

KEEP IT CLEAN
KEEP IT GREEN



NORTH BRUNSWICK
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION

**North Brunswick Township
Environmental Commission**

North Brunswick Goals for 2024

With the beginning of a new year, the Environmental Commission thought it would be good to set some goals for the year ahead. We would like to address some of the problems that affect North Brunswick's air, water and land.

Air:

Air pollution continues to be an issue that affects the world causing global warming, severe weather events and unhealthy air pollutants.

North Brunswick township has taken some positive steps in addressing air pollution including:

- New proposed train station
- Resolution to oppose the Clean Energy Ventures gas powered plant in Woodbridge

The Environmental Commission would like to see the following actions taken in the future:

- Enforcement of state anti-idling rules. Many residents warm up their cars in the morning before work for up to 20 minutes. School buses, police cars, crossing guards and other government employees often sit with their cars idling.

Water:

The North Brunswick Environmental Commission would like to see the following steps taken to reduce water pollution:

- Reduce or eliminate fertilizer and pesticide application. Both degrade water quality and harm a wide range of insects and other animals in the food chain.
- Update older sewer grates with ADA sewer grates to prevent leaves and other trash from entering sewer system. Many of the older grates have wide openings which allow a lot of debris to enter storm sewers and degrade surrounding lakes and streams.
- Use brine instead of rock salt when applying to roads in icy or snowy weather. Brine

uses a fraction of the amount of chlorides.

- Review cause of flooding at municipal center and look at ways to prevent in future.

Land:

The amount of undeveloped land in North Brunswick is dwindling.

Much of the new development being done is on property that has previously been built on. Often times the old houses or commercial buildings are knocked down and replaced with much larger buildings. It is also pretty common in some neighborhoods for property to be subdivided so additional houses can be built.

The consequences of larger buildings and more residential properties include:

- More traffic
- Impact to wild life
- More sewer runoff
- More air, water and land pollution

The Environmental Commission would like to see following changes made:

- Acquire undeveloped land whenever possible and preserve forested areas. Even small tracks of land are worth acquiring so as to maintain some natural habitat for plants and animals. North Brunswick is already built up enough. We would like to see growth of new building limited as much as possible.
- If land is developed, require that trees and other natural areas be preserved whenever possible. It is currently very common for all the trees to be leveled and the new property to be devoid of natural areas. Phase I and II and Amaranth is a prime example of this.
- The North Brunswick Environmental Commission believes the township should try to envision the type of town we would like to live in rather than to be subject to the plans that a developer comes up with which can often conflict with environmental sustainability and residents' priorities. To that end, the Environmental Commission believes the Master Plan should be updated to reflect the goals of the township.
- Reduce the amount of green lawns on public property. Lawns are not eco-friendly. They require lots of water, fertilizer and lawn care done with gas powered mowers and blowers. A monoculture lawn is the opposite of a biodiverse ecosystem. If the only thing you have in your yard is grass, the area is likely not attracting a lot of different insect species. There are many alternatives to green lawns which require far less resources.
- Plant more native trees and plants throughout town. The township has done a good job with recent planting of trees along Livingston Ave and assisting the

Environmental Commission with planting some trees at Pulda Farm.

- Increase participation in North Brunswick's recycling program by following:
 1. Provide free recycling containers to residents. Many residents have more than one trash can provided by township but no recycling containers.
 2. Address the problem of recycling and trash being comingled in many places of business including apartment complexes. The Manor Apartments is one example where the garbage and recycling dumpsters are both dumped into the same truck due to mixing of waste and recycling. A separate enclosed area should be set up for recycling.
- Stop the distribution of weekly advertising papers being thrown onto residence lawns. This results in unnecessary waste and litter when papers are not picked up.
- Litter is a major problem along roadways and parks. The Environmental Commission would like to see businesses be held accountable for keeping their properties litter free and would like to discuss more signage to discourage littering.

The North Brunswick Environmental Commission believes the township looks forward to working with the township in the year ahead to accomplish some of these goals. Every small measure we take today will improve our future.