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Monmouth County Environmental Newsletter: April 2019 Edition

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Yellow Brook at Durand Park, Freehold.



Monmouth County Environmental Newsletter: April 2019

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**Upcoming
Environmental &
Outdoor Events in
Monmouth County:**



Naval Weapons Station Earle pier complex. Source: NWS Earle.

Monmouth County - Earle Partnership Recognized as a National Innovator

The Association of Defense Communities (ADC), a national organization dedicated to building resilient communities that support their US Military defense bases, holds an annual conference to highlight innovative installation partnerships found across the United States. Five Innovators were selected to showcase their projects at the ADC Installation Innovation Forum held in Miami, Florida in March. Over 600 military personnel, community partners and contractors/consultants attended. The partnership between Monmouth County and Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle was selected as one of the five 2019 Innovators to be showcased.

Representatives from NWS Earle and the Monmouth County Division of Planning spoke about the completed and on-going partnership efforts including the [2017 NWS Earle Joint Land Use Study](#) and Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay Coastal Resilience Planning Study, the newest project to improve resiliency at both the installation and surrounding communities. Following the land use compatibility issues and priorities identified in both the 2014 NWS Earle Encroachment Action Plan and the 2017 NWS Earle Joint Land Use Study, NWS Earle, the Division of Planning and the County Park System secured funding from the Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program. REPI funds will be

Some activities require registration and/or fees:

- [Apr. 4, 10 a.m. -12 p.m. Monmouth County Parks System: Find Your Path in Volunteering. Thompson Park, Lincroft](#)
- [Apr. 4, 4:30 -6:30 p.m. Environmental Council Meeting, Hall of Records Annex, 2nd Floor, Freehold](#)
- [Apr. 6, 10 a.m. Backyard Composting Workshop, Ag. Building, Freehold](#)
- [Apr. 7, 11 a.m. -1 p.m. Save Coastal Wildlife: Conaskon Point Clean Up, Union Beach](#)
- [Apr. 10, 7 p.m. Backyard Composting Workshop, Manasquan Recreation Annex, Manasquan](#)
- [Apr. 10, 8 -10 p.m. Monmouth County Audubon Society: Eastern Blue Bird Nest Box and Trails, Red Bank](#)
- [Apr. 13, 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps, various locations](#)
- [Apr. 13, 10 a.m. -3 p.m. Ocean Township Greenfest, Monmouth County Library-Ocean Township Branch](#)
- [Apr. 20, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit Sandy Hook with Monmouth County Audubon Society](#)
- [Apr. 22, 6 -8 p.m. Science Mondays: Supporting NJ](#)

used to purchase targeted properties around the installation for farmland and open space preservation. The County and NWS Earle also have several Intergovernmental Service Agreements in place for services such as snowplowing Normandy Road.

ADC prepared a report on the five innovators showcased at the 2019 Forum, including the Monmouth County-NWS Earle Partnership. That [report](#) can be viewed on the ADC website.

[Wildlife, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft](#)

- [Apr. 27, 11 -5 p.m. Monmouth County Parks Earth Day Events, various locations](#)

Clean Stormwater and Flood Reduction Act Signed into Law

On March 18, Governor Murphy signed bill S1073, the Clean Stormwater and Flood Reduction Act, into law. The law authorizes municipalities, counties and certain authorities to establish stormwater utilities. Such utilities may charge and collect reasonable fees and other charges to recover the utility costs for stormwater management. Stormwater utilities may offer fee reductions in the form of a credit for certain activities like maintaining and operating on-site stormwater management systems or green infrastructure. Utilities are required to prepare a report each year according to guidance to be determined by the NJDEP and the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.

MCEC to Host Round-Table this May

The Monmouth County Environmental Council is holding an annual round-table event titled **"Ticks and Mosquitoes in Monmouth County: Resources to help you protect your family and pets."** The event will take place May 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Monmouth County Ag. Building, 4000 Kozloski Rd, Freehold.



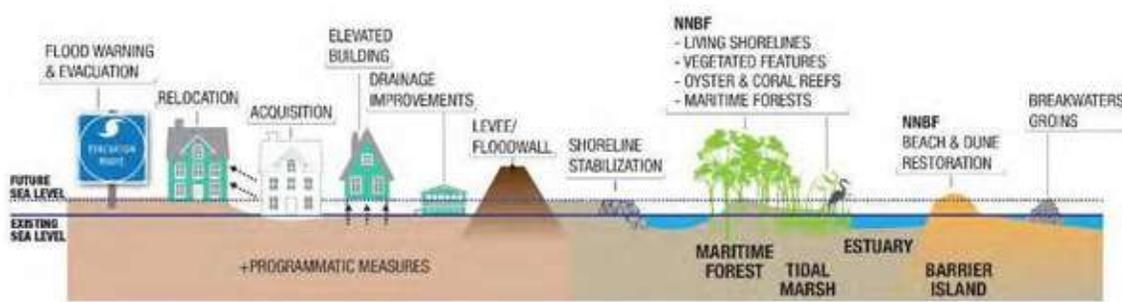
Join us to learn from a variety of expert speakers about health threats from ticks and mosquitoes, local research and methods you can use to keep your family and pets safe. Stay tuned for more information!

Coastal Lake Commissions Partner with Monmouth University for Citizen Monitoring

Groups dedicated to improving Monmouth County's coastal lakes met at the Coastal Lakes Summit on March 15 at Monmouth University. The event was organized by the Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute which recently secured a grant from the Plangere Foundation to facilitate the [Coastal Lakes Observation Network \(CLONet\)](#). Through CLONet, Monmouth University will offer water quality testing kits to each of the coastal lakes groups to conduct citizen monitoring and report data to the University. The data will be reviewed by University students and made publicly available. The goal of CLONet is to gather meaningful data that can be used to prepare plans and secure funding for future projects that improve the lakes.

Representatives from commissions to [Takanessee Lake/Whale Pond Brook](#), [Deal Lake](#), [Sunset Lake](#), [Wesley Lake](#) and Lake Como presented their lake's history, current condition, past projects and goals. Each group expressed hopes to improve habitat, water quality and recreation opportunities. Later, breakout groups, focused on each lake, identified gaps in local knowledge and how CLONet may be used to gather information. At the end of the day each group reported their findings and the network discussed methods for future communication and collaboration. CLONet hopes to commence water quality testing this summer.

US Army Corps of Engineers Project Updates



An Army Corps of Engineers graphic displays the various management methods proposed in two recently published interim studies. Source: Army Corps of Engineers

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District, published an Interim Feasibility Study to the NJ Back Bays Coastal Storm Risk Management study.

The study includes various alternative plans that aim to reduce risk to human life and flooding impact from coastal storms and sea level change in the NJ Back Bay Region, from Cape May to the Monmouth Coastal Lakes. Some of the proposed alternatives would directly affect the County. Alternative 3A proposes elevation of structures along Shark River and Manasquan Inlet. Alternative 3D proposes elevation of structures and two miles of levees in the vicinity of Manasquan Inlet in Manasquan, Brielle and Point Pleasant Beach. Alternative 3E(2) and 3E(3) propose a storm surge barrier located at Manasquan inlet. Visit [here](#) for more information on the study. Comments will be accepted until April 1, 2019.

The USACE, New York District, published an Interim Feasibility Study to the NY-NJ Harbor and Tributaries Study. The study offers various alternatives that address severe

coastal storm risk in the NY-NJ Harbor area. Only Alternative 2 would directly affect the County through a proposed storm surge barrier from Sandy Hook to the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens, NY. On March 27, the USACE held a public information meeting at Middletown Arts Center. Visit [here](#) for more information on the study. Comments are requested by May 1, 2019 but will also be accepted after that time.

Master Gardener's Offering Scholarships

The Master Gardeners of Monmouth County are offering up to four \$1,000 scholarships to Monmouth County college students or high school graduating seniors who will be studying horticulture, environmental sciences, engineering, botany or other agriculture related fields. Applicants must be majoring or planning to major in one of these specified areas on a matriculated basis, but can be attending any college or university, in state or out of state, for the fall 2019 semester.

Applicants must be a resident of Monmouth County and must have demonstrated an interest in the fields of horticulture and agriculture, as well as landscape or environmental issues, through class work, employment, community service or extracurricular activities.

The application, a school transcript and a letter of recommendation are due by April 15 to the Master Gardeners of Monmouth County, located at 4000 Kozloski Rd. in Freehold. Applications are also accepted online. Access the application [here](#).



New Grown in Monmouth Nursery & Garden Center Directory

Monmouth County celebrated National Agriculture Week by launching the Grown in Monmouth Nursery & Garden Center Directory. The Directory is an online interactive map that enables users identify the location and contact information for a variety of Grown in Monmouth nurseries and garden centers. Grown in Monmouth is a program designed to help retain and grow the County's agricultural industry. For information about local produce, wineries, breweries, farmers markets, restaurants and more visit the [Grown in Monmouth website](#) or [access the Directory](#).

NJ Tree Recovery Campaign Provides Free Trees to Residents



Free tree seedlings will be available to residents throughout the County during the month of April as part of the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign. This program was created



to help communities replace trees damaged or destroyed by Superstorm Sandy.

At various locations and dates, residents will be able to pick up tree seedlings. Seedlings, available on a first come, first served basis, also come with instructions on how to plant and maintain them. The guides help residents choose the right place on a property to plant a tree, while keeping in mind the tree's full-grown size. Residents should plant the seedlings within two days of pick-up in order to prevent the roots from drying out.

The goal of the Tree Recovery Campaign is to distribute 600,000 tree seedlings to New Jersey residents over the course of six years. This is a joint effort between the participating municipalities, New Jersey Forest Service, New Jersey Soil Conservation Districts, Sustainable Jersey, Arbor Day Foundation, BJ's Wholesale Club, Canon and FedEx.

Learn more [here](#) or access the [directory of locations](#), contact your municipality to confirm.

Earth Day at Monmouth County Parks

Monmouth County Parks System is hosting multiple [Earth Day events](#) at various parks on Saturday, April 27 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Families can visit [Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center](#) for an interactive program on coastal creatures like whales, sea turtles, crabs, and plankton, [Huber Woods Environmental Center](#) for a presentation on snakes and reptiles and interactive exhibit, [Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center](#), for guided hikes with a naturalist or presentations on reptiles and amphibians, or [Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park Activity Center](#) to create ocean-friendly crafts. You may also visit [Deep Cut Gardens](#) to take a walk through the budding garden and learn how to become an earth-friendly gardener or [Freneau Woods](#) for a naturalist led hike through the forest and wetlands to look for wildlife and signs of spring.



About this Newsletter

The purpose of the newsletter is to inform Monmouth County citizens on the health of their environment and list environmental outreach events in their community. The newsletter is produced by the Monmouth County Division of Planning Section of Environmental & Sustainability Planning in coordination with the Monmouth County Environmental Council. The County of Monmouth and the Board of Chosen Freeholders do not necessarily share the viewpoints of any environmental group mentioned in this newsletter.

If you have questions, comments, or wish to have an event listed in the newsletter, please contact: Amber.Mallm@co.monmouth.nj.us

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