

0

Receive Updates



Monmouth County Environmental Newsletter April and May 2020

Monmouth County, NJ sent this bulletin at 04/14/2020 03:19 PM EDT



Spring has arrived. Daffodils, hyacinths, and more are in bloom.



Monmouth County Environmental Newsletter: April & May 2020

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

Resources During COVID-19 Pandemic

The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders is working, in conjunction with the Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and with State partners to monitor the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Please remember that the best defense against COVID-19 is to practice safe respiratory hygiene and prevent the spread of germs through social distancing. Stay home, avoid touching your face, and cover coughs and sneezes with the inside of your elbow. Wash your hands frequently, especially after sneezing coughing or touching frequently used surfaces like doorknobs, and returning home. Check the [Monmouth County Website](#) COVID-19 updates.

If you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#), call your healthcare provider.

For general information and resources, call 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898-211. Visit the [NJ COVID-19 Information Hub](#) for updates, frequently asked questions and more resources.

A 24/7 call center for general questions is also made available by the NJ Poison Information and Education

Upcoming Environmental & Outdoor Events in Monmouth County:

- [April 15, 12 p.m., All About Eastern Bluebirds & Co-Existing with Coyotes, Webinar](#)
- [April 16, 2 -3p.m., It Isn't Easy Being Green: Unique Plants of the Pines, Webinar](#)
- [April 17, 1 -2 p.m. Running Effective Virtual Public Meetings Webinar](#)
- [April 22, Earth Day Webinar: Shifting Fish Species](#)
- [April 22, 12 p.m. Terrestrial Invasive Species and Management Techniques & Trees of NJ: Identification, Emerald Ash Borer.](#)

System at 1-800-962-1253. You may also reach the Monmouth County Health Department COVID-19 Hotline at 732-845-2070.

If you are feeling stressed, anxious or depressed due to COVID-19, call 877.294.HELP (4357) for emotional support, guidance and mental health referrals. Live assistance from trained professionals is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

Looking for employment?

The NJ-COVID-19 Information Hub includes a [COVID-19 Jobs and Hiring Portal](#). Positions are available for critical industries such as delivery services, grocery stores and health care facilities.

Update on Board and Committee Activities

The Monmouth County Environmental Council (MCEC) postponed its spring roundtable, originally scheduled for April 29, 2020, to an undetermined date.

Other Monmouth County Boards and Committees will be holding virtual meetings that comply with the Open Public Meetings Act in order to keep staff and the public safe, abide by COVID-19 guidelines and execute their respective operations.

Municipal Boards and Environmental Commissions may evaluate options for holding virtual public meetings authorized under a recently adopted assembly [bill](#).

[Spotted Lanternfly and Tree Management Webinar](#)

- [April 24, 10 a.m. -12 p.m. Retrofitting Traditional Detention Basins with Green Infrastructure, Webinar](#)
- [May 4, Extended ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Project Grant Application Deadline](#)
- [May 6, 12 p.m. Organic Lawn Care The Jersey-Friendly Yards Database, Webinar](#)
- [May 8, 10 a.m. -12 p.m. Developing Green Infrastructure Master Plans for an Entire Site or Neighborhood, Webinar](#)
- [May 20 12 p.m. Harmful Algae Blooms, Aquatic Invasive Species & How You Can Help, Webinar](#)
- [May 22, 10 a.m. - 12p.m. Using Green Infrastructure to Promote Climate Resilience, Webinar](#)

Sustainable Jersey Extends Deadlines & Offers Technical Guidance

The deadline for Sustainable Jersey certification has been changed from May 17 to June 14. Municipalities with certifications set to expire on December 31, 2020 will be extended to December 31, 2021. View the presentation from Sustainable Jersey's webinar which outlined the [revised certification deadlines](#).

Sustainable Jersey is also providing technical assistance to local governments using online communication tools. Sustainable Jersey will match tech-savvy volunteers and staff with local governments to help them select the best tools for engaging with the public online, holding virtual meetings and more. Requests can be submitted by completing the form [here](#). If you are tech-savvy and would like to volunteer to assist with these requests, sign up [here](#).

Nature Activities to Keep You Going

Are you homeschooling children or perhaps looking to experience nature right from your desktop or home? We can find comfort in nature right from our homes by looking out a window, or spending time in our own yards. Check out resources below.

Activities for Children and Families

[NJ Sea Grant Sea Creatures in Your Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt](#). Check NJ Sea Grant's website for the animal of week, draw a picture and include a fun fact. Hang the artwork in your window to share with neighbors passing by safely.

Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (ANJEE) is offering a [Remote Environmental Education Hub](#). Access lessons and activities geared for all age levels, even adults. ANJEE is seeking additional resources to include on this page. Fill out this [submission form](#) to contribute resources and lesson ideas. Check back to the Remote EE Hub as it grows.

Visit the [Duke Farms Distance Learning Portal](#) for educational activities you can do right from your backyard. Observe sights and sounds of nature while playing [Backyard Scavenger Hunt](#) or take time to enjoy all of the colors of spring with [Color Matching in Nature](#). Duke

Farms plans to hold online classes and programs through Zoom and will periodically update the Distance Learning Portal.

Explore Yellow Stone National Park on a virtual tour. Browse for photos, facts, or watch a live webcam of [Old Faithful](#). Additional National Park Services webcams can be found [here](#).

Activities for Bird Lovers

Below: Two eagle chicks in early March, just days after hatching. Watch the Eagle Cam to see them grow. Source: Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey.



Whether you are a birding enthusiast or new to the world of birds, you can create a free [eBird](#) account with Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Use eBird to document the birds you see in your own backyard. eBird is a citizen science database. Data is archived by Cornell University and used in peer reviewed journals.

If you can't see any birds out of your window, watch them online. [Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey](#) manages several cameras on raptor nests throughout the State. The [Duke Farms Eagle Cam](#) shows a live video of an active bald eagle nest at Duke Farms in Hillsborough. Throughout the day you can watch two eagle chicks grow in this large nest and spot the adults tending to their young. To learn more about local eagles, visit the [Eagle Trax](#) page. This map shows the locations of bald eagles from around the state equipped with GPS tracking devices. View Conserve Wildlife Foundation's live [Osprey Cam](#) on a nesting platform near Barnegat Light. Ospreys are migratory species and typically return to the same nest each spring to mate with the same partner. By using the footage to observe markings and identification bands, Conserve Wildlife Foundation scientists are able to confirm that the female at the nest is the same as last year, but she now has a new mate! Stay tuned to find out when she will lay an egg!

Get Outside and Garden

Being home and avoiding the stores except for trips for essentials may serve as a reminder that many of us have the ability to grow our own fruits and vegetables. This time of year we can begin growing cool season vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, peas, carrots and radishes. In the summer it's easy to grow successful tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, cucumbers, herbs and more. Fruits like raspberries, blueberries, and strawberries are also easy to grow from home. If you don't have the room for a large garden, you can plant some species in pots on porches, patios, and balconies.

For help getting started, access Rutgers Agriculture Experiment Station publications on [vegetable and herb gardening](#), [lawns](#), [trees shrubs and flowers](#), and [all gardening and landscaping](#). While the Monmouth County Agricultural building is closed to the public, the Master Gardener helpline remains open for all gardening questions at 732-303-7614, or you may email questions with photos to mgarden@co.monmouth.nj.us. The Annual Master Gardener's Spring Garden Plant Sale scheduled for May 15-16 has been cancelled but is planned to resume next May.

Plan Your Jersey Friendly Yard



Native plants like liatris and echinacea bloom in this Jersey Friendly Yard. Source: Ocean County Soil Conservation District

Learn how you can transform your property into a [Jersey Friendly Yard](#). Use the [Interactive Yard Tool](#) to view an example of how a yard can be transformed into an area that is beneficial for the environment. The tool shows how you can remove invasive plants, replace areas of lawn with a diversity of native plants to provide habitat for insects and birds and reduce the use of fertilizer and water. Jersey Friendly Yards offers other guides on how to [sketch and plan your yard](#), [improve your soil](#) or learn about [native plants](#).

Explore the County Virtually

Under [Executive Order 108](#), all County Parks and State parks are closed to protect the health of citizens. However you can visit the [Monmouth County Park System website](#) to learn more about our parks and browse online resources for your enjoyment. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Park System. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Park System's journey. Read issues of the



[Green Heritage Newsletter](#) for seasonal updates and projects to try. Visit the [Nature Now](#) blog series for quick stories about wildlife and plants seen at County Parks or view the [Nature calendar](#) for information on wildlife activity this time of year.

The Monmouth County Division of Planning and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have prepared Cultural and Heritage Virtual Tours. Visit [here](#) to learn more about historic, natural and scenic sites that make Monmouth County unique.

Coastal Scientists Plan Retreat from Sea Level Rise

In a field facility perched on the Mullica River-Great Bay estuary, scientists from the [Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) (JC NERR) study coastal ecosystems and sea level rise. According to an [NJ Spotlight article](#), the building itself is proving to be vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise and scientists are beginning to plan their retreat.



The field station is already impacted by its location on the bay and climate change projections show conditions will worsen. During Superstorm Sandy, the building's wastewater infrastructure was ripped away and staff had to work without functioning restrooms. Climate change models suggest that severe storms are likely to occur more frequently and greater damage can be expected. With only one roadway connecting the building to the mainland and frequent flooding with the tides, workers must time when they can enter or leave to safely traverse the road before it is completely submerged. According to the JC NERR's [Updated 2018-2022 Management Plan](#), sea level rise and threatening tidal surges will continue to threaten the use of the building.

With projections on sea level rise climate change and first hand experiences in tow, JC NERR applied for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) planning grant to begin their plan of retreat. Regardless of whether JC NERR receives the funding for planning, JC NERR staff plan to move their work to their mainland building located in Tuckerton.

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

Stay Connected with Monmouth County, NJ:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Help](#)

Powered by



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Statement](#) | [Help](#)