



CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
54 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE
CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY 07928
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009



The Environmental Commission engaged in numerous activities during 2009 that improved and enhanced awareness of the environment of Chatham Borough. The following is a brief summary of the highlights of 2009.

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 annual Shepard Kollock trail cleanup was conducted in April by the Commission with the assistance of local Scouts and students.

In September, the Commission collaborated with the Chatham Township Environmental Commission, the Chatham Area Chamber of Commerce and the Chatham Borough Green Initiatives Committee in hosting its second annual Green Fair in Reasoner Park. On hand were various environmental organizations, activities for children's, as well as vendors exhibiting environmentally friendly products. Judging by citizen turnout and favorable feedback from exhibitors, the fair built on the success of the inaugural year in 2008. The Environmental Commission is dedicated to continuing the fair on an annual basis. Through the Green Fair efforts, Chatham Borough was able to share the Sustainable Jersey Collaboration award with Chatham Township.

The Commission advanced the Recreational and Development plan of Open Space properties in the Borough. Environmental consultants were selected for the surveying and evaluation of the properties with the purpose of identifying and restoring Open Space to a more natural environmental while making it more usable to the public. Collectively, the below 3 properties comprise nearly 200 acres, or 13% of the entire acreage of Chatham Borough.

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

The properties were surveyed during the summer and early fall months. Initial draft reports were issued to the Commission in December. The Commission intends to evaluate the proposals and solicit public feedback, with the goal of making recommendations to the Borough Council in 2010.

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 Green Initiatives Committee; the Land and Historic Conservation Committee; the Department of Public Works; Environmental Commissions from



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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