



Kingwood Township Environmental Commission Annual Report for 2012

Recycling

EC members volunteered for Saturday morning hours. Removed non-recyclables when possible.

Updated recycling instruction sheet, which was mailed to all residents & available on the website. Items accepted continue to include: metal/glass/plastic containers; paper/cardboard; scrap metal; electronics; and clothing.

Updated an alphabetical list of recyclables and where/how they may be recycled for the website.

Open Space and Parks & Recreation

Maintained the Native Plant Rain Garden at Kingwood Park.

Participated in Horseshoe Bend Park management planning meetings (3/9/12 and 4/19/12) and tree planting day (4/21/12 - organized by Girl Scouts).

Arranged and met with a representative from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for guidance on managing the Horseshoe Bend Park fields regarding endangered species.

Ordinances/Resolutions

Supported Planning Board adoption of Environmental Impact and Assessment/Threatened and Endangered Ordinance (adopted 2/7/2013).

Provided assistance on drafting a driveway procedures ordinance to address preventing environmental problems associated with inappropriately sited driveways, e.g. in wetlands (not adopted yet).

Outreach/Education

Completed 10 points of Stormwater education projects, as required by NJDEP.

Expanded information on Kingwood Twp website on environmental issues, including interactive mapping, water quality, air quality (including anti-idling), recycling, invasive species, native plants, rain gardens and climate.

Community Day 9/15/12—information on NJWSA project, native species, arsenic in ground water, etc.

- 3 separate (but adjacent) tables for Environmental Commission, Open Space and Recycling information.
- Discounted water tests and septic pumping.
- Prescription drug drop off available courtesy of the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Dept.

Reviewed MEL Quarterly Homeowner Well Sampling Results.

Site Plan Review

None

Issues

Surface Water

- Cooperated with and supported implementation project(s) for Lockatong and Wickecheoke Watersheds Restoration and Protection Plan (with NJ Water Supply

Authority). This consists of pre- and post- monitoring and assessments for stormwater control projects in a rural watershed, a statewide first-of-its-kind. Project website: <http://www.raritanbasin.org/lockwick.html>

Ground Water

- Coordinated well testing and septic pumping during community day.
- Initiated a Rutgers graduate student project to study MEL ground water impacts.
- Attempted to arrange for a representative of MEL to speak at a meeting.

Sustainability

- Worked on energy audit of township owned buildings.
- Environmental Commission continued to receive meeting packages electronically to reduce waste.
- Investigated feasibility/interest in composting ("Rocket") for food wastes, but it was found that the elementary school was not interested in pursuing this.

Invasive Species

- Held Invasive Species Strike Team Training 6/19 at Horseshoe Bend Park led by Melissa Almendinger, Executive Director of NJISST
- Volunteers assisted 2 field stewards from the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team survey of Twp. Owned properties (Horseshoe Bend Park, Idell Preserve, Kingwood Park & path between the Lockatong Creek and also at the DeRewel Site on Route 29) for invasive species 7/30/12, 7/31/12 and 8/1/12 (see attached Invasive Species Summary report).

Hydrofracking (for natural gas)

Gail Ashley gave a brief presentation on hydrofracking (1/24/12)

Forest Harvest

Prepared a letter opposing Assembly Bill No. 4358 that involves forest harvesting and sale of lumber on state-owned land, which could negatively impact several properties in Kingwood if adopted. Letter was sent to various state legislators (1/26/2012)

Bull's Island trees (letter sent by Township Committee).

2012 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Deborah Kratzer (Chairwoman)

Cynthia Niciecki

Lois Voronin (Vice-Chairwoman)

David Posey

Elaine Niemann, Committeewoman

Joseph Zgurzynski, **Alt. #1**

Gail M. Ashley

Richard Abbott, **Alt. #2**

Timothy Cahalin

Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary

Sandra McNicol

Invasive Species in Kingwood

8/31/12

The Problem: An invasive species is a non-native organism which is causing harm to the environment, human health or the economy. They interrupt the natural functions of an ecosystem by impacting native plants and animals. Overall, invasive species are considered to be the greatest threat to global biodiversity, second only to outright habitat destruction. "Emerging" threats are those species that have not yet become widespread, therefore are easier to "nip in the bud."

The Survey: This summer, Debbie Kratzer and Jill Dodds spent three days with two Field Stewards from the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team (NJISST) to survey township-owned properties for emerging invasive species (see attached for more info about NJISST).

We surveyed Horseshoe Bend Park, Kingwood Park, Ukarish farm, Melnyk farm, Idell Preserve and the DeRewel site. We found a few emerging threats (see below). Some widespread invasive species are also listed below.

Emerging Invasive Species Found in Kingwood

Species Name	Common Name	Background
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Orange-eye butterflybush	Escapes from gardens
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy	Escapes from gardens
<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Chinese Bush Clover	Originally planted for erosion control
<i>Miscanthus siensis</i>	Chinese Silvergrass	Escapes from gardens
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery Pear	Escapes from gardens

Widespread Invasive Species in Kingwood

Species Name	Common Name	Background
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn olive	Formerly promoted for windbreaks and wildlife
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora rose	introduced as rootstock for ornamental roses; also promoted for erosion control and as "living fences" to confine livestock
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	phragmites	Introduced <i>Phragmites</i> most likely arrived in ballast material
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry	introduced as an ornamental plant in 1875
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese stiltgrass	accidentally escaped as a result of its use as a packing material for porcelain

What the Environmental Commission Plans to Do: We plan to continue cooperating with the NJISST to develop strategies for addressing the emerging and widespread invasive species within Kingwood.

What You Can Do:

3 Easy Steps to Rid Invasive Plants From Your Landscape

1. DO NOT purchase invasive plants (for a list, go to <http://njisst.org/files/DoNotPlantList.pdf>)
2. Remove invasive plants from your property
3. Grow plants that are native to New Jersey

Go to <http://kingwoodtownship.com/environmental> or contact the Environmental Commission for more information.