

## Selected Quotes from 2024 Sustainable Communities Grant Recipients

### **QUOTES FROM SELECT 2024 RESILIENCY GRANT RECIPIENTS (ALPHABETICAL BY NEW JERSEY COUNTY)**

*“Thank you to Atlantic City Electric and Sustainable Jersey for funding Stafford Township’s grant application. As Mayor, I have tried to look to the future of the Township with our plans and projects. Without grants like this, we would not be able to do more for the community, as we have done. We look forward to putting the tide gauge in place and using that data for future projects and grants that we apply for, thank you!” – Robert Henken, Mayor, Stafford Township, Ocean*

### **QUOTES FROM SELECT 2023 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GRANT RECIPIENTS (ALPHABETICAL BY NEW JERSEY COUNTY)**

*“The City of Somers Point in Coastal Atlantic County is extremely appreciative of the 2024 Sustainable Communities Grant funded through Atlantic City Electric.*

*The DeFeo Lane Environmental and Interpretive Trail project, which this grant will assist in designing, will upon completion, represent a significant enhancement of our City’s natural resources. It will, hopefully, lead to additional funding through the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and/or the Great Egg Harbor River Council for project construction.*

*We feel this project’s location provides a unique learning opportunity through viewing and appreciating our natural Coastal environments from uplands forest through tidal marsh as well as the flora and fauna which are dependent on these ecosystems.*

*Our community, surrounded by tidal waterways on three (3) sides, sees this grant as a means to promote both the preservation and protection of our remaining natural areas and development of a low impact recreational amenity for our residents and visitors.*

*Thank you on behalf of our Environmental Commission/Green Team and the City of Somers Point.” – Dennis Tapp, Mayor, Somers Point City, Atlantic*

*“On behalf of the Medford Township Council & administration, we are most appreciative of the \$5,000 grant from Atlantic City Electric & Sustainable Jersey, which will provide additional financial support to a comprehensive project undertaken by Medford Township to stabilize the banks and remove downed trees from the southwest branch of the Rancocas Creek within our watershed. This project is intended to maintain the creek areas for active and passive recreation, including canoeing & paddling, fishing—the State stocks the Rancocas Creek annually, and use of the natural walking trails in municipally owned parks and parcels along the Rancocas that are Green Acres preserved open space. Additionally, riparian buffers will also be protected. Parts of the Rancocas Creek are tidal, so the removal of the trees will allow the creek to flow unimpeded and thus reduce the potential of serious flooding causing property damage,*

*and also green algae blooms. Since the Rancocas Creek extends into other neighboring municipalities, maintaining the Creek to allow flow during severe weather events will help prevent flooding in these other towns.*

*We congratulate all the awardees and thank Sustainable Jersey and Atlantic City Electric for making these annual funding opportunities available to municipalities.” – Charles “Chuck” Watson, Mayor, Medford Township, Burlington*

*“I am certain that I speak for every individual in Sea Isle City as I extend a heartfelt “thank you” to the good folks at Atlantic City Electric and Sustainable Jersey for awarding our community a \$5000 Sustainable Communities Grant. As we do with every dollar in our municipal coffers, we will certainly put the money to good use because we understand the importance of spending funds wisely.*

*As Sea Isle City’s grant application indicated, our Townsend Inlet Waterfront Park will benefit from this much-appreciated grant money. This funding will help us maintain the park’s environmental integrity as we continue to offer our citizenry and visitors the opportunity to interact with Mother Nature in ways that enrich both the body and the mind.*

*“T. I. Park” (as it is often called) is a very popular destination that is home to a wide range of flora and fauna; and, quite frankly, it is a naturalist’s delight, thanks to the numerous varieties of animal and plant species that call the park home (or “temporary home” during times of migration). The improvements we make will enhance the experience of every person who steps over the park’s boundaries, and we look forward to seeing those enhancements benefiting the park’s visitors for years to come.*

*We are very grateful for this funding, and we thank the organizers of the 2024 Sustainable Communities Grant Program for considering Sea Isle City worthy of this honor.” – Leonard C. Desiderio, Mayor, Sea Isle City, Cape May*

*“Maurice River Township is truly blessed to have been selected for this grant award. The award of this grant will allow the Township to provide a shaded area for residents to enjoy while having their lunch or just relaxing along the Maurice River. The Township of Maurice River thanks Atlantic City Electric and Sustainable Jersey for providing this opportunity to us for the benefit of our residents.” – Ken Whildin, Mayor, Maurice River Township, Cumberland*