

Press Release for TASP Newsletter

After the dune augmentation project by the Army Corp of Engineers, the Corps planted American Beach Grass across the entire dune to hold the sand in place until other natural vegetation spread across the dune to act as a permanent stabilizer for the dune. Unfortunately, American Beach Grass can only survive if it is continuously covered by blowing sand, which occurs only on the east side of the dune. On the west side of the dune, that does not happen, so, over a three to six-year period the grass on the west side of the dune will die back. In order to fix that problem and assist Mother Nature, the Borough (now responsible for dune maintenance after the Army Corps project ended) must plant shrubs to act as sand stabilizers. Most of our dune has such vegetation (roses, bayberry, beach plum) from before Sandy and are in pretty good shape but could use some additional shrubs. The north and south end of the Borough had their dune washed away by Sandy and the current reconstructed dune has little to no shrubs on the west side. Borough Resolution 2020-01 calls for a multiyear project to plant shrubs but the money for the project (called Native Vegetation Planting Project or NVPP) will not be budgeted until the 2022 budget starting July 2021. To jump start this project and get plants in the ground as soon as possible, a volunteer group raised \$2000 and planted 96 plants over four blocks of the dune between 10th and 14th Avenues on October 20th and 21st with the help of DPW and Atlantic Plants of Brick who supplied the plants.

The same thing will be done on the north side of the Borough this March/April to address the same problem there and donations are being sought to allow purchase of another 96 or so plants for the four blocks from Stockton Avenue to N Street. Donations should be sent to the Seaside Park Beautification Committee, PO Box 84, Seaside Park, NJ 08752 with a notation "for SSPK NVPP"

If you have any questions, contact volunteer coordinator Bob Hopkins at 973-903-3198 or swimsmart@yahoo.com.