



Union Township Environmental Commission Newsletter

Issue 11/2008



A newsletter to help keep Union Township residents informed about community issues, events and their municipal government

New Recycling Program Aims To Increase Participation, Cut Costs

The New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act has set a goal for all businesses, institutions and residents in the state to recycle 50% of their solid waste stream. In an effort to boost recycling participation within Union Township, two important improvements have been made at the Recycling Depot behind the Municipal Building on Perryville Road.



Single Stream Collection: All recyclables will now be combined in one container at the Recycling Depot. It is no longer necessary to separate materials – all colors of glass, aluminum, tin, #1 through #7 plastics, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, and cardboard can be commingled in your recycling container. Newspapers should be bundled when possible and cardboard should be broken down. Household batteries must still be separated.

Open Every Saturday: As of November 1, 2008, the Recycling Depot will be open every

Saturday from 8:00AM until 12:00 pm, with the exception of holiday weekends and in inclement weather. There is no longer a need to check your calendar before heading out to recycle!

Keep in mind that several solid waste transporters in our community, including Raritan Valley Disposal, Smith Brothers Sanitation Service, and Waste Management offer curbside recycling within Union Township. This can be a convenient alternative to bringing your recycling to the Depot.

Please note: these changes do not affect the Union Township bulk dumpster behind the Historic society Building on Main Street, which will continue its current schedule of the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month.

Practice the “3 R’s” Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Praise For Union Township’s Newsletter

The Union Township Environmental Commission (UTEC) Newsletter is famous! Earlier this year, representatives of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions made a presentation at a UTEC meeting and had an opportunity to read our Spring, 2008 newsletter. They liked what they saw, and had this to say about our newsletter in the Summer, 2008 ANJEC Report:

“The Union Township Environmental Commission...combined the newsletter with the annual township offices’ phone directory. The 20-page information –packed publication covers recycling, local songbird sightings, recreational trails, a study of Sidney Brook, the impact of impervious surfaces, idling, septic management and articles by the Historical Society, the Zoning Officer, Fire Department and Tax Collector.

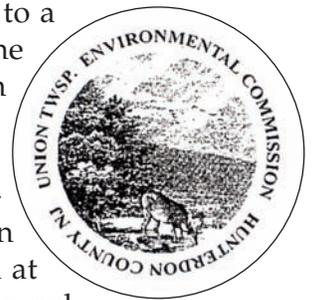
Volunteers provided the design and layout, and donations covered the printing and mailing costs. The Commission also sold advertising with proceeds benefiting the town’s Open Space Fund. By bringing together the efforts of so many, the newsletter conveys a sense of solidarity and shared purpose.”

News From UTEC (Union Township Environmental Commission)

Welcome to the Fall, 2008 edition of the Union Township Environmental Commission newsletter. In this column, we'll review three of the projects we have been working on recently, and give you a glimpse of what we might be working on in the future.

Our Property Stewardship Subcommittee, created earlier this year, has been busy inspecting township-owned properties and formulating recommendations for their long-term use. Property Stewardship is comprised of four UTEC members, four citizen members and a Planning Board member. With Property Stewardship oversight, significant structural repairs have been made at the Hoffman House, in addition to the removal of overgrown landscaping. An RFP (Request for Proposal) is being prepared in hopes of establishing a long-term tenant who can rehab the property. An additional RFP will be developed for the barns at the northern end of Hoffman Park. At the Douglass Farm, which was purchased by the Township in 2000 to prevent development of prime farmland, efforts are underway to permanently preserve the property. The Township will consider auctioning the Douglass Farm after preservation is complete. Proceeds from an auction sale would be used to pay down open space debt, with a portion going towards new farmland preservation efforts. At the Milligan Farms property, the Stewardship group is considering long-term options for the farmhouse, barns and preserved open space.

The Sidney Brook 319H grant project continues. We are fortunate to have such high-quality streams in Union Township. In April 2003, Sidney Brook was the second stream in Union Township to be designated a DEP Category 1 stream due to its exceptional water quality and the presence of state-threatened wood turtles and bog turtle habitat. In May 2007, the DEP proposed to upgrade Sidney Brook to a "trout maintenance" stream because there was evidence that trout live and breed here! The 319H grant will measure and establish baseline conditions for this stream against which future measurements can be compared, so that fifty years down the road, the stream will be as clean as it is today. There are two parts to this project. The first part is a "visual assessment", where trained environmental scientists walk the stream and record visual observations of the ecological habitat. This phase was completed and a public presentation was given this October. Phase 2 is now in process, and involves recording actual data at specified intervals- temperature, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, pathogens, pollutants, invertebrates, and vertebrates (fish). At the completion of Phase 2, scheduled for this summer, another public meeting will be held to review the results and recommendations. We thank all the landowners who gave us permission to access this stream for this project.



The Road Noise Subcommittee is trying to reduce some of the highway noise that keeps us awake at night. We have two members from UTEC, as well as members from Union Township, Bethlehem Township, Clinton Township and Clinton Town. One source of this noise is unmuffled truck engine braking. We found that truck owners who illegally remove their mufflers are responsible for causing this extremely loud "engine braking" noise. We are now leading an effort to establish a new state rule banning unmuffled engine braking. A second reason for the noise is the severely deteriorated condition of the road surface on Route 78. We have successfully worked with the County and the NJTPA to advocate for repaving I-78 sooner than originally planned, using a special "low-noise asphalt" that will reduce overall tire-to-road noise by 3-7 dB. Repaving is finally in progress, and will be completed by next summer!

There are many other projects we are considering for the future. One is to gather all the various environmental easements into one central location to allow review and periodic monitoring. Another is to update our Open Space and Environmental Resource Inventory plans.

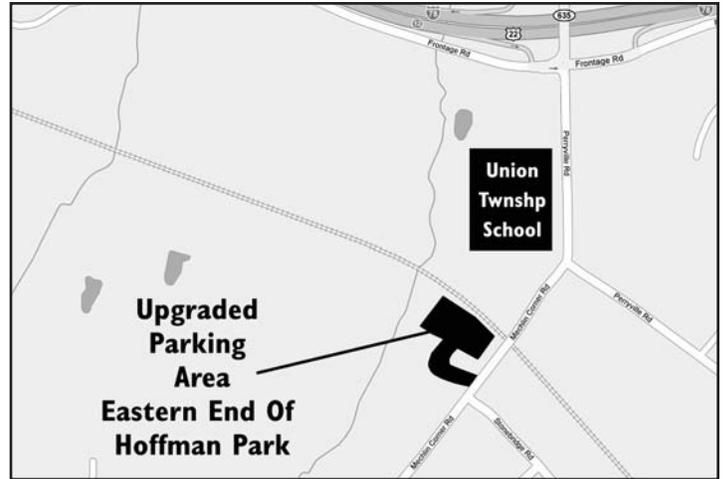
If you are a team player with a passion for the environment and for public service, and are willing to help out on challenging environmental projects such as the ones mentioned in this column, please contact any member of the Environmental Commission. Or come and visit us at our monthly meetings at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of every month.

Bill Harclerode, Union Township Environmental Commission Chair

The "Other End" of Hoffman Park

Many Union Township residents enjoy going to Hoffman Park. Most go to the western end of the park, off Baptist Church Road. Fewer seem to visit the eastern end off Rt. 625 (Mechlin Corner Road). An upgraded parking lot has made this end of the park more accessible and visitors are in for a real treat.

Lehigh Avenue is a gravel road off the edge of the new parking lot that connects the eastern and western ends of the park. It offers a magnificent walk that exposes all the beauty of the park. After walking over a concrete bridge you can see the Mulhockaway Creek restoration project that has dramatically reduced erosion of the creek bank as it winds its way towards Spruce Run Reservoir. After the bridge Lehigh Avenue opens up into a scenic collection of fields, and densely wooded areas. Streams, small ponds, and a magnificent larger pond border the road. Various trails and secondary roads intersect the Avenue along it's .8 mile length. Lehigh Avenue connects with a network of roads, ponds and trails at western edge of the park. Hiking, biking, fishing, and wildlife viewing are available for the entire family. Deer hunting is possible with a park permit from September through February, except on Sundays. Non-hunters should wear blaze orange clothing on Monday - Saturday during these months.



A new parking lot off Rt 625 (Mechlin's Corner Road) has made the eastern end of the park more accessible.



The Hoffman Park Stream Restoration Project is visible from the new bridge that spans Mulhockaway Creek.



"Lehigh Avenue" is full of wonderful surprises including this beautiful pond



"Lehigh Avenue" is a .8 mile long gravel road that connects the east and west ends of the park.

New Agricultural Advisory Committee Is Formed

The Township Committee voted to form an Agricultural Advisory Committee at their October 1, 2008 meeting. The Agriculture Advisory Committee will provide assistance to township officials on farm-related matters and encourage farmland owners and operators to commit to longer term farming within the township. By providing a voice for the farming community, the "Ag Committee" will help to preserve the rural character and fabric of the township. The members of the Committee are Paige DiRoberto (Chair), Michael Mathews, Scott Eichlin and Brian Kirkpatrick. The Ag Advisory Committee is in the process of applying for a Municipal Planning Incentive Grant that will bring funding into the township to purchase easements for farmland preservation. The group is hoping to have the grant awarded in early spring of 2009.

Hazardous Waste Clean-up Day

When: Saturday, March 14, 2009 (Tentative)
Where: Hunterdon County Complex,
314 State Route 12 East, Flemington
Hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm

For more info: call 908-788-1110 or visit
<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/miscinfo/cleanup.htm>

Electronics Collection Day

When: Saturday, March 28, 2009
(Tentative)
Where: Hunterdon County Complex,
314 State Route 12 East, Flemington
Hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm

For more info: call 908-788-1110 or visit
<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/swr/specialcleanup.htm>

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About This Newsletter

Union Township, like all municipalities in New Jersey, is required to provide information to residents on environmental subjects including stormwater management, recycling, and the Sidney Brook 319 grant. This newsletter fulfills that requirement. It was designed and written by township volunteers. Printing and mailing costs were covered, in part, by advertising revenues. Please support these generous local businesses. If you are interested in advertising in our Spring, 2009 newsletter, contact us at UTECC@uniontwp-hcnj.org.

Our Road Department Is Ready For Winter

Winter will soon be here, and the Union Township Road Department is ready for the snow and ice. Whether 2" or 20" of snow falls, the Department is prepared and ready to go. Each storm presents its own set of problems, so please give the men time to clear before venturing out. If you have to go out before the roads are cleared, please do not follow the plow truck too closely or try to pass it.

When clearing your driveway, please do not place the snow on the road as this is dangerous to motorists and violates township ordinance. Parking on streets and roads is not permitted during snowstorms. Also, try not to place your trash can in the roadway during snowstorms. The roads will be safer with all residents doing their part this winter.

By ordinance, placement of sticks, leaves and other debris on public streets and right of way is prohibited in Union Township. Placement of yard waste and debris on or near the roads can clog drainage pipes, causing flooding of roads and neighboring properties. It also impedes municipal and county personnel from plowing and maintaining the roads, in addition to creating traffic problems.

HELPFUL SNOW PLOWING / SHOVELING INFORMATION

1. Our crews do not intentionally plow in your driveway. In most storm events we make several passes to open up the street and come back later to clean to the curb or edge of road. If possible, delay the cleaning of the end of your driveway until the plows have completely cleared your street.
2. When shoveling or plowing your driveways place the snow to the right as you face the road from your home. Our plows come from the left and any snow placed to the left of your driveway will be pushed across the front of your driveway as the plows pass.
3. Do not park cars on municipal roadways when snow is in the forecast. Township Ordinance prohibits parking cars on roadways when roads are snow covered. Cars left on the roadway force plows to maneuver around them, slowing down plow operations and resulting in piles of snow being left on the roadway.



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Good Earthkeeping

Enjoy Catching The Rain

Take pleasure in your garden and satisfaction in knowing that you have helped protect and preserve water in your area

Rain gardens, or bioretention areas, are specifically designed to soak up rain or snow melt water from roofs, driveways or lawns. They offer an easy way for homeowners or businesses to help reduce stormwater runoff, erosion and water pollution, by letting water infiltrate the soils, recharging our groundwater supplies.

Rain gardens act as basins, dug deep enough to set below the existing grade so that they retain rain water and let it slowly filter into the ground, rather than running off to storm drains, and quickly downstream. The gardens allow about 30 percent more water to soak in than a lawn would.

The filtering action of the soil improves water quality. Normally, as stormwater washes over the land it picks up pollutants like pesticides, fertilizers, sediment, engine oil and other petrochemicals. The rain garden slows the water down, giving the pollutants a chance to settle or be filtered out, before the water reaches our groundwater and/or drinking water supplies. An added bonus is that

flowers and shrubs of the rain garden can add beauty to the yard and can offer food and shelter for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

Planning Is Important

With little planning, homeowners, condominium associations or commercial and retail centers can install rain gardens relatively inexpensively, especially if they do the digging and planting themselves. To choose a spot, survey your property to see where water collects and flows after a heavy rain. It may be an area near a downspout, and it might be showing signs of erosion or puddles after it rains.

The area should be flat or moderately sloped. The garden should be at least 10 feet away from the house to keep water from running into the basement. Avoid areas over a septic system.

Be sure there are no underground utilities in the area. At least 3 days before you dig, call New Jersey One Call

Residential bioretention system in Gloucester county. From Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Courtesy of Rutgers



by dialing 811 to find out the location of buried electrical wires and gas mains. The service will mark the location of any underground utilities. Check also to see if you need a permit. Probably, this is not necessary, but your town may require one if the garden is within the setback line, near your neighbor's property or the street.

The garden should receive full or partial sunlight so that its plants will grow successfully. Full sun will allow for a wide variety of plants, although many plants may require some shade.

Planning

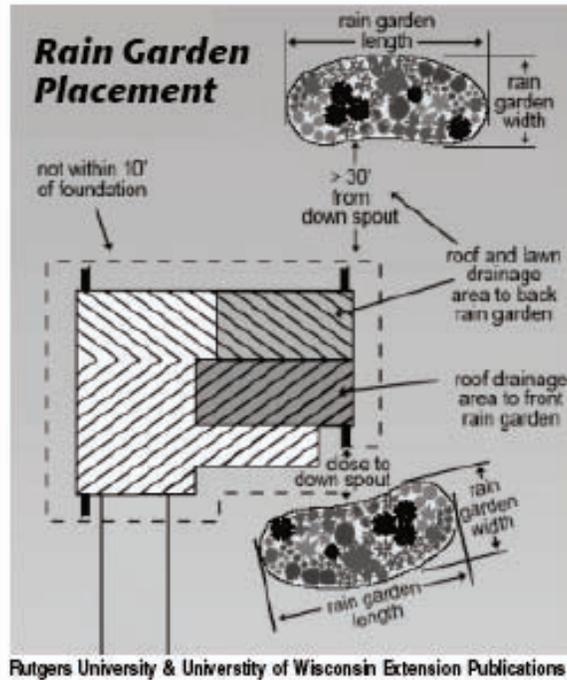
The size will depend on how much water the garden must handle and how well the soils can absorb it. Measure the size of the area that will drain into it. The area producing the runoff might be a roof, driveway, sidewalk or other impervious surface. A rain garden should be able to retain 1.25 inches of rain falling in two hours. So if you garden will receive runoff from a 1,000 square foot roof, it should be able to handle 100 cubic feet of water. (1.25 inches equals 0.104 feet, and 1,000 square feet multiplied by 0.104 feet equals about 100 cubic feet.) By this formula a garden that is 10 feet square by 1 foot deep would be able to treat most of the annual runoff from this roof. If you don't have that large an area for the garden, you will need to dig it deeper, so that it can handle the volume of water generated by the drainage area.

The site's type of soils will also affect how large the garden must be. The soils must provide good drainage. To check the drainage, dig a hole 8 inches deep and fill it with water. After it has drained, fill it again and check to see if the water has drains out within a few hours. If not, choose a different site or add soil amendments like sand or compost to improve infiltration.

Digging

Rain gardens are typically 4 to 8 inches deep. On a slope, more digging will be needed on the uphill

side. Use the removed soil to build a berm on the downhill side. The bottom of the garden must be flat and level so that the water will not puddle up on one part of the garden. The berm should also allow overflow for heavy rains to divert to a natural drainage area.



Plants

Use native plants, as they have adapted to local conditions and will not need fertilizers and pesticides. They also provide food and shelter for native birds and insects. Choose a variety of plants to have different heights, textures and bloom times. The plants should be able to tolerate both wet and dry conditions and should be suited to the amount of sun your garden will receive. Mulch your garden, water it immediately and continue watering it twice weekly until plants are established.

After that your garden will only need watering during dry, hot spells.

Maintenance

After the garden is established, it will need weeding, just like any other garden. In addition, plants may need trimming or mowing depending on the species. Sediment will probably build up over time and will need to be removed.

Additional Information

- Rain Garden Manual For New Jersey, Native Plant Society Of NJ, www.npsnj.org/
- Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station www.water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RainGardens.htm

C. Neary
Landscaping & Excavating

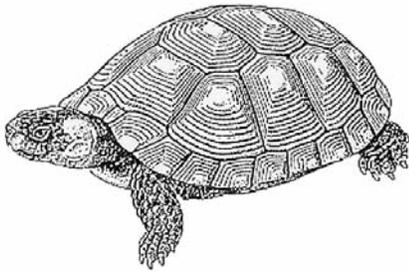
Chuck
cnearylandex@aol.com
908-627-3723 908-735-4058

Sidney Brook Assessment Update

Summary of the Sidney Brook Visual Assessment

By Christine Altomari, Princeton Hydro, LLC

Union Township has initiated a watershed Protection Project for Sidney Brook utilizing a grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Department Of Watershed Management. The project partners include the NJDEP, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, Union Township, Franklin Township, and Hunterdon County. Princeton Hydro is the subcontractor hired to complete the following tasks: perform a field assessment, stream monitoring, hydrology and pollutant monitoring, an evaluation of potential watershed mitigation measures, and conceptual designs for some of the recommended watershed projects. The initial step for this plan, the Visual Assessment (VA), was completed in June 2008. The stream monitoring is ongoing and a report summarizing the monitoring data may be available in the spring of 2009.



Sidney Brook provides habitat for the Bog Turtle. This species is listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

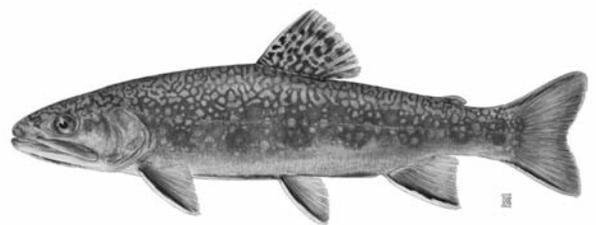
The Visual Assessment involves walking various segments of Sidney Brook to evaluate various criteria including but not limited to: obvious signs of impact to the stream, eroded streambanks, sediment loading, pollution sources, the health of the riparian corridor adjacent to the stream (forest cover), the health of the stream ecology and habitats, stormwater infrastructure, and areas of flooding.

Sidney Brook is designated by the NJDEP as a Category One (C1) Trout Maintenance stream. There is also protected wetland habitat for bog turtles, which are designated as federally endangered species and wood turtles, which are designated as threatened species in New Jersey. As a C1 stream, the

NJDEP restricts any future disturbance to the 300 foot stream buffer on either side of the stream (N.J.A.C. 7:9). Today, approximately 45% of the protected buffer is either farmed or impacted by roads and development, while 55% remains as healthy, intact forests and wetlands. The assessment identified over 11 miles of small headwater tributaries that were not previously mapped by the NJDEP. These small headwaters are also protected by the 300 foot buffer regulation.

Sixteen sites of eroded streambanks were identified along Sidney Brook, and downstream of some stormwater outfalls. The ridgeline along Cooks Cross Road is the top of the watershed and stormwater runoff from this road causes erosion along the downstream tributaries and at the outfalls. Flooding was also identified as a concern in this watershed and seven flood-prone areas were identified, primarily along Finn Road, Perryville Road, and Race Street. Evaluations of the stormwater basins were recommended in the Visual Assessment report.

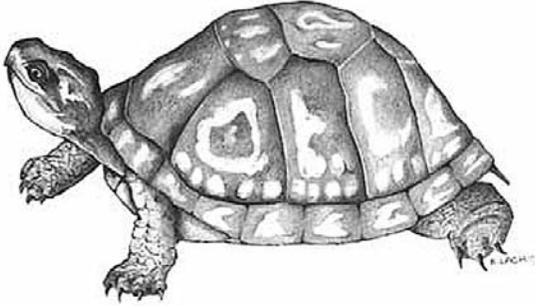
Viable trout streams are declining in New Jersey and along the East Coast. Trout are only present in 25% of the assessed streams in NJ. Storm runoff and sediment can increase turbidity in the stream, which affects fish and their habitats. Dams, road runoff and a lack of shade trees along a stream can elevate water temperatures, which stresses fish. High nutrient loadings from fertilizers, farms and failing septic systems can runoff into streams causing excessive algal blooms and reducing water quality to fish.



Sidney Brook provides habitat for the Eastern Brook Trout, a species that is in serious decline throughout much of the eastern United States.

Sidney Brook Assessment Update

To protect Sidney Brook and trout habitat, property owners can implement the following steps:



Sidney Brook provides habitat for the Wood Turtle. This species is listed as threatened by the New Jersey Department Of Environmental Protection.

- Stop mowing to the edge of streams or wetlands, and allow the natural vegetation to grow along the stream edge. These native plants provide shade for the stream and their roots stabilize the streambanks.
- Reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides along stream buffers.
- Keep livestock away from the streams.
- Improve septic maintenance by pumping out septic tanks at least every 3 years.
- Improve maintenance of stormwater basins, ponds and storm sewers.
- Support the efforts of the Town and State officials to protect this trout stream.

Copies of the visual assessment report are available to review through the Union Township Environmental Commission.

Note: The body text of this article was provided by Princeton Hydro. The pictures, and their captions were provided by the designer of the newsletter, and are not part of Princeton Hydro's report.

Want to Help? What would you like to do?

- Hike and study Union Township's streams, forests and grasslands?
- Manage and renovate historic structures?
- Plan new walking/ biking/ riding trails?
- Educate schools and groups on environmental issues?
- Write articles, press releases, meeting minutes?
- Maintain wildlife sanctuaries within the township?

UTEC needs volunteers with diverse skills. If you are interested, contact UTEC@uniontwp-hcnj.org. Still on the fence? Come to one of our meetings, regularly scheduled for the second Tuesday each month, to learn more.

Township of Union Announces "Codes Online"

Ella Ruta, Township Clerk, announced that the Union Township Code and Land Use Volume are now available on the Internet. Residents have unlimited electronic access to the codified ordinances.

Residents are invited to view the Township Code and Land Use Code online to enjoy the benefits offered by the latest in technology at <http://www.uniontwp-hcnj.org/index.asp?pgid=88>

South Branch Watershed Clean-Up Day is a Success

Union Township volunteers spent a beautiful spring morning cleaning up trash at Spruce Run Reservoir as part of the South Branch Watershed Association (SBWA)'s 18th Annual Stream Clean-up on 4-18-08. Pictured below are members of Cadette Girl Scout Troop 1037, Boy Scout Troop 200, parents of scouts, as well as members of the Township Committee and Environmental Commission.



According to the SBWA, over 4 tons of trash was removed from our local streams and surrounding land by over 800 volunteers in all. Interesting items collected at the 20 sites included a hubcap, shoe, license plate, pallet, vacuum cleaner, wood stove, water heater, bowling ball, skateboard, underwear, mattress, mop, toilet seat, plastic swimming pool, garbage can, and a bicycle.

To take part in the 2009 SBWA Clean-up event, contact the Union Township Environmental Commission at UTECE@uniontwp-hcnj.org or Nicole Rahman, SBWA Program Director, at 908-782-0422 ext 14.

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(908) 735-0591 (Fax)
www.uniontwp-hcnj.org

Township Directory

Animal Registrar	Ella Malecki-Ruta	735-8027, Ext 10
Auditor	Suplee, Clooney & Co.	
Attorney	Peter Jost	
Building Subcode Official	John W. Leonard	735-7551, Ext 17
Certified Finance Officer	Grace M. Brennan, CFO	735-9110, Ext 13
Clerk (Municipal) & Deputy Registrar	Ella Malecki-Ruta	735-8027, Ext 10
Construction Department Secretary	Darlene Beam	735-8027, Ext 16
Construction Official	John W. Leonard	735-7551, Ext 17
Dog Warden	Hunterdon Humane Animal Society	996-2525
Electrical Subcode Official	Kevin Fleming	735-7551
Emergency Mngmnt/911 Coordinator	Jeff Polenz	735-8027
Engineer	John D. Reymann, PE	
Environmental Commission Chair	William Harclerode	735-0932, Ext.21
Fire Official	Peter Ball	735-7551
Municipal Court Administrator	Katherine V Cupon	735-7855
Municipal Court Judge	Edward R. Martin	735-7855
Planner	Carl E. Hintz, P.P.	
Planning Board/Board of Adj. Secretary	Grace A. Kocher	735-8168, Ext 18
Road Department Foreman	Craig Herman	735-8027, Ext 10
Recycling Coordinator	Matt Severino	713-9104
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Darlene Beam	735-9372, Ext 16
Rescue Squad Captain	John Sadusky	735-9298
Subcode Fire Official	Peter Ball	735-7551
Tax Assessor	Robert Vance, CTA	735-9555, Ext 14
Tax Collector	John P. Earley, CTC	735-6980, Ext 11
Tax Search Officer	John P. Earley, CTC	735-6980, Ext 11
Treasurer	John P. Earley, CTC	735-6980, Ext 11
Welfare Director	Hunterdon County Div. of Social Services, 6 Gauntt Place, Flemington 08822	788-1300
Zoning Official	Richard McManus	735-8027, Ext 19 or 908-236-6371
Zoning Official (Deputy)	Orest Walchuck	

Township Office Hours

Clerk	Monday - Friday, 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Tax Collector	Monday - 7:00 am-5:00 pm, Tues & Thurs 7 am-5:00 pm, Wed 7 am-10:30 am
Tax Assessor	Tuesday / Thurs 2 pm - 4:30 pm
Zoning Official	Mon/Wed 1 pm - 5 pm
Building Department	Mon/Weds/Fri 7:30 am - 3 pm

Trash removal in the Township is by private contract. Recycling is mandatory. Recycling Depot is behind the municipal building and is open every Saturday from 8:00 to 12 noon. During snow / ice storms the recycling depot and dumpster will be closed. No leaves / brush can be picked up by the Township; residents are urged to recycle same on their property. Reminder - no parking on Township roads during snow and / or ice storms. Tree, Driveway and Lighting Ordinances in effect. Dead deer may be reported to the township Clerk. Dog and cat licenses are available on the township website and at the municipal building.

Township Committee (Elected)

Meetings - 1st and 3rd Wednesday of Each Month - 7 pm - Municipal Building

Mayor	Frank T. Mazza	908-730-8715	Term Expires 2011
Deputy Mayor	Patricia Dziubek	908-735-8875	Term Expires 2011
Committeeman	Matt Severino	908-713-9104	Term Expires 2009
Committeeman	Rob Haynes	908-735-0147	Term Expires 2010
Committeeman	William F. Bischoff, Jr.	908-638-5982	Term Expires 2009

Planning Board (Appointed)

Meetings - 4th Thursday of Each Month - 7 pm - Municipal Building
Workshops - 1st Tuesday Of Each Month - 7 pm - Municipal Building

Chairperson	Brian Kirkpatrick	Alternate 1	Albanus Ryland
Vice Chairperson	Alan Ford	Alternate 2	Vacancy
Class 1	Frank T. Mazza	Attorney	Mark S. Anderson
Class II	Orest Walchuk	Engineer	John Reymann, PE
Class III	William F. Bischoff, Jr.	Secretary	Grace Kocher
Class IV	Frank Taibi	Planner	Carl E. Hintz, P.P.
Class IV	Robert Badenhausen	Environmental Consultant	Stephen J. Sousa
Class IV	Joseph Martin	Hydrologist	Anthony Rana
Class IV	Kathleen Corcoran	Hydro Geologist	Vincent Uhl

Environmental Commission (Appointed)

Meetings - 2nd Tuesday of Each Month - 7 pm - Municipal Building

Chairperson - William Harclerode - 730-9268 Ext. 21			
Vice Chairperson - Michele McBride			
Secretary/Planning Board Rep.	Kathleen Corcoran	Citizen	John Wingler
Citizen Member	Sandra Stiger	Alternate 1	Chuck Neary
Citizen Member	Stephen Hurford	Alternate 2	Vacany

Recreation Committee

Meetings - 3rd Tuesday of Each Month -
7:30 pm Municipal Building (www.utrecreation.com)

Chairperson - Jack Hara - 713-1107	
Vice Chairperson - Jens Duerr	
<i>Members</i>	
Jim Teipel	Heidi Maroney
Kathy Harvey	Scott Eichlin
Russ Talamo	John Corcoran
Mary Beth Kastrud	Tom Brennan

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Chairperson - Paige DiRoberto	
pdiroberto@embarq	
<i>Members</i>	
Scott Eichlin	Michael Matthews
Brian Kirkpatrick	

Union Township Historic Preservation Committee

Historian - Joseph Martin - 735-7383	
Robert Everett	Susan M. Rochelle, Architect, AIA
Patricia Lingelbach	Douglas Martin

Private Organizations

Union Township Historical Society Of Hunterdon Patricia Lingelbach - President

Union Township Senior Citizens, Inc.

President - Audrey Bujnowski 806-6682

Fran LaTournous 735-5885

Recreation Committee Provides Year-Round Fun

The Union Township Recreation Committee is a group of local residents who coordinate and support various township recreation programs. The "Rec Committee" meets at 7:30 pm in the Union Township Municipal Building on the third Tuesday of each month. All residents are welcome to attend.

A wide variety of youth programs are available through the Township Recreation Department. Registration forms for each program are distributed during the appropriate sign up period through Union Township Elementary and Middle Schools; are available in the Municipal Building, and online at www.utrecreation.com. Registration is open to all residents of Union Township regardless of what school their children attend. If you have a neighbor or friend who does not attend one of the public schools, remind them they are still eligible to register.

All youth programs are dependent on volunteers to provide coordination and support. Anyone interested in participating on the committee should contact Jack Hara at 713-1107. The Recreation Committee also provides opportunities for children to complete various Service Project requirements.

The Union Township Recreation Committee provides youth program volunteers with an opportunity to attend, free of charge, the Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. certification clinic. This clinic, created by the Rutgers Youth Sports Research Council, helps coaches, parents, and administrators conduct safe, healthy, and enjoyable recreation programs for young athletes. In accordance with the stipulations of New Jersey's Little League Law, the 3-hour long Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic helps coaches minimize the risk of injury to young athletes, provides information about fundamental coaching concepts which enhances volunteer coaches' effectiveness, and protects volunteer coaches from civil lawsuits. Certification is permanent and is applicable across all youth programs.



Facilities for Union Township active recreation are provided at Finn Road Park, located approximately 1.5 miles SW from Union Township School. The park is open 365 days per year, from 9:00 until dusk. The park currently provides two little-league baseball/softball fields and one full-size baseball field, as well as three soccer fields, portable bathroom facilities, playground for young children, snack shack, and a new picnic pavilion.

Millbrook Park is also available for active recreation. It is located approximately 2.8 miles NW from Union Township School off exit 11 of Rt. 78W (behind the Busy Bee convenience store). The park currently provides a little league baseball/softball field and a full-size soccer field.



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Guidelines for Proper Disposal of Household Medication

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection



Over the counter and prescription medications should not be disposed down the drain because wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove pharmaceutical compounds and they may end up in your local waterways, and may eventually be found in drinking water. Properly disposing of unwanted and expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications in the trash promotes a healthy aquatic environment and prevents accidental poisoning and intentional abuse.

4 STEPS FOR PROPER DISPOSAL

- 1. Keep medicine in original container. Mark out personal information on prescription bottles.**
- 2. Mix liquid medicine with undesirable substances like coffee grinds, cat litter, or dirt. Dilute pills with water, then add coffee grinds, cat litter, or dirt.**
- 3. Place bottles in an opaque container, like a yogurt container, and secure lid; or wrap in a dark colored plastic bag.**
- 4. Hide the container in the trash. Do NOT recycle.**

Improper disposal in your trash allows others to divert the substance and consume medication that was not prescribed to them.

Step 1



Mark out personal information

Step 2



Mix with water and coffee grinds, cat litter, or dirt

Step 3



Place in opaque container

Step 4



Hide in the trash

Do NOT dispose of medication down the drain or toilet.

Prevent water pollution, Promote a healthy environment, Properly dispose of your unneeded and expired medication.

Do NOT keep excess or expired medication around the home.

For More Information Contact:
DEP Solid & Hazardous Waste Program
(609) 633-1418

For proper disposal of household sharps visit:
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/phss/syringe.pdf>

Or call 609-984-6620

Well Testing Date Set For Union Township Residents

The Union Township Environmental Commission and the South Branch Watershed Association are sponsoring a well testing day for Union Township residents in January, 2009. Residents can have their well water tested for commonly occurring bacteria and other contaminants. A basic test for coliform bacteria and nitrates costs \$50.00. Additional testing options are also available.

Test kits must be purchased in advance starting December 1, 2008 at the Union Township Municipal Building. No cash will be accepted - Checks ONLY! Kits must be delivered back to the Municipal Building with your sample on January 12, 2009 between 7am and 10am. Additional information about the tests and the procedures is available in the Township Clerk's office at the municipal building, or residents may call the South Branch Watershed Association at 908-782-0422 ext 10.

"Most people in our watershed rely on private wells for their drinking water and other household needs," according to Bill Kibler, the Executive Director of the Watershed Association. Wells, which draw water out of underground aquifers, may be susceptible to contamination that seeps in from the surface of the ground or that has infiltrated the aquifer itself. The proximity of a well to a septic system, or an area where animal waste is allowed to accumulate, increases the chances that the water may become contaminated. Shallow wells with little or no casing may be more susceptible to contamination than deeper cased wells. "There is no water utility company or public agency that is responsible for testing well water," says Kibler. "Private well owners are essentially on their own when it comes to monitoring their wells for contamination. Because of this, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that homeowners have their well water tested annually. The South Branch Watershed Association is here to help people test and protect their drinking water."

The Watershed Association is able to offer the testing at a reduced cost through an agreement it has with a state certified testing laboratory. The homeowner takes the water sample and returns it to the Township. The well testing kits contain easy to follow instructions and containers that are approved for use by the laboratory.

The mission of the South Branch Watershed Association is to preserve and enhance the water resources of the South Branch of the Raritan River and its watershed by means of community participation, local leadership, and innovation, in order to improve the health of the human and natural environments. Additional information about the Association and its other programs is available at the Association's website at www.sbwa.org.

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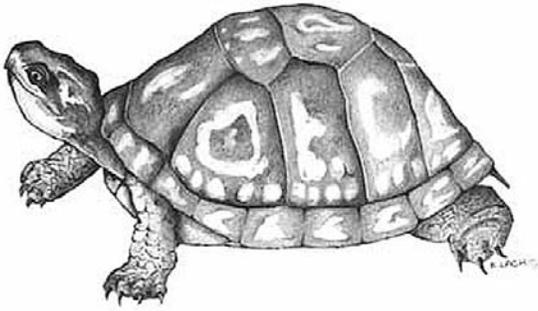
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Have You Seen This Threatened Turtle In Union Township?



The Wood Turtle is a threatened species in New Jersey and in much of its native habitat. Unlike other turtle species that favor either land or water, the wood turtle resides in both aquatic and terrestrial environments. Aquatic habitats are required for mating, feeding, and hibernation, while terrestrial habitats are used for egg laying and foraging. Freshwater streams, brooks, creeks, or rivers that are relatively remote provide the habitat. These tributaries are characteristically clean, free of litter and pollutants, and occur within undisturbed uplands such as fields, meadows, or forests. Because wood turtles commonly inhabit both aquatic and terrestrial environments, declines in their abundance can be attributed to both habitat loss and stream degradation¹. This species was listed as threatened in New Jersey in 1979 as a result of major decreases in its abundance and distribution in the state.

Union Township, with its abundance of clean streams, fields, meadows and woodlands, provides the ideal habitat for Wood Turtles. It is illegal to capture Wood Turtles. Dogs and cats can attack and harm the turtle, and racoons are their most deadly natural predator. On hot summer days the turtle will seek shade under low vegetation so watch your step if you are hiking.

1. <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensphome.htm>

Union Township Newsletter

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