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## Monmouth County Environmental Newsletter: Fall 2021

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### Monmouth County and NWS Earle Enter Shared Service Agreement to Increase Resilience

Monmouth County and Naval Weapons Station Earle entered a Shared Services Agreement for activities that minimize wildfire risk and increase stormwater capacity. The goal is to increase resilience at NWS Earle and the surrounding communities against extreme weather events and climate change. Read the [full press release](#).

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

- [Oct. 22, 9 - 5 p.m. 2021 New Jersey Complete Streets Summit, webinar](#)
- [Oct. 23, 9 a.m. Clean Ocean Action Fall Beach Sweep, various locations](#)
- [Oct. 24, 12 -5 p.m. Upper Freehold Historic Farmland Byway Tour Event](#)
- [Nov. 3 -5, Watershed Institute Watershed Conference, virtual and in-person](#)
- [Nov. 6, 2 p.m. Holly Forest Ramble, US Life Saving Station Parking Lot, Sandy Hook](#)
- [Nov. 10, 8 - 10 p.m. Monmouth County Audubon Society: Grassland Birds in a Dynamic Human Landscape, webinar](#)
- [Nov. 18, 7 -8 p.m. Nature Lecture Series: Woodpeckers of Monmouth County, Freneau Woods Park, Aberdeen](#)



- [Nov. 20, What to Know About Deer During Rutting Season, Sandy Hook Lighthouse Keepers Quarters, Building 84](#)

## Find Fun Fall Activities Using the Grown in Monmouth Directories

Be sure to enjoy all that Monmouth County offers this fall by visiting a Grown in Monmouth business. Take a trip to a local farm for apple and pumpkin picking, corn mazes and hay rides, or visit local wineries and breweries for a fun day with friends and family. To find places to visit, check out the [Fall Fun Activities directory](#).

## Plastic Pollution Reduction Act Goes into Effect this November with Straw Ban

According to the [Plastic Pollution Reduction Act](#), after Nov. 4, 2021 all food service businesses may only provide single-use plastic straws upon request. Other provisions of the law will take effect this spring. By May 2022, the law will prohibit all stores, including retail, food service businesses, and grocery stores, from selling or providing single-use plastic bags and styro-foam food containers. In addition, grocery stores larger than 2,500 square feet may not sell or provide single-use paper carryout bags.

To help businesses prepare for the law, State entities including the New Jersey Business Action Center created a [webpage](#) with resources, details about the law and FAQs. Businesses and individuals can easily request a list of [vendors](#) who sell alternatives to single use bags and styro-foam containers.



## Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps Are Back October 23, 2021

Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps will be held Oct. 23 from 9 -5 at dozens of locations along the coast. Learn more and register [here](#).

Each year, volunteers keep track of the trash they remove. Check out the [2020 Beach Sweeps Report](#) to learn about the pollution collected last year. Of the

185,221 items collected in 2020, 72.4% were plastic.

## Nature on the Move Vans, Bring the Parks to You!



The Monmouth County Park System's new Nature on the Move program allows naturalists to bring interactive programs straight to schools and community events. Groups can choose from three interactive themes: forest, pond or ocean. Click [here](#) to learn how you can bring the Parks to your next event using the Nature on the Move Vans.

### NJ Climate Change Alliance Workgroup Releases Organic Material Management Plan

The [New Jersey Climate Change Alliance Organics Workgroup](#) released its sustainable [Organic Material Management Plan](#). The plan addresses reducing food waste, food waste management in schools, community scale composting, large-scale composting and sustainable animal manure management.

### Millstone and Monmouth County Preserve 600 Acres of Open Space

In September, Millstone Township entered a shared services agreement with Monmouth County to preserve 600 acres of open space. The land, known as the Toms River Headwaters Project Area, was identified for preservation in the [2019 Monmouth County Open Space Plan](#). According to the Plan, the area has significant patches of Century Forest and forested wetland habitat.

## Continue the Fight Against Spotted Lanternflies by Checking for Egg Masses

Over the past few months, spotted lanternflies have been sighted in Monmouth County. Now that fall is underway, the adult insects are beginning to lay eggs. While the adult spotted lanternflies will not survive the winter, each egg mass will hatch in the spring with 30 to 50 nymphs for next year's population. The egg masses are one-inch blotches that resemble gray or tan wet or cracked mud. Egg masses are typically found on flat surfaces like tree bark, rocks, firewood, lumber, lawn furniture, boats, and cars.



The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is encouraging individuals to check vehicles and items before driving to new locations. If you find an egg mass, scrape it off into a plastic bag and throw it in the trash. Visit the [NJDA webpage](#) for more information.

## Sustainable Jersey Grant Applications Due November 5

**2021 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program**

Cycle Funded By: **GARDINIER ENVIRONMENTAL FUND**

**Energy Grant Applications**

**Friday, Nov 5**

**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFIED**

Once again, the Gardinier Environmental Fund is contributing \$150,000 to support a [Sustainable Jersey Grants Program cycle](#) for municipal governments and public school districts pursuing energy projects. [Applications](#) are due Nov. 5.

### Have You Been Impacted by Flooding?



If you live in an area impacted by flooding, or if you are concerned with flooding along the coast, have your thoughts heard with this [short survey](#). Your input will help the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and other organizations understand how the public perceives flooding.

### Experience the Upper Freehold Historic Farmland Byway



[Monmouth Conservation Foundation](#) and Cream Ridge Winery are hosting a self-guided interactive tour of the [Upper Freehold Historic Farmland Byway](#), on Oct. 24 from 12 to 5 p.m. Explore stops on the Byway such as [Historic Walnford](#), [Clayton Park](#), or the [Standardbred Retirement Foundation](#) then end the day at the Cream Ridge Winery for refreshments, live music, and local farm vendors. Learn more about the event and register [here](#). Check out the stops on the Upper Freehold Historic Farmland Byway by visiting the [Monmouth County's Cultural and Heritage Virtual Tours](#).

#### 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 County Commissions 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](mailto:Amber.Mallm@co.monmouth.nj.us)*



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