

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM SUPPLEMENT 2020-2022

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Beautification Program

- Plant a tree in your local community. Trees can be planted in memory or honor of club members, service men and women, etc. Contact your local municipality or Environmental Organization for projects or create your own.
- Volunteer at a local community tree planting event. Alliance for Community Trees (www.arborday.org). Participate in National NeighborWoods® month by volunteering, hosting a local event, or donating to help plant trees during October.
- Work with your local schools to plant a bird or pollinator friendly garden. Teach children about the importance of using native plants and pesticide free gardens. Provide butterfly kits to an elementary class. Build beneficial bug houses using recycled and natural materials. Provide vegetable or native plant seeds for them to grow.
- Every third-grade student throughout New Jersey is eligible to receive a free tree seedling in an effort to increase environmental awareness and learn about the benefits of planting trees. Trees may be picked up at regional locations or delivered by UPS for a small shipping fee:
https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/forest/nj_forest_nursery.htm
- Learn about invasive species concerns in your area and what you can do to help eradicate them. Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space www.fohvos.org. You can download their app on your phone and help record your observations.
- Reduce your lawn by planting a native plant garden to increase wildlife habitat. For inspiration and ideas, visit the Native Plant Society of New Jersey website www.npsnj.org. Jersey-Friendly Yards website www.jerseyyards.org. National Wildlife Federation www.nwf.org.
- Plant a rain garden to control and slowdown storm water runoff. Many municipalities have an incentive program or grants available. Information can be found at www.water.rutgers.edu.
- Learn about the benefits of indoor air quality by cultivating houseplants in your home or create an indoor herb/vegetable garden. Invite a speaker or hold a workshop at a club meeting on the proper care of houseplants and/or creating an edible container garden. Contact a local Master Gardener <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/master-gardeners>.
- Grow a vegetable garden and donate produce to your local foodbank. If you do not have a private garden to use, a local park may have garden plots that your club can “rent” for the season.
- Organize a garden/pond tour in your community.
- Recognize special events such as; Keep America Beautiful Month (April), Earth Day (April 22), Arbor Day (the last Friday in April). For more information visit www.America-the-Beautiful.org www.earthday.org and www.arborday.com
- Survey your community to determine the need for litter prevention. Organize and participate in a litter prevention project in your town. Watershed Associations have stream cleanup days every year. Visit, http://njwri.rutgers.edu/watershed_orgs.htm to find a local Watershed Association near you.
- Participate in a survey for North American Butterfly Association butterfly count visit: www.naba.org or the Audubon Society bird count visit: <https://njaudubon.org/> for details.

Resource Conservation - Reduce, reuse, Recycle and Preserve New Jersey

- Interest schools, communities, and scouts to conduct a “clean your town” program/day. Hold a create your own “lunch box/canvas bag” design contest for younger students and an environmental themed, create your own T-Shirt design contest for older students. **Sponsor a poster contest, with a theme, such as Trees are Beautiful or How we Recycle.**
- Determine if your county has a list of agencies that accept donations of used items. If not, develop one and distribute in your community.
- Take part in Soles4Souls Adopt-a-bin program and collect gently used or new shoes in your community. Contact Lizzy Swiderski at 615-598-7311 or email lizzyS@soles4souls.org.
- Visit local parks and preserves or take a day/weekend trip. Consider the Pine Barrens or Great Swamp Watershed for a day/weekend trip. (www.state.nj.us/pinelands/ www.greatswamp.org).
- Participate in the cleaning of local beaches. Contact your local Municipality for Beach cleanup Days.
- Raise funds to support our parks through your local Municipality or County Parks, Landtrust Organization, or the National Parks Conservation Association (www.npca.org), the Nature Conservancy (www.nature.org) or the National Wildlife Federation (www.nwf.org).
- Explore zero waste ideas and put them into practice. Keep a log and record the changes you have made to meet your goal at club meetings and events. Create a competition to challenge members to create the least amount of trash for one month.
- Become a “Citizen Scientist” by using apps on your phone with Inaturalist.org.
- Volunteer with Chrysler Herbarium at Rutgers University and help create the Mid-Atlantic Herbaria Consortium database. You can contribute to the project by collecting data in the field or specimen transcription. Visit www.midatlanticherbaria.org.

Review the 2020-2022 NJSFWC and GFWC Manual - Environment Section for additional project ideas and resources.