

QUOTES FROM SELECT 2022 RESILIENCY GRANT RECIPIENTS (ALPHABETICAL BY NEW JERSEY COUNTY)

When emergencies arise, it is not the municipalities that act; it is the people. We need our infrastructure to be ready and capable, but it is our people that keep it sustainable. Thank you to our staff, volunteers, and all who take action when emergencies arise. – Charles Cain, Mayor, Hamilton Township, Atlantic County

QUOTES FROM SELECT 2022 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GRANT RECIPIENTS (ALPHABETICAL BY NEW JERSEY COUNTY)

This grant will support a grass roots effort to recreate the Hydrangea Trail in Atlantic City. Inlet residents have been volunteering their time to start this effort by beautifying Gardner’s Basin and the funding will allow this effort to grow. I want to thank the Hydrangea Trail 2.0 Volunteers, the First Ward Civic Association, the Inlet Neighborhood CDC, the Atlantic City Green Team, and Atlantic City Electric. – Marty Small, Sr, Mayor, Atlantic City, Atlantic County

We are very grateful to receive the 2022 Sustainable Communities Environmental Stewardship grant funded by Sustainable Jersey and Atlantic City Electric to create a Nature Trail at Egg Harbor City Lake Park. It is the third time our partners have stepped forward to fund projects that benefit the environment and improve recreational opportunities for our residents and visitors,” Egg Harbor City Mayor Lisa Jiampetti said. “Also, I commend our SustainableEHC Green Team for brainstorming outstanding projects that enable our residents to get outdoors, relax and enjoy nature. Outdoor recreation is critical to maintaining health, wellness, and balance during these uncertain times. – Lisa Jiampetti, Egg Harbor City, Atlantic County

On behalf of Egg Harbor Township I would like to thank Atlantic City Electric and Sustainable Jersey for the \$5,000 grant being awarded to our community. These funds will assist in completing a project aimed at assisting citizens who have mobility difficulties to enjoy our beautiful “Nature Reserve” facility. The “Nature Reserve” is a park enjoyed by numerous people year round from the surrounding areas and even beyond. These funds will support the creation of an ADA compliant pathway leading from the Zion Road parking lot to an area that overlooks the body of water. This pathway will allow a broader section of our population to enjoy this beautiful facility, including, and very close to my own heart, those veterans who have served our country proudly but have mobility challenges. Thank you again. I assure you all these are funds that will be put to good use! – Paul Hodson, Mayor, Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County

I would like to thank Atlantic City Electric for presenting this grant to Folsom. It is important to communities like ours with limited revenues. The Grant that the Folsom Environmental Commission received is an essential first step to improving community involvement. It will provide essential access to electricity at the lot which will allow residents to water their garden plots. In addition, this Grant enables an ongoing beautification plan by our Environmental Commission and Parks Committee. It will enhance our public area and make it more inviting for resident participation. It will eventually become an area where people can plant their vegetables and flowers, rest on park benches, observe birds, bees and butterflies visiting our pollinator gardens, and walk a short nature path bordering this site which lies across from a small playground and ballfield. Without this Grant none of this would be possible. – Greg Schenker, Mayor, Folsom Borough, Atlantic County

The City of Northfield is pleased to be a recipient of the 2022 Sustainable Communities Environmental Stewardship grant funded by Atlantic City Electric. The funds will be used to make needed repairs to a fireplace at Birch Grove Park which was built in the 1950's and is a focal point overlooking one of our lakes. The fireplace has not been used in several years and we are excited to be able to rehabilitate it and use it for many events hosted at our park; including National Night Out, Trunk or Treat, Movie Nights and Cub Scout Arrow of Light Ceremonies. – Erland V.L. Chau, Mayor, Northfield City, Atlantic County

*Penns Grove Borough in partnership with Penns Grove-Carneys Point Regional School District will aim to provide the opportunity for students to collaborate with teachers, administrators, municipal leaders and community volunteers to act as wildlife biologists and restoration ecologists as they participate in citizen scientist programs to aid in the recovery of NJ pollinators namely the Monarch butterfly. In July 2022, the migratory monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) has entered the IUCN Red List as Endangered. Penns Grove High School has a 15' x 35' Monarch Recovery Sanctuary on the campus as a model example of native and sustainable monarch habitat for the community. We envision utilizing the grant money to offset expenses in raising native nectar and host plants to keep the program running successfully but to also expand and implement other ideas for the Environmental Science Center in which the recovery garden is one component. No one should undertake the work involved in recovery gardens alone. The more dedicated people that we can get, the more sustainable the project will be over time. Further, the greater number of people involved will also learn and reap the benefits of education and community collaboration. All involved will learn science by doing science. This project is a great opportunity as volunteers can come alongside the school district's green team to tackle planning, building, planting and overall maintenance of the garden on the campus especially during the summer when the faculty is on summer break but the plant care is needed to sustain the pollinators that are greatly present on the campus. I have been actively involved with helping our students win awards since I have been mayor and receiving this community grant, I intend to continue to help them succeed. I have been told that our students' field experience, research, data collection, and discussions can drive change in the greater community at large. Because of the invaluable skills they have learned through this project-based learning, they can provide local solutions about this national environmental issue so that we can together engage the community and encourage volunteers to build habitat throughout the city. – LaDaena Thomas, Mayor, Penns Grove Borough*

The Environmental Stewardship grant will enable our Green Team to identify native and non-native trees and shrubs planted in our Harry Bowen Memorial Park, purchasing and planting native shrubs and trees to enhance the biodiversity and aesthetics of the park. The Green Team will create a list of native shrubs and trees suitable for local home landscapes, hold workshops about the critical role of native plants in the ecosystem and present the film "Twelve Tenacious Invasives". They will also be offering field trip/walks around the park to help residents learn how to identify natives and non-native plants in their own yards. We are so fortunate to have a group of people who have the knowledge and ambition to add to our community and also to have the Environmental Stewardship Grant to support their efforts to make for a much-improved environment. – Niki Giberson, Mayor, Port Republic City, Atlantic County

The Township of Dennis, along with the Environmental Commission, Senior Center, and Public Works, will transform a small parcel of township property into a community garden and picnic area. The community picnic garden, complete with picnic tables, benches and raised flower beds, will serve as a gathering place for our residents, employees, associations, and seniors to enjoy for years to come. – Zeth Matalucci, Mayor, Dennis Township, Cape May County

Maurice River Township would like to thank Atlantic City Electric and Sustainable Jersey for making this grant award. Atlantic City Electric has been a great supporter of the communities that they service. Maurice River Township will be utilizing this grant award to erect a shade structure in our recreation area, which is in the process of being revitalized. – **Ken Whildin, Mayor, Maurice River Township, Cumberland County**

The residents of Elk Township will be so surprised to know that we were awarded \$5000 for our ongoing trail projects on Elephant Swamp. The 2022 Sustainable Communities Environmental Stewardship grant, funded by Atlantic City Electric, will be put to good use and those that utilize the trail will benefit from the improvements. We sincerely appreciate the award and look forward to using the funds for the betterment of Elephant Swamp Trail. – **Carolyn D. K. Sammons, Mayor, Elk Township, Gloucester County**

The Township of Mantua is honored to be a 2022 ACE Sustainable Communities grant recipient. With this grant, we will kickstart our efforts to provide more sustainable solutions by purchasing an Elkay Public Water Bottle Filling Station for our beloved Chestnut Branch Park. We anticipate that these refilling stations will greatly reduce single use water bottles as well as eliminate toxins and water waste. We thank the team at ACE Sustainable Communities Grant for their tremendous funding contribution to our community, and we are excited to contribute to a healthier environment and provide clean/filtered water to our active community members. With unified efforts, we will continue to invest in more environmentally friendly resources and create a more sustainable future for both our present and future generations. – **Pete Scirrotto, Mayor, Mantua Township, Gloucester County**

Our greenhouse has been such an asset to Washington Township—we've used it for environmental education, to jump-start our community gardeners, and to provide food for Mother's Cupboard (our food pantry). This grant will help us extend the life and reliability of our greenhouse, and to keep these programs going and to offer more. We greatly appreciate this boost from Atlantic City Electric and Sustainable Jersey! – **Joann Gattinelli, Mayor, Washington Township, Gloucester County**