



Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Belleville Twp, a Sustainable Jersey bronze certified applicant.

Belleville Twp was certified on September 16, 2024 with 175 points. Listed below is information regarding Belleville Twp’s Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant’s certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Belleville Twp is:

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Belleville Twp was approved for in 2024 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

Community Partnership & Outreach

Green Team

10 Points

Bronze Required

Program Summary: On May 28, 2024, the Mayor and Town Council of Belleville, NJ adopted a resolution reestablishing the Green Team through the designation of Green Belleville organization. The function of the Green Team will be for the purpose of pursuing Sustainable Jersey certification, funding and furthering sustainability in the Township of Belleville. The Green Team

was awarded "Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certification in 2020, 2022 and 2023" and through the Mayors Wellness Committee - Quality Care Institute was awarded "Healthy Town to Watch" designation in 2022 and 2023. The group's efforts are ongoing through Green Belleville. The Green Team is facilitating a number of city projects that align with Beautification and Sustainable Jersey's mission. Each project has established teams that are working together to design and implement action plans in order to achieve their mutual goals and objectives. The Team promotes ongoing community outreach in as many sustainable actions as we can, like waste reduction, recycling and solid waste management, energy efficiency, natural resource and water resource management, health, wellness and the environment, healthy lifestyles, arts and culture and other activities and projects that support the sustainable mission. The Green Team is working on actions already in progress and also added new actions including: hosting a green fair, facilitating a reusable bag and zero waste campaign, farmers market, community garden, water conservation and education, complete and green streets and bicycle and pedestrian safety. The residents and businesses of the Township of Belleville have been pleased with the Green Team and the projects we have completed so far... They follow our Facebook page for information on upcoming events and chances to volunteer.

PDF: [GREEN TEAM MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION MAY 2024](#)

WORD: [GREEN TEAM PROJECTS AND GOALS](#)

IMAGE: [GREEN TEAM AWARD PHOTO](#)

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE HERO - JULY 2023](#)

PDF: [2023 GREEN TEAM SUMMARY AND PHOTOS](#)

Community Education & Outreach

10 Points

Program Summary: The Township of Belleville with the help of the Municipal Green team and its volunteers continue to remain active in the community hosting events to residents and involving them whenever we can. The Municipal Green Team enjoys collaborating on ideas for additional Educational and Outreach Programs, the team has a strong partnership with the School District Green Team and other community organizations and promotes working together on sustainable initiatives. There are many projects and events that are geared to school aged children and families. We have a strong partnership with the High School Science club, garden club and art club and those students ask to be included in anything we are doing in the community. We researched new ideas by looking at national celebratory event days. Some of them include, Earth Day, Arbor Day, National Trails Day, Wetlands month, etc. And another way we came up with ideas was to search what current environmental concerns were right now and not part of another action. All of the programs on the attached In-Person Event sheets were developed and will be continuous. All were advertised through the Township web site, social media and flyers. We are submitting Three In-Person Events - we hope to acquire 15 points. - Rock Painting Art class - A rock painting activity as a way to add pretty community art from all ages to our garden. = 5 points Rock Painting classes are continuous throughout the year with different themes ranging from health and wellness, the environment and more... - How to Plant a Tree and Tree Giveaway - DPW and Green Team hosted an informative event on how to plant and care for a tree. = 5 points - Pollinator Garden Tour and Native Plant Giveaway - a lecture and tour about native plants that attract pollinators and their importance. = 5 points We will continue to develop these programs for years to come and teaching our children and residents about a healthy and sustainable ecosystem.

WORD: [COMMUNITY EDUCATION - ROCK PAINTING ART](#)

WORD: [COMMUNITY EDUCATION - HOW TO PLANT A TREE AND TREE GIVEAWAY](#)

WORD: [POLLINATOR GARDEN TOUR AND NATIVE PLANT GIVEAWAY](#)

Green Fair

10 Points

Program Summary: The Township of Belleville Municipal Green Team and The School District Green Team continue to collaborate for the annual “GREEN FAIR”. Last year’s event was held Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 11-2:00pm. Planning for the event included organizing staff and volunteers, vendor lists and set-up and clean up. Green Team t-shirts were purchased for volunteers; and giveaways for the attendees included Green Team reusable water bottles and insulated lunch bags to continue to promote reusable items and other ways for people to be less wasteful. The focus of this event was to provide information to our community about the environment and sustainability. By making a few small changes to the way we go about our daily lives we can have a positive effect on the environment and our ecological footprint. To do this our goal was to educate residents on as many topics as we could, such as, solid waste, recycling, composting, energy saving, water conservation, watersheds, pollution, native plants, pollinators, healthy habits, healthy eating, exercising, etc. We asked all of our vendors to either please provide information, a giveaway or interact with participants through a hands-on activity. The event was promoted with flyers, social media posts, and robo calls. The announcement was posted on both the Township and Board of Education Website, Facebook pages and Twitter. Flyers were sent home with all 4,500 students. (flyers are uploaded) We had environmental and educational activities, music, live animals presentations, a magic show, a Multicultural Performance which included storytelling through Native American songs, we had tours and plenty of vendors and exhibitors. Many exhibitors enjoy our Green Fair saying that our event is so much fun and have already committed to our mission! Approximately 1,800 people attended throughout the day.

WORD: [BELLEVILLE GREEN FAIR ACTION SUBMISSION TEMPLATE](#)

PDF: [GREEN FAIR FLYERS AND POSTS](#)

PDF: [GREEN TEAM SUCCESS PAGE AND PHOTOS 2022-2023](#)

PDF: [2023 JULY SUSTAINABLE HERO](#)

PDF: [2023 GREEN FAIR PICTURES - TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE](#)

Food

Community Gardens

20 Points

Program Summary: The Township of Belleville Community Garden has been in operation since 2021 and is managed by the Community Garden Advisory Board. All information can be found on the Township website and Facebook pages. There is a Green Team Facebook page and Community Garden Facebook page. The application, gardening tips and rules can be found on the Township website. The Garden Advisory board routinely meets at the garden with the plot owners and volunteers who will be maintaining the areas around the plots and assisting with other chores throughout the season. Many of the plots are rented by residents. We use environmentally friendly gardening methods, no herbicides or pesticides. The areas around the beds are weeded by hand and the debris is composted on site. The compost and organic matter is reused in the

plant beds adding nutrients and eliminating the need for commercial fertilizers which are harmful to the local watershed. There are a couple of plots that are reserved for food bank donations. Produce is harvested and weighed and brought to the local food bank located at Wesley Church. The Township was recently awarded a DEP Green Acres grant to expand the garden and add a small area for farming. this will enable us to grow more vegetables and provide more donations to the food pantry. We are currently looking for other locations in town to serve local neighborhoods throughout Belleville. Belleville has a high population of renters, condominium and townhouse residents. These residents do not have a backyard so providing them a place to garden is beneficial. Attached are current articles, facebook posts and photos of this project.

WORD: [COMMUNITY GARDEN SUBMISSION QUESTIONNAIRE 2024](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITY GARDEN FACEBOOK PAGE AND PHOTOS](#)

WORD: [COMMUNITY GARDEN MINUTES 2023](#)

Health & Wellness

Building Healthier Communities

25 Points

Program Summary: Township of Belleville – Mayors Wellness Committee and Mayors Wellness Campaign information – Mayor Michael Melham took the Mayors Participation Pledge for the Mayors Health and Wellness Campaign on October 5, 2023 – and the Township was awarded the “Healthy Town to Watch” Designation. The MWC meets quarterly, but during the pandemic we met monthly to discuss programming and events that provide information to residents and our schools that include: health education and screenings, exercise opportunities, healthy lifestyle choices, health news and disease prevention. Our goal was to use the Mayors Wellness Campaign and information provided by the NJ Health Care Quality Institute to improve the quality of life for all individuals in the Township of Belleville. The team also utilizes the Community Health Needs Assessment report 2019 from the CMMC. Through our community partnerships, we support programs and actions dedicated to health, nutrition, recreation and physical activity for all ages. It is important to note that during the pandemic Township of Belleville was affected disproportionately exacerbating societal issues in a community that was already economically challenged. The Township of Belleville has a large amount of low income families and seniors. Belleville also has barriers in the forms of language, culture, transportation and open space or parks. For the Township of Belleville COVID-19 may have highlighted these disparities, but the problems are not new. The lack of community resources in the form of funds, grants or programs are some of the reasons for poverty and food insecurity. (It was notable that if we could have reduced these inequalities in the physical environment or provide access to healthy foods, parks, and transportation we could meet numerous health objectives as outlined in the "Healthy People 2020: Social Determinants of Health". Some of these health objectives were also emphasized in the "CMMC Report from 2019" narrowing a combined list of health issues for Essex County which include: obesity, diabetes and prenatal care making the top three out of the eleven issues which include: obesity, mental health, access to care, geriatric care, diabetes, prenatal care, language, substance abuse, heart disease, transportation and cancer.) This CMMC report is not conclusive for the Township of Belleville and we are seeking Technical Assistance to facilitate our own broader study of a Community Health Assessment. We recently applied for the SJ technical assistance grant and were one of the top three submissions. We are currently collaborating with SJ and another opportunity for assistance through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

PDF: [PLEDGE OF PARTICIPATION 2023](#)

WORD: [MWC APPLICATION 2023](#)

PDF: [TWP OF BELLEVILLE HEALTH DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE](#)

PDF: [MWC EVENTS](#)

PDF: [MWC PRESS RELEASE 2024](#)

Safe Routes to School

10 Points

Program Summary: The Township of Belleville is certified GOLD Level for the NJ Safe Routes to School program 2024 - <https://www.saferoutesnj.org/current-safe-routes-to-school-recognition-program-winners/> The Township of Belleville and Belleville Public School District supports active transportation, including walking and bicycling, to and from school as long as students live within walking distance and there are adequate facilities. This allows students to engage in physical activity, which reduces the risk of obesity and related chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and cancer. Physical activity also improves mental health, attendance, and academic performance. Further, replacing automobile trips with active commutes reduces one's carbon footprint and decreases traffic congestion and air pollution, which is of particular benefit to students with asthma. Fewer automobile trips also reduce the risk of injury to students from collisions with motor vehicles. Safe Routes to School Program Committee: The committee meets regularly to discuss programs and public outreach educating parents and motorists about school traffic congestion and safety. Common topics are about traffic issues and enforcement in the areas of our schools, student education on walking or biking to school, pedestrian safety, health and the environment and funding. Our partnership includes the Township of Belleville, Belleville Public Schools and EZ Ride The Township of Belleville and the Belleville School District are partners with EZ Ride. EZ ride assists our committee with coordinating the implementation of the SRTS program which encourages biking and walking that can help to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. The Township is also part of several programs overlapping with goals and objectives and members of our committee. The programs include: • Sustainable Jersey, Bronze Certified • Safe Routes to School – Township of Belleville Gold certified • Elementary Schools 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and High School - Gold certified and • Middle School - Silver certified • Mayors Health and Wellness Campaign, NJ Health Care Quality Institute – certified Healthy Town to Watch • AARP Livable Communities Programs In the past, we have demonstrated our commitment to the NJ Safe Routes to Schools program by meeting the following criteria for the SRTS Gold award: - Having a SRTS Champion to support the program - Bronze: Having two Learn to Ride classes on April 22, 2023 - Having a Rodeo on April 22, 2023 - Silver: Having a community ride on April 22, 2023 - Having a community ride on June 3, 2023 - Participating in School Green Fair on September 16, 2023 - Hosting a Learn to Ride on September 16, 2023 - Having two Walk to School with a Cop Days on May 23 and May 24, 2023 - Gold: Completed an intersectional mural with curb extensions and Belleville High School students volunteered to paint and learned about making streets safer - Passed a Complete Streets Policy - Ongoing support from the Green Team The committee is focused on increasing the number of children walking and bicycling to school by seeking funding to build and repair infrastructure such as sidewalks, crosswalks, street murals, bump outs, signage and future bicycle lanes.

PDF: [TOWNSHIP OF BELLEVILLE SRTS GOLD CERTIFIED 2024](#)

WORD: [TOWNSHIP OF BELLEVILLE - OFFICE OF THE MAYOR LETTER OF SUPPORT](#)

PDF: [COMPLETE STREETS POLICY RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [BELLEVILLE NJ DOT SRTS POLICY RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [BELLEVILLE SRTS BPS/TOWNSHIP SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTATION AT EZRIDE ANNUAL AWARDS CONFERENCE](#)

PDF: [MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSSWALK PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PRESENTATION NJLM](#)

Land Use & Transportation

Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Belleville Town Council readopted the "Sustainable Land Use Pledge" by way of resolution on Tuesday, July 16, 2024. (The original document was adopted on January 28, 2020 and the thought was that the pledge would never expire; for the purpose of this action the Green Team forwarded the pledge to the Mayor and Council and Construction Code Department for readoption.) On July 23, 2024, A memo was distributed to members of the planning board and zoning board as a reminder of our pledge with a copy of the updated resolution. The Township of Belleville's Master Plan was adopted on January 10, 2019. A reexamination of the Master Plan was adopted on March 8, 2021 incorporating changes from the Sustainable Land Use Pledge. The Township of Belleville's Master Plan promotes Sustainable Land use development that looks at the bigger picture of how and what we do on the land is connected to everything else in our community. Taking this approach for Sustainable land use makes it possible for our community to grow in ways that will support strong local economies and jobs, create vibrant neighborhoods with a range of housing and transportation options, and achieve healthy communities that provide residents – both human and non-human – with a clean environment. Our Master Plan looks at the following land use: compact development patterns; mixing of commercial and residential land uses, especially in our downtown areas; promoting development or redevelopment where infrastructure already exists; providing a range of housing choices for all incomes and all stages of life; providing safe transportation options that include biking, walking and mass transit; preserving remaining open space, natural beauty and critical environmental areas; and fostering distinctive, attractive communities that stimulate civic pride and offer residents a high quality of life and a strong sense of place. By adding this to our planning and zoning board's rules, it forces residents and builders to conform to what we are trying to achieve and that we believe that this pledge will make our town even more sustainable.

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE RESOLUTION AND MEMO TO PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS](#)

Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Improvement Projects

15 Points

Program Summary: The Township of Belleville submitted an application for a "Temporary Demonstration Project- Crosswalks for a Safer Community Belleville Middle School Project" and was selected by the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program (a collaboration between Sustainable Jersey (SJ), the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University (VTC), and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)) Round 3 grant. Together the Team and members of the Township of Belleville, Belleville BOE and EZRIDE provided Belleville with technical assistance to design and install a Temporary Demonstration Project. During the demonstration, the project team conducted field observations, an online survey, and social media coverage. Belleville Township implemented a Complete Streets temporary demonstration project as part of an effort to address safety concerns around schools, especially when children are arriving or departing. Township officials, the BOE and the CSTA team selected Belleville Middle

School because many drivers travel at unsafe speeds on High Street. The project included sidewalk extensions with bollards to decrease the crosswalk distances, provide more space for pedestrians and discourage illegal parking close to the corners; and a street mural as a traffic calming strategy to slow vehicles down when approaching the intersection. The mural was painted at the intersection by artist Athena Zhe along with High School Art teachers and their Art Club students. The Township has taken various steps to improve safety, including temporary traffic control by the police department, officials wanted to see infrastructure improvements that can provide safety benefits at all hours. Township officials were interested in seeing how a temporary demonstration project could improve safety quickly, provide an opportunity for residents to provide feedback, and learn how a successful project could be implemented at other locations around town.

PDF: [COMPLETE STREETS RESOLUTION AND POLICY](#)

WORD: [COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT OVERVIEW](#)

PDF: [BELLEVILLE FINAL REPORT - PEDESTRIAN SAFETY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT 2023](#)

WORD: [BELLEVILLE PROJECT SUBMISSION WORKSHEET](#)

POWERPOINT: [NJLM PRESENTATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR SJ](#)

Complete & Green Streets for All Policy

10 Points

Program Summary: The Township of Belleville wants its residents to live in a safe, healthy community. There has been a noticeable shift in the amount of vehicular traffic and the lack of safe walkable areas. The master plan was recently updated to review planning, zoning and connectivity of the town. Neighborhoods across the Township of Belleville are different. There are places that have local stores and shops, parks, schools, transit, a light rail station, etc. The group is looking at ways to safely move people around and balance the needs of all roadway users, such as pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and drivers. Belleville adopted a Complete Streets Resolution and Policy on June 14, 2022 to incorporate changes for our current neighborhoods and new project designs moving forward. We are incorporating these concepts simultaneously in several projects that we have coming up. Earlier this year the township was awarded several grants. 2022 The Together North Jersey's Vibrant Places Program - Belleville worked together with the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University (RU-VTC) and New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for the development of a strategic branding plan for the Washington Avenue Commercial District. This included site visits and feedback from public meetings and a survey. This study is applicable for future planning of several other main corridor streets in the township. DRAFT complete and attached. 2022 Safe Routes to Transit Grant to improve the safety of pedestrians walking to the Belleville Silver Lake Light Rail Train Station. 2022 Sustainable Jersey Complete Streets Temporary Demonstration Project Guidance assistance project to provide guidance on the design and installation of pedestrian safety infrastructure and temporary safety measures for a crosswalk enhancement near the Belleville Middle School adjacent to Washington Avenue.

WORD: [BELLEVILLE - ACTION SUBMISSION WORKSHEETS COMPLETE MODEL POLICY ADOPTION_FINAL.DOCX](#)

PDF: [BELLEVILLE - COMPLETE STREET RESOLUTION AND POLICY.PDF](#)

WORD: [BELLEVILLE REPORT DRAFT PROJECTTEAMREVIEW_06202022 \(AUTOSAVED\).DOCX](#)

PDF: [WASHINGTONAVEOUTREACHRESULTSSUMMARY_03222022.PDF](#)

PDF: [BELLEVILLE COMPLETE STREETS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - TEMPORARY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.PDF](#)

Natural Resources

Tree Protection Ordinance *Retires 12/31/25*

10 Points

Program Summary: (revised) The Township of Belleville realizes the importance of trees. Belleville is a developed community with a limited amount of Open Space so protecting trees is important. The trees on our streets, parks, playgrounds and backyards create a peaceful, aesthetically pleasing environment. The Township of Belleville has a tree ordinance to regulate various aspects of tree maintenance, removal, and planting in the town, resulting in aesthetic and environmental benefits. The Planning Board and Zoning Board often make recommendations to new developments or existing upgrades to development projects for landscape drawings to include native trees, shrubs and plants as part of the scope of the project. The Township Engineer and the Code Enforcement Department usually handle written requests for the removal of a tree from a property owner. The most common removal of any tree in recent years has only been due to storm damage or accidents any others are at the discretion of the Code Enforcement Department or Township Engineer and are quickly replaced. Residents can learn about trees and tree protection through the townships tree sapling giveaway. The tree saplings are ordered from the NJ Department of Forestry and are part of their Earth Day/Arbor program. The saplings are distributed at the library for residents to pick up along with information about the benefits of trees. The Township of Belleville receives and sets aside funding each year to replant Cherry Blossom trees along the sidewalks of every street in Belleville. This adds to the array of Cherry Blossom Trees which are an extension of Belleville and Branch Brook Park where you can view an extensive display of them. <https://clerkshq.com/Content/Belleville-nj/books/code/bellevillec34.htm>

PDF: [PRESS RELEASE BELLEVILLE'S CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES](#)

PDF: [TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE](#)

Public Information & Engagement

Municipal Communications Strategy

10 Points

Program Summary: The Township of Belleville utilizes an integrated communication strategy and plan. The coordination of this is done by the Township Manager, Assistant Township Manager and the Township Clerk through monthly meetings with all Department Directors. The Township utilizes various forms of media outlets to ensure members of the community receive and understand all notifications for the Town. The Township of Belleville distributes information to our residents through the township website, social media-facebook and twitter, press releases, flyers, mailings, you tube, Board of Education WBHS channel 34, swiftreach texting, and reverse 911 calls. The Township also has access to a large electronic bill board visible from Route 21. And two other billboards along Belleville Avenue. Social media is also used to disseminate information to residents such as meeting information, traffic advisories, events and other pertinent information. The Township Website format provides easy navigation to all Township Departments from the main page. On every department page you can find contact information, meeting information,

agendas, minutes and you tube videos; there is also a community calendar with a link to every current and past community event. All information is maintained on a regular basis. The Township manager meets with all departments once a month to make sure the Township of Belleville stays current and residents are informed. All information for emergency services (police, fire, CERT) is also easily accessible and current. The Township of Belleville will continue assessing its integrated communication strategy and plan to make sure the Township is effectively communicating through all forms of media and will continue update and evolve as people in the community desire to be informed.

WORD: [BELLEVILLE - MUNICIPAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY CHECKLIST](#)

Improve Public Engagement in Municipal Government

15 Points

Program Summary: Township of Belleville has redesigned its website to make it easier for people to navigate and find information. Everything is posted on the township website including department information, Municipal Council and other Committee Meetings, Code Enforcement, Ordinances and Regulations, DPW – Garbage and recycling pick up, etc. We also have links to the Library, Senior Center, Recreation and Health Department. Belleville uses its web site as its primary communication tool with the public, with a tab for all departments, including contact information, meeting schedules, agendas, supporting materials, minutes and all announcements and messages are posted on the web site. The public can subscribe to an email notification system, for automatic notification of any announcements, messages, emergency or informational, meeting date/time changes or cancellations, etc. The Town Manager has increased the use of Social Media and recently contracted a public relations firm to handle all correspondence and public outreach and notifications. The Town Council Meetings are publicized and as the meetings are being conducted they are livestreamed for citizens who can't be in attendance. The increase in public engagement on the real- time council meetings has been well received. Afterwards the meetings are posted and archived on the Township Website. This supports the need for transparency among residents and the expectation for information and input from the public. Today, Belleville residents have greater access to their elected representatives, municipal information, archives, and greater input into the process of government than before.

PDF: [BELLEVILLE MEETING BY-LAWS](#)

PDF: [BELLEVILLE ORDINANCE BY LAWS](#)

WORD: [IMPROVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUBMISSION CHECKLIST REVISED](#)

Waste Management

Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Township of Belleville established a permanent prescription drop off location in the municipal building lobby of the Police Department at 152 Washington Avenue, Belleville, NJ; also advertised on our website at <https://www.bellevillenj.org/Page/prescription->

drop-off-location and police department page https://www.bellevillenj.org/_Content/pdf/Project-Medicine-Drop.pdf Residents wishing to properly dispose of their prescription drugs can walk in anytime and place their unused medication in the drop off box. Additionally, every spring and fall the Police Department participates in "National Take Back Day"- April 22, 2023, October 28, 2023 and April 27, 2024. The Township of Belleville Police Department advertises its permanent drop off location on the Municipal website and Facebook page and also through the townships mailing of its yearly calendar and quarterly tax bill. The reports from drop offs were from April 2024. (see attached) The direct mail, website and social media pages provide information to Belleville residents about National Take Back Day and the benefits of Belleville's permanent drop-off location. The Belleville Police Department follows the Standard Operating Procedures as set forth in the US DEA Official regulations for the safe disposal of unused, unwanted, and expired prescription drugs. The Township of Belleville's permanent drop off is a successful program. Last year was also the first year vaping devices and cartridges were accepted as part of the free and anonymous program. Covanta's New Jersey facilities continue to partner with the New Jersey Department of Consumer Affairs and the, "Project Medicine Drop" program. Covanta destroys the dropped-off medications at no cost to the Belleville tax payer or police department. The Belleville Board of Education provides age appropriate programs to students in the form of assemblies. They have also hosted meetings for parents in the evenings about drug awareness. There is a growing concern about vaping and substance abuse issues facing our youth. All schools acknowledge Red Ribbon Week in October. Red Ribbon Week is a nationally recognized observance where students participate in anti-drug activities each day of the week; the program is designed to empower young people to engage with their community through drug-free activities and strengthen their anti-drug beliefs.

PDF: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP OFF WEB SITE, POST AND FLYER](#)

PDF: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG - DROP OFF REPORTS](#)

IMAGE: [PHOTO](#)

Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

Program Summary: Community Paper Shred Day is organized twice annually by the Municipality, DPW and the assistance of the Municipal Green Team. The event was held on May 6, 2023 and April 13, 2024. In conjunction with Confidential Paper Shred Day the Green Team also provides information about recycling and distributes free Reusable Shopping Bags. The Community Paper Shred Day event was advertised on the Township of Belleville's Web Site and Facebook page and screenshots are attached. There was also flyers drafted and distributed to various locations throughout our town; they are attached; and an article in the local newspaper - link to the article <https://patch.com/new-jersey/belleville/belleville-hold-free-community-shred-day-event>. The event was promoted at multiple Open Public Meetings of the governing body where the importance of recycling was discussed. And all of the information advertised was to ensure that the public was aware of the requirements for participation at the drop off. The Township contracted the company "PRO SHRED" for the Paper Shred Day Event. The importance of this event was to recycle confidential items which would otherwise get thrown into the regular municipal solid waste stream and end up in a landfill. There were a total of 85 cars at shred day and the tonnage reports are attached.

PDF: [2023-24 SHRED IT DAY - FLYERS - POSTS -PICTURE](#)

PDF: [BELLEVILLE SHRED IT DAY TONNAGE REPORT](#)

PDF: [SHRED IT DAY COD REPORT](#)

Backyard Composting Program

5 Points

Program Summary: The DPW, Green Team and Community Garden Advisory Board hosted a composting workshop on August 12, 2023 and handed out free Backyard Composters. The workshop was held outside at the community garden where examples of organic waste could be observed and an active compost bin is used by gardeners. The lecture was led by superintendent of the DPW who explained the issues with the amount of waste that households make. During the hand-on workshop at the community garden he was able to show residents how most of the things we throw away could be removed from the garbage can and composted. Community Garden Leader showed everyone an example of the compost and what decomposers are and what they do. Everyone learned about microorganisms, insects and worms. This program is also presented to the Belleville Public School District as a professional development workshop for educators and the high school garden club. The township is hosting the event annually as an effort to educate people about Solid Waste, recycling, reducing and reusing. The program is advertised on the municipal web site, social media and flyers that were distributed to all schools, town hall, and the library. We also have information about composting at our Green Fair along with a raffle for free backyard composters. There was a total of 35 participants at the workshop and 1600 at the green fair. The workshop focused on a couple of issues: to learn the importance of composting, to help restore our soil to support vegetables gardens, native plants and trees in our landscape and reducing the amount of household garbage that is thrown away by removing the compostable organic matter. The high school science and garden clubs learn about natural resources and decomposition. Samples from their courtyard composter are brought into the lab where they can view the decomposers under the microscope and talk about organic waste and how it is broken down by microorganisms, insects, and worms.

PDF: [BELLEVILLE COMPOSTING FLYER](#)

PDF: [BELLEVILLE COMPOSTING POSTS AND PICTURES](#)

PDF: [BELLEVILLE GREEN FAIR DISPLAYS AND PICTURES](#)