

# Rockland County Environmental Management Council

## 2023 Activities and Accomplishments

*The Environmental Management Council preserves and protects Rockland County's natural resources through community outreach, public recognition of environmental achievements, education, and publicly advising on environmental issues and opportunities.*

### **Education, community outreach and awareness**

- Supported the annual Eleanor S. Burlingham Earth Day Creative Arts Contest. This year's topic was to "Take a walk, go for a hike, or sit outside to enjoy some quiet time with nature. Take this time to use your power of observation! Then draw a picture, write a poem, or write down what you notice about your natural environment." Presented awards with County Executive to 5th grade winners.
- Tabled at the Cornell Cooperative Extension's 3rd Annual Sustainability Walk and Showcase at Congers Lake Community Center with displays on native and invasive species and other items to engage attendees.
- Launched the green spotlight program to recognize environmental accomplishments and opportunities by and for Rockland residents on social media.

### **Natural resource preservation**

- Created a native pollinator garden at Kennedy Dells County Park with support from county park operations. Designed an interpretive sign with quick reference codes. Proposed to create a second garden on county property in 2024.
- Endorsed Cornell Cooperative Extension's invasive species management project. Worked with extension staff and Rockland County Service and Conservation Corps interns to remove invasive species from Dutch Gardens County Park and adjacent property.
- Updated content about invasive species on the county's website.

### **Advisory role**

- Worked with the County to amend its air quality alerts to reference greenhouse gas emissions.
- Confirmed with the County Department of Transportation that they will enable public transit information such as bus schedules and route status in way-finding applications.

**Public recognition and access**

- Held 9 public meetings (1 full board and 8 working groups).
- Streamlined the EMC's web page.
- Continued to recruit and meet with prospective council members. Participated in discussions with County Executive's office on 'rightsizing' the number of EMC council members.

*Approved by EMC board on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*

*Amended by the DER on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*