



# CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

54 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE  
CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY 07928



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011

The Environmental Commission (EC) engaged in numerous activities during 2011 that improved and enhanced awareness of the environment of Chatham Borough. The following is a brief summary of the highlights of 2011.

In March the EC applied for and was awarded a grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) for Sustainable Land Use Planning. With the grant funds and numerous volunteer hours, the EC was able to begin development of a Complete Streets Policy. The Complete Streets Policy will lay the groundwork to help Chatham Borough develop a network of safer streets, crosswalks and pathways that will encourage more people to walk and bike all over town. Complete Streets accommodate all citizens including pedestrians, cyclists, public transit users, motorists, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. The Policy is expected to be completed and adopted by the Borough Council as an amendment to the Borough Master Plan in April 2012.

In May, the EC held our annual spring trail cleanup. Assisted by local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Kiwanis Club, the Chatham Borough Department of Public Works and other volunteers we cleared and cleaned the trails along the river at Shepard Kollock Park and at Milton Woods. Wood chips were placed at the head of the trail at Shepard Kollock and on the entire pathway leading from Jackson Avenue to the trail entrance to Kelley's Pond. Despite the cleanup of the Shepard Kollock trail being extremely challenging due to excessive overgrowth and debris, the cleanup was a huge success.

To further publicize the EC mission, a manned booth was set up at the Fishawack Festival on June 11<sup>th</sup>. At the festival, the Environmental Commissioners handed out information pamphlets, answered environmentally related questions and solicited volunteers to assist with EC projects throughout the year.

In September, the EC collaborated with the Chatham Township Environmental Commission and the Chatham Borough Green Initiatives Committee in hosting the Borough's fourth annual Green Fair in Reasoner Park. On hand were various environmental organizations, activities for children, as well as vendors exhibiting environmentally friendly products and services. This year the weather was very cooperative and the turnout of attendees and vendors was record breaking. Feedback from citizen and exhibitors was overwhelmingly positive. The Environmental Commission is dedicated to continuing the fair on an annual basis and is looking to make next year's fair more successful than in prior years. Through the Green Fair, Chatham Borough was able to obtain points necessary for Chatham Borough to maintain our prestigious Sustainable New Jersey Certification.



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Due to the harsh weather of 2011 and particularly the freak October snow storm (Halloween Nor'easter) the EC decided to have another trail cleanup at Shepard Kollock in November. Again, with tremendous support from numerous volunteers, the Commission was able to open the trail all the way from the trail head at Shepard Kollock to Tallmadge making the trail easier to follow.

Through its liaisons to the Borough Council and Planning Board, the EC stays active and informed on issues with potential environmental impacts within the Borough and surrounding areas. The EC maintains contact with other entities having environmental interests, including: The Shade Tree Commission; the Green Initiatives Committee; the Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee (f/k/a The Land and Historic Conservation Committee); the Community Garden; the Department of Public Works; Environmental Commissions from neighboring municipalities; Borough civic and religious groups with environmental interests; local watershed, surface water and groundwater protection groups; State and County road maintenance departments; and others. The EC continues to conduct research on environmental issues of local interest, including air quality, wellhead and aquifer protection, and municipal land use ordinances.

The Commission thanks the Mayor, Borough Council, Borough Administrator and Department of Public Works for their ongoing support of the Commission's programs. The Commission would also like to thank the many individuals and community groups that volunteer their time to make the EC programs successful.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John Tancredi, Chair