planners.

This growing focus on habitat, however, has still not been transformed into necessary regulations. ENSCA, FWPA, and protections for Pinelands, coastal and other regions do a very irregular job. Unless a red-shouldered hawk is nesting near freshwater wetlands, its stands a good chance of losing its nest to construction during the winter; a bobcat in the Pinelands receives considerably greater protection than a bobcat in northern NJ; and a wood turtle that wanders past the 150 foot wetlands buffer zone, as wood turtles often do, may find itself on a highway.

As a consequence of the high correlation between endangered species habitat and important NJ waterways, NJDEP's recently proposed stormwater regulations show enor-



A bobcat in the Pinelands receives considerably greater protection than a bobcat in northern NJ

mous promise. They include a requirement for 300-foot buffers for the most important (Category One) waterways to control water quality, water flow quantity, and groundwater recharge. Over the next 15 years, this provision will protect thousands of acres of critical habitat in the path of development.

The McGreevey administration is also working on smart growth procedures based on mapping areas for growth acceleration, maintenance, and prevention. The so-called BIG Map (see page 13) will integrate habitat protection and endangered species protection in a long overdue measure. Nevertheless, the state as a whole is faced with intense development pressures as it approaches build-out, the point where no remaining land is undeveloped or unprotected. The final outcome of the proposed regulations will depend on how well they recognize the common interests humans and wildlife share in habitat preservation and habitat-growth integration.

For Further Information

- NJ Endangered and Threatened Species list and natural history profiles: www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/tandespp.htm
- NJDEP Landscape Project Maps: www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/imapnj/imapnj.htm
- Urban Development Maps: www.crssa.rutgers.edu/projects/lc
- NJDEP's Stormwater site: www.njstormwater.org
- ANJEC: www.anjec.org
- NJ Audubon Society and contacts: www.njaudubon.org 

Book Reviews

By Pam Kuhn, ANJEC Resource Center volunteer

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, A Twenty-First Century Agenda by Alexander Garvin. American Planning Association, Planning Advisory Service Report Number 497/498, December 2000, 72 pages.

The first of a series sponsored by the City Parks Forum to help mayors determine what the agenda for parks should be in the early 21st century, this report provides the historical perspective. It begins 150 years ago and describes Frederick Law Olmsted's agenda to provide every American with access to public open space. Given the changes in the United States over this time, it is amazing that the vision of Olmsted and others that created our first parks is still viable today.

Since 1850 our population has increased from 23 to 275 million, the proportion who live in urban areas has gone from 15 to 66 percent while the average family size has decreased from 5.5 to 2.6 persons. There have also been other enormous changes in American societies that have dramatically changed our lifestyles. Since the opening of Central Park in New York in the 1850's Americans work fewer hours and have more leisure time, 87 percent of families own cars. That mobility, combined with more free time has changed our leisure activities.

Garvin advocates that a 21st century agenda for parks to update public facilities in response to public demand, reposition and renovate public property for public use, reclaim abandoned property and manage parks effectively. There also needs to be a focus on creative financing mechanisms like dedicated lease payments, business improvement districts and creation of non-


profit foundations, given the diminished public funding.

Garvin's wonderful photographs visually document his park agenda. There are many pictures of New York City, and other major cities and suburbs too. You needn't be a mayor to enjoy and learn from this report.

Parks and Economic Development by John L. Crompton. American Planning Association, Planning Advisory Service Report Number 502, November 2001, 74 pages.

The second report makes the cases for the positive bottom line impacts of parks and open space on both the public and private sectors. This report focuses on the economic development benefits of parks and recreation services, which include the enhancement of real estate values, and the attraction of tourists, businesses and retirees to communities.

Crompton argues that too often investment in parks and recreation services is viewed as discretionary and non-essential. To attract more spending for growth and maintenance, he introduces analytical tools to help convince local governments that parks contribute to economic development.

This report offers helpful information to anyone who wants to create arguments for funding or be able to assess the competing arguments made by developers versus open space advocates. For example, it will help you gain an understanding of economic impact studies and the caveats in interpreting measures of impact, learn more about the principle of capitalization of parkland into increased property values and the subsequent impact on taxes, and get insight into the appeal of attracting retirees to your community. 



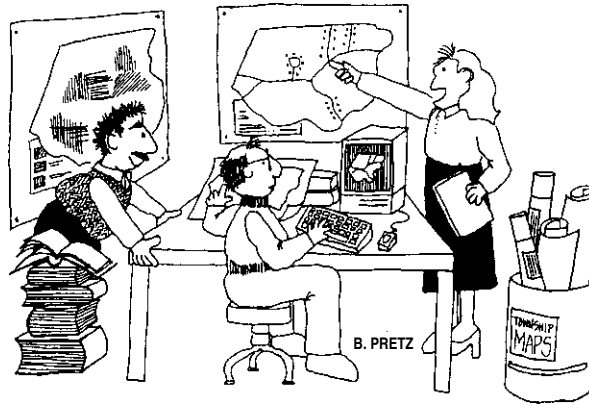
Benefits and Values of Environmental/Natural Resource Inventories

By Sally Dudley, ANJEC Report editor

For more than three decades, New Jersey's environmental commissions have been working to protect water quality, open space, and significant habitat. Commissions face many different issues given the variety of landscapes and development patterns throughout the state. And they take many different paths to preserve their communities' important resources. Some embark on major land preservation projects. Many work to make sure their master plans, zoning and development ordinances protect important resources and direct development to appropriate areas. Still, whether in the hills of the Highlands, the coastal plain of the shore, a rural, suburban or urban community, a commission generally has a greater chance of achieving success with an up-to-date, well-documented Environmental or Natural Resource Inventory (ERI or NRI).

Gathering information for an ERI or NRI from maps and studies, walking the town and relating the data to the local landscape offers an unparalleled opportunity to get to know your community's resources. It also is a chance to involve local citizens - which generally leads to a greater understanding of the importance of specific natural resources to the health and sustainability of the community. Resource inventories are documents of lasting value. They offer citizens, local officials, and developers a collection of objective and useful information for an environmentally based framework for local land use and conservation.

Resource inventories offer an unbiased, objective database of scientifically accurate information that makes environmental concerns



legitimate. In his landmark 1967 book, *Design With Nature*, University of Pennsylvania professor Ian McHarg argued very effectively for the importance of identifying and respecting important natural resources. "Nature performs work for man," he said. "Certain areas are intrinsically suitable for certain uses while others are less so. Begin with this simple proposition and codify the information."

Using ERI/NRIs

ERI/NRIs help demonstrate the validity of environmental concerns, which might otherwise be dismissed as simple tree-hugging madness. Good data helps identify which areas should be preserved and which are suitable for development. It also helps insure that environmental considerations are part of development review. By providing information on the location of areas with wetlands, forests, steep slopes, aquifer recharge areas and stream corridors, a resource inventory gives governing body, planning and zoning board members a basis to pursue environmental goals. It shows graphically where important natural resources are that should be protected through the

master plan, zoning and environmental ordinances or acquisition. And if an inventory shows extensive sensitive areas, it can help local officials understand the value of using creative approaches like greenways, transfer of development rights, lot size averaging and adopting overlay zones to protect these special resources.

Municipal use of resource inventories varies tremendously from town to town. One of the important things to remember is that the commission should review the document on a regular basis to identify what needs updating and what new information could be helpful. For example, NJDEP now offers dozens of GIS map layers covering resources that were not readily available even five years ago, including, aquifers and recharge areas, wellhead protection zones, topography, and geology. NJDEP's Endangered Species program's Landscape project GIS maps are particularly useful for identifying important habitat areas.

A Way to Promote Resource Protection

Two environmental commissions have been particularly successful in integrating their inventories into local land use planning and law. Both completed major revisions of their original inventories in the 1990s. Both updates included information gathered on extensive site visits by commission members to important resource areas. And both have led to additional studies and plans that have helped support the establishment of open space trust funds and environmental ordinances.

Byram Township in southeastern Sussex County has used a 1994 revision of its original 1976 Natural Resources Inventory to build a growing constituency for open space protection. Funded by an NJDEP matching grant, the document covers 15 separate elements including zoning, topography, habitats, geology, soil classifications, slopes, surface runoff and floodways, wetlands, depth to bedrock and seasonal high water table. Septic suitability and composite environmental constraints maps show that most private lands should be protected for their environmental values.

The Byram NRI led to several additional studies, which have resulted in positive local actions. When the commission decided to put together a trail map of the entire township, members walked existing trails and identified a number of possibilities for greenways. They also discovered a town-wide system of existing trails, paper roads and publicly owned rights of way – which linked to at least three regional trails, and also passed by most of Byram’s historic sites. A greenway plan sprang directly from the NRI and promoted the importance of a stream and river corridor as well as critical watershed lands. With this study, the township residents and officials became aware that a beautiful, largely undeveloped section of the township needed protection.

To make sure local board members use the resource information, the Byram commission posted large-scale maps of the trails and open space plan in the main meeting room at town hall. So, a graphic clear picture of the town’s natural and built areas is right in front of everyone at every local meeting. As Margaret McGarrity, former chair of the Byram commission notes, “Most people don’t really understand the character of the town until they see these maps. Visual understanding usually works better than words. This helps people understand how important it is to take advantage of opportunities for preservation.”

A map of streams, tributaries, ponds, reservoirs, proved to be one of the most important elements of the Holmdel Environmental

Commission’s 1990 revision of its 1980 NRI. Several local streams flow into the Swimming River Reservoir, a major source of drinking water for Holmdel’s 17,000 residents and for hundreds of thousands of Monmouth County residents. The commission realized that it lacked important information and obtained an NJDEP matching grant to assess the quality of these waters. Commission members walked the streams, looking for the best sampling locations. “The view from the streambeds,” says Mayor Larry Fink, a former chairman of the commission, “gave us a whole new perspective. There were many spectacular undeveloped farms, forests, steep slope areas, and wildflower meadows along the streams that you cannot see from the road.”

As a result, the Holmdel commission embarked on three greenway corridor studies during the mid-1990s, which the township later incorporated into its master plan and used as a basis for a 1999 open space plan. The streamwalks also led to a study, which resulted in a strong stream corridor protection ordinance, and supported zoning changes to reduce the intensity of allowed development in sensitive watershed areas. Using an open space plan that grew out of the NRI revision, Holmdel purchased more than 500 acres of open space in 2000 and 2001. “Documenting our town’s special resources has led to protection and preservation,” adds Fink. “Without a simple map of our streams and water resources, we may


never have asked that key question ‘What’s the quality?’ and walked the streams to find out.”

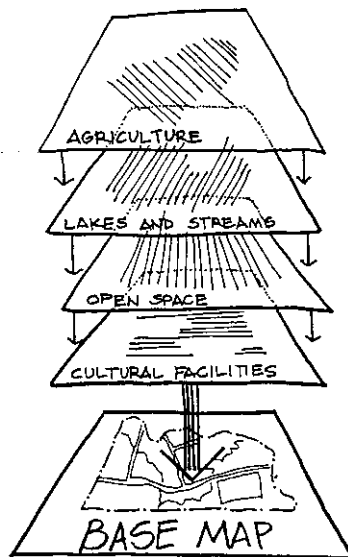
The Importance of an Up-to-Date Inventory

Maintaining an up-to-date ERI/NRI is a very helpful tool in protecting important natural resources. Inventories offer databased guidance for where preservation and development should take place. They are also an essential element of build-out and capacity analysis, an important smart growth tool and also required for most municipalities under NJDEP’s proposed stormwater management regulations. With a strong ERI/NRI, a commission can help identify the environmental impacts of current zoning – and recommend changes to avoid damage to important resources. A Superior Court judge recently upheld a 2001 Mendham Township (Morris), ordinance that increased the minimum residential lot size in a number of areas to 3, 5 and 10 acres on the basis of available groundwater supply. Six years before the new ordinance went into effect the Mendham Environmental Commission completed a detailed study on the quantity and quality of available groundwater as part of its NRI.

One of the best ways to make sure that the resource inventory information is an official part of the decision-making process is to work with the planning board and get the ERI /NRI adopted as the conservation element of the master plan. This gives the document an official status and helps insure that natural resource protection is an essential element of local actions on land use and conservation.

For Further Information

- Examples of ERI/NRIs: ANJEC’s Resource Center has 100 ERIs and NRIs; The NJ Environmental Digital Library (<http://njenv.rutgers.edu> – use no www.) contains scores of both natural and environmental resource inventories.
- NJDEP GIS data: www.state.nj.us/dep/gis
- NJDEP Endangered Species Landscape Project: (www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/landscape/index.htm) 



B. PRETZ

What's Sustainability Got to Do with New Jersey?

By Joy E. Hecht, Executive Director of the
New Jersey Sustainable State Institute

"Sustainability" and "sustainable development" are terms that are easy to understand, and hard to disagree with. The most common definition of sustainable development comes from the World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway (often referred to as the Brundtland Commission). They defined it as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

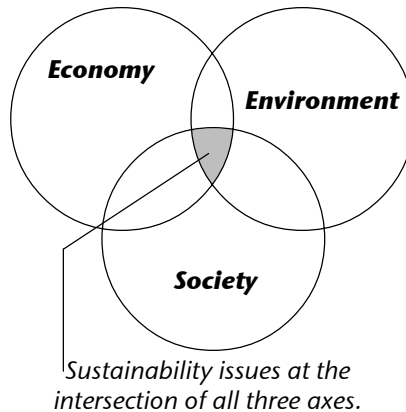
Who wouldn't want their grandchildren, and their grandchildren's grandchildren, to have the same level of well being as we do? Figuring out how to put it in practice, however, is more complex. The terms include three dimensions or "axes" of the evolution of a community; economy, environment, and society, usually represented as three overlapping circles.

Typically, we consider each of the three circles independently without considering how they overlap. Sustainability aims to consider the intersections among these circles, particularly the small area in the middle where all three relate to each other.

Sustainability in Practice

What does that mean in practice? A visionary take sees a world where individuals change their behavior to work for a society that offers everyone a comfortable standard of living, protection rather than exploitation of the natural environment, equitable communities, and spiritual values

A new organization affiliated with Rutgers University and the NJ Institute of Technology, the NJ Sustainable State Institute aims to provide objective information, analysis and practical strategies for a sustainable New Jersey.



embodied in society's fabric. A considerably more mundane approach interprets sustainability as an expansion of conventional environmental policies to promote economic instruments that, at least in principle, arrive at the least expensive way to reduce pollution or resource use.

In an everyday sense, something is sustainable if it can be continued in its present form. While fairly clear from an environmental or economic perspective, this approach is less clear in social terms. A sustainable environment means using air, water and natural resources to make sure that they are just as clean and abundant for future generations as for us. Economic sustainability means investing our income to ensure that our children, our grandchildren, and we will be able to live comfortably in the future. This means spending only income and leaving the principal untouched, for assets including machinery, factories, money in the bank, natural resources, human skills, effective public institutions and other forms of capital.

Social sustainability is harder to understand in this everyday sense. Too often, human societies sustain undesir-

able features like poverty, inequity, racism, and dictatorships. On the positive side, social sustainability includes desirable characteristics like democratic, participatory, equitable and just communities. Everyone has access to employment opportunities, good schools, medical care, affordable housing, recreation, and social services. Sometimes this concept also includes spirituality, which is even harder to define.

Sustainability applies on many scales. Perhaps easiest to understand is a global perspective, especially for environmental problems like climate change. In its *Agenda 21*, the 1992 United Nations Environment and Development conference in Rio de Janeiro focused on addressing sustainability at a national scale, and recognized the importance of local action. The document called for the development of national action programs and a set of sustainability indicators, recognizing that national governments control many of the policies that affect a country's contributions to global sustainability. It also recognized the importance of local action, calling on communities to work with their citizens to determine how they can ensure their own sustainability and contribute to the sustainability of the nation and the world. For somewhat similar reasons, a number of states have focused on sustainability. State governments must always bear in mind that both local and national (or multi-state) decisions can affect their activities.

Assessing Projects for Sustainability

The real challenge of sustainability is weighing the tradeoffs among the three components, and figuring out

whether proposed policies or developments are, in fact, sustainable. Many projects focus on only one of the three axes of development. In such a case, we usually assume that if, for example, a project is intended to improve environmental performance, it will make the community more sustainable than it was before. Similarly, projects focused on improving public health, schools, or public

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access to information are typically assumed to be consistent with the social goals of sustainability.

Projects that are more economic in nature, however, or that affect all three axes of sustainability, are more difficult to assess. For example, consider a small town that is growing rapidly but can't keep up with the cost of new schools needed for its increased student-aged population. Increasing taxes to pay for a school would place a significant economic burden on households, who are usually heavily burdened by property taxes already in New Jersey. Deciding not to build a school will hurt the children, however, by offering them worse education. The town might entice a developer to build a new office and shopping complex, hoping that the taxes it generates might pay for the school. In terms of the town's fiscal position and its educational system, this might be a very good move.

But the new complex will create much additional traffic, exacerbating driving patterns, road congestion, and air pollution. And adjacent towns will suffer from the increased traffic without receiving any the increased revenue. Unless

the complex is unusually well designed, it will create a huge area of paved parking lots, which will harm the water supply and add to stream erosion and other runoff-related problems. None of these factors would be considered sustainable, because they harm the environment, impose a burden on neighboring towns, and harm the relations among the towns. The adjacent towns might respond by building their own shopping malls. They would capture some tax revenue, but could also cut the first town's revenues and generate even more traffic and pollution. A more sustainable solution to this situation might be for the towns to collaborate on a single large mall, and share the fiscal revenues it generates – but this requires a loss of autonomy that few towns are willing to accept.

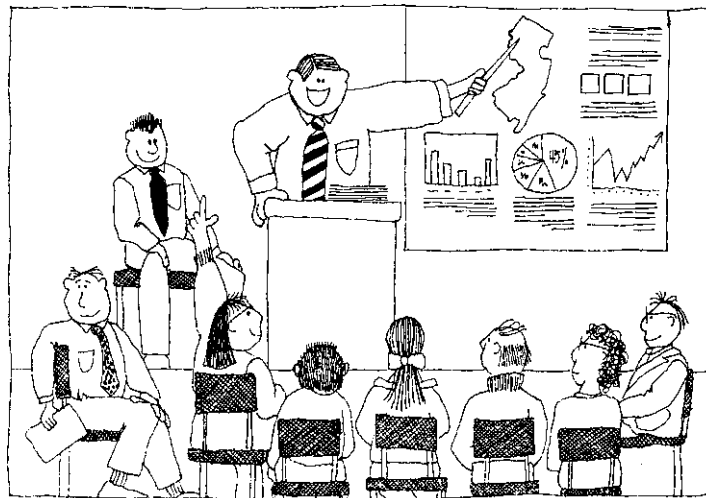
This example shows the difficulty of knowing how to resolve a complex situation sustainably. Frequently we cannot say what would actually constitute a sustainable solution, but often we can determine that one resolution might be better than another. Housing development patterns that make public transit financially viable, for example, are likely to be more sustainable than ones that don't. Energy efficiency saves money and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, so it is sure to be more sustainable than energy inefficiency. Beyond this, a lot of sustainability thinking is about approaching proposals in an integrated fashion that makes every effort to consider all of the complex impacts of the project,

rather than only focusing on those that are its direct objectives.

Many communities across the United States (and, indeed, across the world) have launched sustainability efforts. While each community has its special situation and priorities, they generally have a few things in common. At the core of their efforts is an understanding that our societies and economies exist within natural systems, and that we must minimize our impact on those systems. Virtually all community sustainability efforts are rooted in participation by people of all ethnicities, races, income levels, and ages; they aim to reflect community priorities and values, rather than following a standard blueprint established by any other organization. Many community sustainability efforts include the development of goals and indicators of sustainability, to define where the community wants to go, track where it is, rally public support, and show how much is left to achieve. To make a difference, community sustainability efforts focus on actions that will move them towards their goals as efficiently as possible.

For Further Information

- Implementation of *Local Agenda 21s*: the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI – www.iclei.org), an international non-profit organization headquartered in Toronto that offers information and services with special help for local government members.
- Links to a wealth of information and case studies: the Sustainable Communities Network (www.sustainable.org)
 - Assessing sustainability for your community: the Global Ecovillage Network (gen.ecovillage.org) has a vision of small sustainable communities that, while not totally applicable to New Jersey, is nevertheless quite interesting, especially their sustainability assessment (gen.ecovillage.org/activities/csa/English/index.html)
 - The NJ Sustainable State Institute (www.njssi.net) is exploring opportunities to work with New Jersey municipalities on community sustainability; if you would like to be part of those discussions, please contact us at sustain@njssi.net.





Best Management Practices (BMPs) to Meet the New Stormwater Requirements

By Pam McIntosh, ANJEC Resource Center Director

New NJDEP stormwater regulations fulfilling USEPA Phase II stormwater requirements are expected to go into effect this summer. These new rules require all municipalities to adopt stormwater management ordinances to control runoff, increase infiltration, and improve water quality. Numerous BMPs can help towns achieve these goals. Of particular interest is the innovative Low Impact Development (LID) ecosystem based approach that seeks to maintain a site's predevelopment hydrology.

Vegetated Roof Covers

A terrific way to reduce impervious surface and stormwater runoff in urban areas is through vegetative roof covers (VRCs) or "green roofs," which can be installed on top of conventional flat or sloping roofs without additional reinforcement. Europeans have used them successfully for over 25 years. VRCs reduce the volume of runoff through evapotranspiration and can also control the rate of runoff release.

VRCs consist of vegetation, a growth medium, and a drain layer over the roof's waterproofing membrane. The drain layer prevents ponding. A simple design using three inches of growth medium has the highest cost-benefit

ratio and can reduce runoff by more than 50 percent. Green roofs also improve rooftop insulation, help conserve energy and extend the roof's life by protecting the waterproofing membrane.

Permeable Pavement

Pervious pavement material such as paving blocks, concrete grid pavers, perforated brick pavers, and compacted gravel reduce surface runoff and allow infiltration. They are suitable for low traffic areas like parking lots, sidewalks, driveways, patios, and fire lanes in areas with moderately pervious soil and a depth to seasonal high water table or bedrock of greater than three feet. They are not a good idea where runoff contains significant levels of sediment or dissolved pollutants. These pavements have been used most effectively in coastal areas with sandy soils and flatter slopes. Pervious paving maintenance costs cost less in the end than installing additional BMPs.

Enhanced Swales

Swales are grassed channels that reduce runoff velocity and allow for filtration and infiltration. Used mainly along residential streets and highways, swales help reduce the sediment levels, stormwater volume and pollutants

discharging into surface or ground water. Shallow swales that detain stormwater for a significant time are the most effective. Along with other BMPs in a "train of treatment," swales can improve water quality.

Enhanced swales are grassed channels with gravel check dams perpendicular to the centerline, and/or a bioretention zone in the subsurface. Check dams slow the water flow. A bioretention filter under the channel's centerline provides for infiltration, filtration, pollutant adsorption, and biological pollutant breakdown. A bioretention filter saves money by reducing the need for other BMP's. The primary maintenance requirements are periodic sediment removal and mowing.

Bioretention

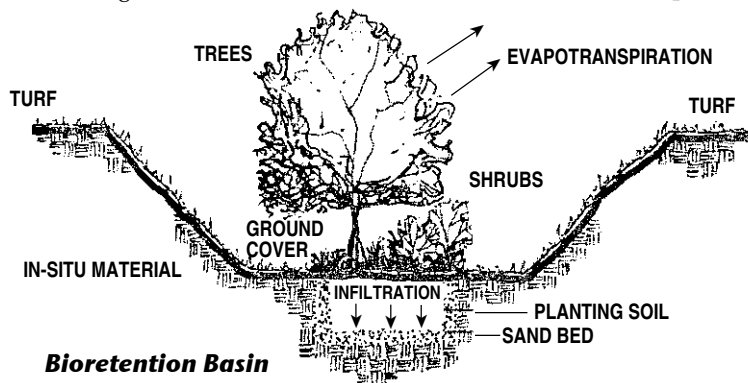
Bioretention systems can remove a wide range of pollutants, provide infiltration, and help moderate runoff volumes. They typically include

- Grass buffer strips to slow runoff and capture coarser sediments;
- Sand beds to retain finer soil particles and act as an aerobic filter;
- Shallow ponding areas to allow for runoff storage and evaporation and particle settling;
- Organic mulch layers to provide for organic decomposition, microorganism breakdown of runoff pollutants, and filter finer particles;
- Good quality soils for the plants to grow in, store stormwater, and adsorb pollutants;
- Vegetation to take up water, nutrients, and other pollutants and break down some pollutants into less harmful compounds.

Bioretention systems are not appropriate in forested, high water table and carbonate/limestone areas or on slopes over 10 percent.

For Further Information

- NJDEP manual, *Best Management Practices for Control of Nonpoint Source Pollution from Stormwater* at www.njstormwater.org; click on the link for the 2000 draft NJ Stormwater BMP Manual
- USEPA on Low Impact Development at www.epa.gov/nps/lid
- Low Impact Development Center at www.lowimpactdevelopment.org
- Center for Watershed Projection at www.cwp.org



Bioretention Basin

Good Earthkeeping

Information commissions can duplicate to use in their communities

By Kerry Miller, ANJEC Assistant Director

Gardening for the Birds and Bees

A primary objective for gardens is to look nice, but with a little extra thought, a home garden, large or small, can be much more than pretty. It can provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and bees, helping to compensate for some of the habitat loss brought on by development.

To benefit birds, plant a variety of shrubs, trees and perennials that flower, fruit and produce seed at different times, to assure a food source throughout the year. For example, elderberry and blueberry plants produce berries in the spring, winterberry and arrowwood viburnum produce fruit later in the summer, and crabapple trees hold on to their fruit well into the cold weather.

Native species of plants are preferable as garden habitat because they are suited to the local climate, need less

watering, and can better resist local pests without the use of pesticides. Pesticides kill butterflies and the insects that provide food for many birds, so it is important to avoid them. Some easy-to-grow, native perennials that benefit birds are butterfly weed, New England aster, coneflowers, Joe-Pye weed, cardinal flower, bee balm, phlox, and black-eyed Susan.

Black cherry trees, also native to NJ, offer many wildlife benefits. Birds love their abundant fruits and eat the insects that are attracted to the black cherry's spring blossoms. Caterpillars of eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies and cecropia moths feed on black cherry foliage. The fruit from this tree will stain sidewalks and carpets, so don't plant one near a walkway.

To attract goldfinches (NJ's State Bird) and other finches, plant seed-bearing plants like sunflowers, echinacea and black-eyed Susans. Leave the dried flower heads in place so birds can eat the seeds as they ripen.

Birds need shelter as well as food, so include in your garden some conifers (evergreens) and underbrush shrubs that birds can use to get out of the weather and safely escape from predators. Domestic cats take a heavy toll on wild birds. A birdbath or other open vessel placed right on the ground and emptied daily to prevent mosquito breeding is important to sustain birds and butterflies in times of low rainfall.

Many species of butterflies and moths inhabit our state, but they, too, suffer from a loss of natural habitat. Some butterflies native to New Jersey are monarchs, tiger swallowtails, black swallowtails, mourning cloaks and silver spotted skippers. Butterflies are attracted to brilliant colors. Each species has very specific preferences for tastes and smells, and for the plants on which they will lay their eggs. Buddleia ("butterfly bush"), sedum, bee balm,




J. MICHAEL POLLOCK, NJ AUDUBON SOCIETY

The small American Copper butterfly is resident throughout NJ for much of the summer. Mountain mint, a native plant seldom used in butterfly gardens, is a great nectar source and seems to be moderately deer and rabbit resistant.

milkweed, parsley, fennel, dill, zinnias, hollyhocks, snapdragons, asters, viburnum and violets provide food and habitat for an array of butterflies.

Butterflies are cold-blooded, so they look for spots with full sun. If you have a sunny deck or patio, try some of the plants mentioned above in pots or containers. Butterflies are not shy, and they make for hours of interesting viewing.

For Further Information

- Visit an established butterfly garden at Fairview Farm, home of the Upper Raritan Watershed Assn. in Gladstone (908-234-1852/ www.urwa.org).
- Visit NJ's first municipal butterfly park, created in Great Oak Park by the East Brunswick Environmental Commission. Call the park at 732-390-6806 for directions.
- To learn more about attracting birds to your garden, contact NJ Audubon Society (908-204-8998/ www.njaudubon.org). 



One of NJ's more striking butterflies found in and near wetlands, the Baltimore Checkerspot is nectaring on a thistle. While it is not advised to plant thistles, they inevitably grow where yards are allowed to go "wild."

PHOTO BY J. MICHAEL POLLOCK, NJ AUDUBON SOCIETY

ANJEC's Activities & Accomplishments



January – March 2003

Conferences and workshops

Nearly 300 environmental commissioners, local officials and interested citizens attended nine ANJEC-sponsored workshops and roundtables, including the three-session annual Environmental Commissioners' Course. Opening with ANJEC's new video, the sessions offered training, information and guidance on a wide range of topics.

- Effective commission operations
- Environmental/Natural Resource Inventories
- Master plans
- Commission grants
- New stormwater regulations
- Site plan review
- Environmental ordinances
- Septic management
- Land use planning to reduce gridlock

ANJEC thanks our member commissions, the Environmental Endowment, NJDEP, the Fund for New Jersey, the William Penn Foundation and the Schumann Fund for New Jersey for funding these workshops.

Executive Director Sandy Batty and project directors Kim Ball Kaiser, Candace Ashmun and Sally Dudley participated in panels on Smart Growth, and local pollution control at annual conferences sponsored by NJ Conservation Foundation, Rutgers Cook College, and the Association of Environmental Authorities.



Policy Development

Executive Director Sandy Batty and ANJEC staff attended meetings, testified and submitted comments on legislation and state programs that affect environmental commissions, land use and regulations.

- The proposed NJ budget for fiscal 2004 completely eliminates \$165,000

for the NJDEP Environmental Services matching grants, a major source of funding for environmental commissions. Letters to Governor McGreevey and DEP Commissioner Campbell, an email alert and press release urged that the grants be restored in the final budget, which the legislature must adopt by June 30.

- ANJEC joined 11 environmental organizations in a letter to all members of the NJ legislature, supporting legislative initiatives that are "crucial to the health and welfare of NJ citizens now and in the future." The bills include
 - Anti-sprawl amendments to the Municipal Land Use Law to enable TDRs, require municipal traffic performance objectives as a condition for site plan approval, and build-out analysis as part of master plan re-examination;
 - The NJ Clean Car Bill to adopt the California Low Emissions Vehicle Program II in 2006;
 - Pay to Play to prohibit and limit contributions by entities doing business with the state;
 - Restoration of the Office of Public Advocate;
 - Exemption from Uniform Site Standards' stormwater regulations for the 10 Great Swamp watershed municipalities;
 - The fiscal 2004 budget to ensure that environmental protection measures remain funded.
- Sandy Batty and project directors Abbie Fair and Candace Ashmun attended several meetings with NJDEP Commissioner Brad Campbell, NJDCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin and Smart Office of Smart Growth director Adam Zellner on various Smart Growth issues including the Blueprint for Intelligent Growth (BIG) Map, which the NJDEP is proposing to use to guide regulatory and funding decisions. (See page 13 for more information).

- Water Resources Director Abbie Fair supported NJDEP's proposed stormwater regulations at a public hearing and asked for additional time for municipalities to implement their stormwater plans.
- Project Director Jody Carrara testified in favor of a moratorium on the harvest of horseshoe crabs in New Jersey and in opposition to the extension of Route 55 into Cape May County.

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Smart Growth Planning Grants


We mailed applications to mayors, administrators, planning board chairmen and environmental commission chairs in more than 200 towns in the Highlands, Pinelands, Delaware Bayshore, Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon counties in January. Two workshops in Mount Olive (Morris) and Washington (Gloucester) offered guidance to local officials on application preparation. Awards to be announced in June.

Publications

Thanks to a grant from the Fund for New Jersey, ANJEC has printed and distributed a full-color brochure with ideas for urban projects to 143 commissions in developed communities and to mayors of cities without commissions.

With the support of the Fund for New Jersey, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the William Penn Foundation and the Victoria Foundation, ANJEC published a five-part *Smart Growth Survival Kit*. We've distributed the complete Kit to environmental commission, planning board and open space committee chairs and 100 attendees at the Land Conservation Rally and the section on a buildout analysis to NJ's 566 mayors. An on-line version is available at www.anjec.org.

Fund-Raising

ANJEC received a grant of \$50,000 from the Fund for New Jersey to continue our work on the urban environment, affordable housing and other smart growth initiatives. 



Are Significant Lands in Your Town Red, Yellow or Green on NJDEP's BIG Map?

In the first few months of 2003, NJDEP has released several drafts of its Blueprint for Intelligent Growth map, also known as the BIG Map. The Department plans to make the map part of its regulatory and funding programs. It is also working on amendments to several regulations including those for freshwater wetlands, flood hazard areas, water supply allocations, water quality management plans, treatment works permits, groundwater and surface water quality standards and the Environmental Infrastructure Trust.

Developed using layers of Geographic Information System (GIS) maps, the BIG Map brings together data on subjects like State Planning Areas, existing development, infrastructure, floodplains, wetlands, habitats for threatened and endangered species and preserved lands. The goal of the map, according to Governor McGreevey, "Is to provide a clearer understanding of the areas in the state that are appropriate or inappropriate for growth. It will serve as a guide," he says, "for state investment and help local officials more efficiently plan construction and development projects."

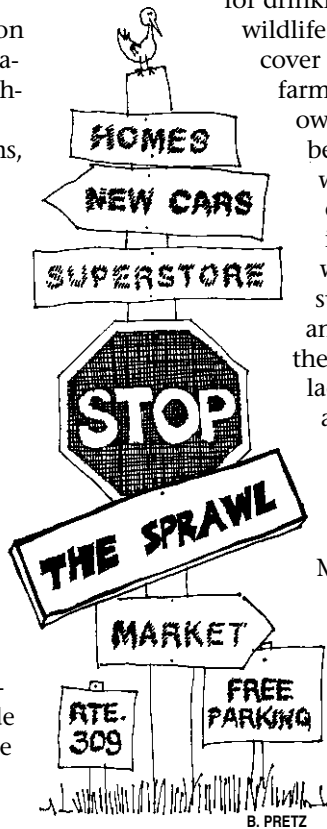
Using a traffic light approach, the BIG map divides the entire state into red, yellow and green areas to identify places where growth should be discouraged, approached with caution or is appropriate. Green light areas, appropriate for development, include Planning Area 1, Planning Area 2 with approved sewers and 93 designated centers, as well as urban enterprise zones, and urban coordinating council neighborhoods.

The red light areas, which contain critical natural resources like threatened and endangered species habitat, freshwater wetlands, agricultural lands and Category One waters (important for drinking water, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation), cover preserved open space and farmland as well as privately owned open land that could be developed. NJDEP says it will set more stringent environmental standards in the red light areas, which include most of the state's remaining wetlands and contiguous forests. In the yellow light areas data is lacking or natural resource and infrastructure considerations do not currently lead to a clear classification.

As Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association's *Watershed Watch* points out, "No matter how RED this map may appear, the BIG Map has no regulatory authority to STOP development. The map does not override your local

Master Plan and zoning." Since the BIG Map applies only to state funding and regulation, it will not stop certain developments. For example it is the municipality not the state that would rule on a proposal for a tract of farmland or forest zoned for 2-acre development with septic and private wells. The BIG Map will not stop that growth.

While state officials maintain that the BIG map will be integrated into the State Planning Map, it is not clear how and when this will happen. Changes to the State Plan Policy Map can be done through the next cross acceptance



process scheduled to start in 2004, or more immediately as a petition for a map amendment based on new data. Many green light areas also contain sensitive natural resources like wetlands, floodplains or preserved open space. How is NJDEP going to insure that these areas receive adequate protection when surrounding lands qualify for expedited permit reviews? Given the many questions about how the BIG map will work, it would be a good idea for environmental commissions in green areas to make sure that local ordinances and land preservation initiatives will protect all State Plan-designated Critical Environmental Sites in their communities.

The initial comment period on the BIG Map closed in late April. NJDEP recognizes that there are many concerns about the map and it plans to consult with officials from all 21 counties and any interested municipalities over the summer months. The Department also says it expects to revise the BIG Map to

- Reflect local data, especially in areas determined for environmental reasons to deserve greater protection (such as drinking water supplies and the presence of threatened and endangered species);
- Reduce conflicts with the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan and its policy map, and, by extension, local plans;
- Recognize that farmland is not a sufficient criterion to suggest that more stringent regulation is needed;
- Include water resources adequately in any future mapping.

For Further Information

- NJDEP's anti-sprawl web site, at www.nj.gov/dep/antisprawl.

ANJEC in the City

By Jack Lettiere, Commissioner, NJ Department of Transportation
Board Chairman, NJ TRANSIT



New Jersey's Transit Village Initiative

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and NJ TRANSIT are spearheading a community revitalization partnership known as the Transit Village Initiative, which strives to help redevelop and revitalize communities around rail and bus stations. By becoming an appealing neighborhood for people to live, work and shop, the Transit Village reduces reliance on the automobile.

Two important goals of the Transit Village Initiative are reductions in traffic congestion and improvements in air quality, both of which can be achieved through an increase in transit riders. Studies have shown that an increase in residential housing options within walking distance (up to a half mile) of a transit station does more to increase ridership than any other type of development. Therefore, it is a goal of the Transit Village Initiative to bring more housing, more businesses and more people into communities with transit stations.

Getting Started

The Commissioner of Transportation designates Transit Villages based on recommendations of a Transit Village Task Force composed of state agencies. Designated Transit Villages are in municipalities that have demonstrated a commitment to revitalize and redevelop the area around its transit station into a compact, mixed-use neighborhood with a strong residential component. A municipality can be designated a Transit Village only after planning and background work has been done on the municipal level.

To date there are eight designated Transit Villages in Pleasantville, Morristown, Rutherford, South Amboy, South Orange, Riverside, Rahway and Metuchen. As directed by Governor James E. McGreevey earlier

this year, the Transit Village Task Force will seek to double the number of Transit Villages by January 2004.

Criteria for a Transit Village

The Task Force uses a number of criteria for Transit Village designation. A municipality must have the following elements.

- A rail or light rail station, ferry terminal, a bus hub or bus transfer station transit stop;
- An adopted land-use strategy for achieving compact, transit-supportive, mixed-use development within walking distance of a transit facility in the form of a redevelopment plan, zoning ordinance or overlay zone;
- A proposal with a strong residential component that includes a wide variety of housing choices within walking distance of transit to support ridership;
- Commuter parking for residents and non-residents to encourage reduced parking and/or shared parking solutions;
- A will to grow in jobs, housing and population;

Good proposals generally have a number of additional elements.


- At least one transit-oriented project that will be completed within three years;
- Clear, direct pathways from the transit station to shops, offices, surrounding neighborhoods and other destinations to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic;
- A municipal view of the transit station as the community's focal point with the station plaza as a gathering place for community activities, like festivals, concerts, public ceremonies and farmers' markets;

- The transit station is in a station area management plan, a special improvement district (SID) or part of a Main Street New Jersey designation;
- Minimized automobile use by maximizing the appeal of transit;
- Support for the community's historic and architectural integrity by ensuring that new buildings blend in with the existing buildings through ordinances and design;
- Designating an arts, antique or restaurant district to help make a Transit Village an appealing destination.

A primary benefit of being designated a Transit Village is the State's commitment to a municipality's vision for redevelopment. This means that there is coordination among the partnering State agencies. Technical assistance, and in some cases, priority funding, is provided by all state agencies. In addition, only designated Transit Villages are eligible to apply for the \$1 million in NJDOT/Transit Village funding.

For municipalities that fall short of meeting the criteria but have the desire to become a Transit Village, assistance is available to begin planning for the area around transit stations. NJ TRANSIT offers planning assistance through its "Transit-Friendly" planning consultant services, and a handbook, *Planning for Transit-Friendly Land Use*, which is designed to help residents, local officials, designers, and planning professionals better coordinate land use planning and transit. The Office of Smart Growth in the Department of Community Affairs' Smart Growth Planning grants, and county planning departments can also be helpful in establishing a Transit Village.

For Further Information

- Monica Etz, NJDOT's Transit Village Coordinator at 609-530-5957, or monica.etz@dot.state.nj.us 



Bloomingtondale's Commission Loses a Great Asset


The Bloomingtondale (Passaic) Environmental Commission (BEC) has led many fights to protect environmentally critical land from unnecessary and poorly planned development. In 2001, after many years of hard work and determination by the BEC, the State Planning Commission recognized Federal Hill as a PA5, Environmentally Sensitive Planning Area. This was a significant accomplishment since Bloomingtondale already had large PA5 areas within its borders including the Pequannock River, numerous trout production streams, threatened and endangered species, four types of wetlands, and extremely steep slopes.

Land once slated for 144 townhouses on Federal Hill has finally emerged as a 35-acre wildlife preserve. It took six years and the help of many volunteers to protect this open space. With the help of the Passaic River Coalition and Green Acres, the borough recently acquired rugged woodlands at the heart of Federal Hill, a historically important and environmentally sensitive area.

The BEC has worked tirelessly and selflessly in protecting and preserving land throughout the town. As chair of BEC for six years, John Capozucca has been the driving force for protecting Federal Hill through the State Plan designation and land acquisition. A few years ago, he bypassed the borough council and appealed directly

to the state to recognize the area for the part it played in the American Revolution. But it's not just the town of Bloomingtondale John looks out for. He has also worked to prevent inappropriate development in West Milford, Wanaque and on the Pequannock River in Riverdale.

Now Bloomingtondale faces a new issue. The Bloomingtondale mayor has not reappointed John Capozucca as chair of the BEC. John and the mayor stand on different sides on plans to develop a horse farm that is also in environmentally sensitive PA5. Bloomingtondale plans to petition the Office of State Planning to remove the PA5 designation for this area despite the presence of extensive flood plains, steep slopes, and intermittent streams. The town wishes to rezone this piece of land, which is 50 percent undevelopable, to accommodate more than 400 units of age restricted housing.

John may not represent the BEC any longer, but he will continue to fight as a private citizen against poorly planned development in Bloomingtondale and the Highlands region. He has the overwhelming support from residents of Bloomingtondale and surrounding towns, many of whom came out to speak at a council meeting on his behalf. Although disappointed by the mayor and council's actions, John resolves to continue to do what he feels is best for his town. 


Monroe's New Group

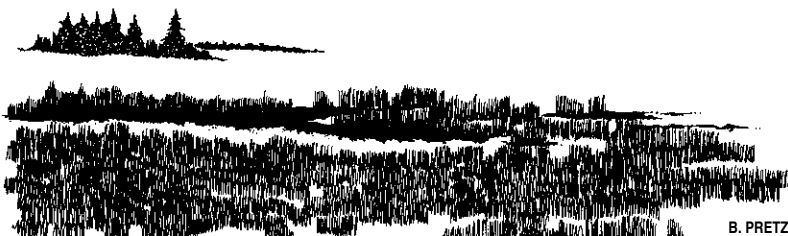
In a somewhat similar situation, the Monroe (Gloucester) Environmental Commission underwent an upheaval several years ago when the mayor removed the chair, Ed Knorr, after he challenged the slow response of town, state and county officials in handling contaminated groundwater that was threatening portions of the local drinking water supply. To make sure those who might be affected by the contamination were aware of the problems, Ed developed and distributed an educational brochure.

After Ed's removal, five commission members also resigned and formed a citizens' watch dog group along with him. The Green Action Alliance works separately and independently from the town government and focuses on environmental issues in Monroe and surrounding towns. They monitor air and water quality, land use issues and testify on a bill that involves a local landfill site. The Green Action Alliance strives to educate and is dedicated to the concerns and issues that deal with the health and environment of our planet.

In certain situations, having your hands untied from local government will allow you to have more power and be more effective in leading the fight to protect the natural resources in your town. In a number of towns throughout the state, independent citizens' groups can help commissions reach their goals by working on specific policies and projects that local government may not support.

For Further Information

- Green Action Alliance: www.thegreenclubkids.com and "Click to Enter" Green Action Alliance. 



B. PRETZ

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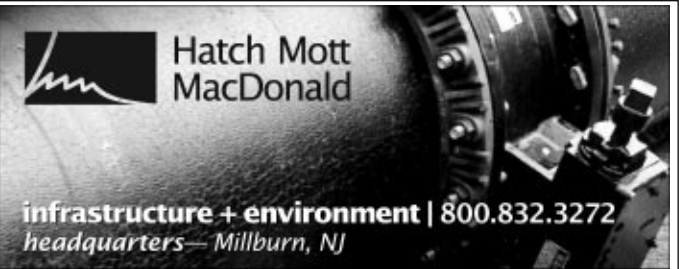
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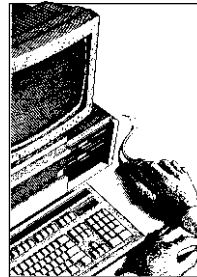
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2003 ANJEC's New Jersey Environmental Achievement Awards

Each year, ANJEC presents annual awards to recognize exceptional work by environmental commissions and groups. Now is the time to nominate your commission, organization or another group for a 2003 ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award, for projects implemented since January 1, 2002. The judges will use the following criteria.

- ✓ impact
- ✓ originality
- ✓ effectiveness
- ✓ educational value
- ✓ supporting information
- ✓ clarity of presentation
- ✓ response to a need

ANJEC will present the awards at the 30th annual New Jersey Environmental Congress on Saturday, October 25th at Rutgers University's Busch Campus in Piscataway. We request each winning organization to bring a display of their project to the Congress.

Nomination Form

AWARD CATEGORIES (Check the appropriate box)

- ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION PROJECT (Local or County)
- URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION PROJECT
- OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE PROJECT (Local or County)
- NEW ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION PROJECT (For commissions formed after Dec. 31, 2000)
- ENVIRONMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION (Local or Regional/Statewide judged separately)

Nominee organization _____

Project title _____

Contact in nominee organization _____ Day Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Project start date _____ Completion date _____

Nominated by _____ Day Phone _____

Email _____

Please list three people, familiar with this project but **not** members of the nominated organization, whom ANJEC may call for additional information and recommendations:

Name _____ Day Phone _____

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Please submit this application form and a narrative of the project that includes background, objectives, activities and accomplishments as well as supporting materials like photos, maps and newspaper clippings. Please indicate how much work a consultant or other professional did on the project.

DEADLINE: September 8, 2003

MAIL TO: ANJEC, PO Box 157, Mendham, NJ 07945 (Phone 973-539-7547)

For courier or UPS delivery SEND TO: ANJEC, 300 Mendham Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960

You can also download a copy of this form on the "About Commissions" section of ANJEC's web page (www.anjec.org)

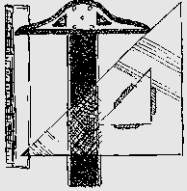
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ANJEC's 2003 Environmental Congress

Saturday October 25th, 2003

9 am – 3 pm

Busch Campus, Rutgers University, Piscataway



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NJ Department of Environmental Protection

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For more details, go to www.anjec.org
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ANJEC Workshop

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Thursday June 19, 2003, 7:30 pm


Burlington County

Wednesday June 25, 2003, 7:30 pm


Mercer County

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For more details, go to www.anjec.org or call 973-539-7547. 

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