



CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
54 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE
CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY 07928
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008



The Environmental Commission engaged in numerous activities during 2008 that improved and enhanced awareness of the environment of Chatham Borough. The following is a brief summary of the highlights of 2008.

In April, Commission members volunteered at the Borough Recycling Center during its Saturday morning hours. By assisting at the Center, the Commission increased resident awareness of the Commission and of proper recycling procedures.

The Commission began the process of redesigning the Borough Recycling Center with a goal of making the center more efficient. The Commission is hopeful that some of the ideas will be implemented in 2009, thus increasing and expanding the use of the center.

The 1976 version of the Environmental Resources Inventory was updated in late 2007. The document was published in 2008 and is anticipated to be integrated into the new Master Plan for the Borough. The Commission also assisted in the sponsorship of an Eagle Scout project which enhanced and expanded the trail of a previously sponsored Eagle Scout project in Wuhala Woods.

The annual Shepard Kollock trail cleanup was conducted in April by the Commission with the assistance of local Scouts. On the same day the Commission dedicated a plaque to former Commission Chairman and member Bob Thompson for his tireless and dedicated service to the community of Chatham.

Educational materials and brochures relating to the Commission and general environmental issues were handed out at the Fishawack Festival in June. Commission members were on hand to speak to the public about environmental concerns in Chatham.

In September, the Commission in collaboration with the Chatham Area Chamber of Commerce and the Chatham Borough Green Initiatives Committee hosted its first annual Green Fair in Reasoner Park. On hand were various environmental organizations as well as vendors exhibiting environmentally friendly products. Judging by citizen turnout and favorable feedback from exhibitors, the fair was a resounding success, and the Environmental Commission is dedicated to continuing the fair on an annual basis.

Taking the initiative on enhancing Open Space property the Commission sent out request for proposals (RFP's) to 31 environmental consultants or landscapers for the surveying and evaluation of Open Space property owned by Chatham Borough. The purpose of the survey is to identify and restore Open Space to a more natural environmental while making it more usable to the public. The 3 properties are:

- Kelleys' Pond (the area behind Milton Avenue School)
- Wuhala Woods
- River Road property off St. James Place.



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The properties were toured with interested parties in October. The Commission received 5 complete RFP's from consultants. The Commission is in the process of evaluating the proposals and intends to make a recommendation to the Borough Council in 2009.

Through its liaisons to the Borough Council, Planning Board, the Environmental Commission stays active and informed on issues with potential environmental impacts within the Borough and its surrounding areas. In addition, the Commission maintains contact with other entities with an environmental interest, including: The Shade Tree Commission; 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 Commission 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, Administrator and Department of Public Works for their ongoing support of the Commission's programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Byrd, Chair