

A Hello and Invitation from the South Harrison Township Environmental Commission:

The South Harrison Township Environmental Commission (EC) has won a competitive grant through the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) via the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation to help fund an open space stewardship project. The first goal of this project is to introduce the EC and its members to the township residents who don't already know of the EC's existence. The second goal is to promote the preservation and establishment of greenways within the township and along the waterways. The third goal is to educate the citizens in the township as well as surrounding townships on the importance of proper care and stewardship of the streams within the township, especially Oldman's Creek and Harrison Lake and its watershed due to its special importance to rare and endangered species. The third goal's education emphasis is directed toward the landholders with properties on or close to the streams in the township but all residents are living on one of the watersheds in the township.

To help accomplish these goals EC has partnered with the South Jersey Land and Water Trust (SJLWT) who will be providing educational and technical resources to further the EC's goals since many of our goals are similar. This partnership is a win win situation for the EC and the SJLWT as well as the citizens and landholders in South Harrison Township. The EC will be holding a number of FREE events to reach out to township residents (**list them by date when available**) and we invite anyone who is interested in having a good time while learning about the importance of their environment and how we all can take better care of it.

We encourage you to read the articles in this newsletter on streamside forest buffers, why the Oldman's creek and watershed are important resources and the introduction to land preservation options and contact us and or the SJLWT about any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to talking to and hearing the opinions of more of the township residents than ever before.

Sincerely;

Dr. Jonathan Roth
EC Chair

What is a Greenway?

Imagine a group of rare or endangered turtles (to make it simple) that are living in an undeveloped area and from one generation to the next they lay there eggs in a sandy field, breed, eat, and overwinter in and around a stream in the area and take shelter and graze during the rest of the time in the wooded areas. Then the area is developed and suddenly they have to cross two roads to travel between the stream and the sandy field and woods. Also, they now have to traverse many back yards full of turtle collecting children and turtle eating dogs. The loss of wooded area that made those back yards makes it more

difficult for them to find proper nutrition or shelter. Their chances of surviving through the next few generations have now been dramatically reduced. Then a median wall is placed on one of the roads ensuring they will not see another generation. This is a common scenario for many species of plant and animal when an area is developed.

Greenways are undeveloped corridors or pathways for travel that allow flora and fauna to survive and thrive from one generation to the next. The animals, insects, and birds carry the seeds and pollen of natural plants to other areas and the animals themselves can access more feeding grounds and get more breeding opportunities with other groups that are not genetically so closely related to their local family group making each generation stronger and healthier. If a developed or developing township preserves or re-establishes greenways to provide habitat and travel corridors for the living natural resources in the area it can make the overall environment in the township healthier. Ideally these preserved or re-established greenways link to surrounding townships that have also done the same allowing for even greater opportunity for preservation of health and well being.

Waterways are ideal areas to establish greenways since water is so essential for all living things. To be healthy all waterways should have a good streamside buffer of forested area on either side (see article on Streamside Forest Buffers for an explanation of why). The health of the waterway can directly impact the living species in the area and indirectly affect the health of the people and crops since the water in the watershed and stream eventually becomes the well water that someone will be using and the insects that can effect health issues and crops are often kept under control by the population of animals and birds living in those streamside buffers. By promoting these greenways we thereby assure a healthier environment for all the living things in the area including ourselves.

To see a map of the vision of the proposed greenways in South Harrison Township go to the townships web site and look at page 156 of the OSRP which can be downloaded from the environmental commission's web area. To see a map of the vision of the proposed greenways in the entire Delaware valley region look under the reference area of the EC's web site and click on the DVRPC greenways vision for the Delaware valley map.