Great Egg Harbor River Council

Chair:

Gregory Gregory

Bill Reinert

Somers Point

Vice Chair: Rick Coe

Monroe Twp.

COUNCILLORS:

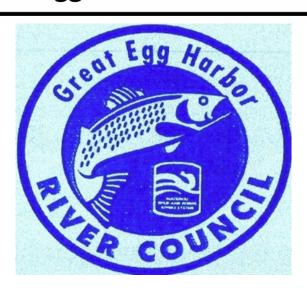
Julie Akers Lou Harvey Jenn Jennings

Buena Vista Twp.

Alison Stefanik Kathleen Federico Daniel Patterson

Corbin City

Bill Christman
Denise Appleget *Hamilton Twp.*



Ralph Bernard Bill Egan Susan Stiles

Weymouth

Twp.
Clark Sprigman
Winslow Twp.

John Keenan Lynnee LoCicero

Hammonton

Jim Owen Jr.

im Owen Jr.

Estell Manor

Greg Conway

Borough of

Folsom

David Brown

Tom Baum

Egg Harbor Twp.

Bill Handley

Steve Eisenhauer

Bill Stuempfig

Upper Twp.

Dick Colby

Paul Ludgate

Clay Emerson

GEHWA

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

This meeting was advertised pursuant to the NJ Open Public Meetings Act.

Meeting notices were sent to the Courier Post and the Press of Atlantic City.

All meeting notices are also posted on the GEHWA website calendar at www.gehwa.org.



River Council Roll Call

<u>Julie Akers</u>

Buena Vista Twp

(Lou Harvey)

(Jenn Jennings)

Alison Stefanik Corbin City

(Kathleen Federico)

(Daniel Patterson)

Jim Owen

Estell Manor

(William Donath Sr.)

Bill Christman

Hamilton Twp.

(Michael Dupras)

Rick Coe

Monroe Twp.

Ralph Bernard

Weymouth Twp.

(Bill Egan)

(Susan Stiles)

Gregory Gregory

Somers Point

(Bill Reinert)

John Keenan

Hammonton

(Lynnee LoCicero)

Clark Sprigman

Winslow Twp.

Bill Handley

Upper Twp.

(Steve Eisenhauer)

(Bill Stuempfig)

Dick Colby

GEHWA

(Paul Ludgate)

(Clay Emerson)

Greg Conway

David Brown

(Tom Baum)

Borough of Folsom

Egg Harbor Twp.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes



Great Egg Harbor River Council

Public Portion



Great Egg Harbor River Council





Lynn Maun

Education and Outreach Coordinator

Summer & Fall 2025 Indoor and Outdoor Classroom Events

July 2025 Outdoor Classroom Events

Ocean City Yacht Club Minnows Program - 4th Year Corson's Inlet State Park July 9, 16 & 29, 2025



















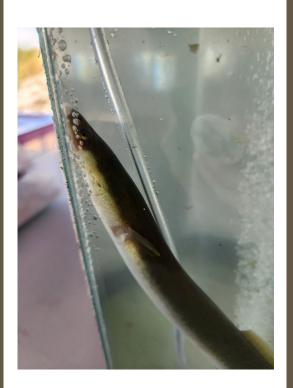
September 2025 Outdoor Classroom Events

Homeschool Group at Corson's Inlet State Park September 8, 2025









Stockton **University Macro** Sampling 9-16 & 18, 2025



October 2025 Outdoor Classroom Events

Corson's Inlet Fernwood MS October 3, 7 & 9, 2025

Outdoor Classroom





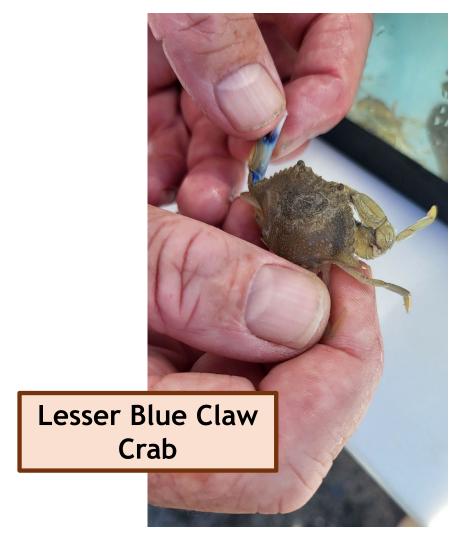
















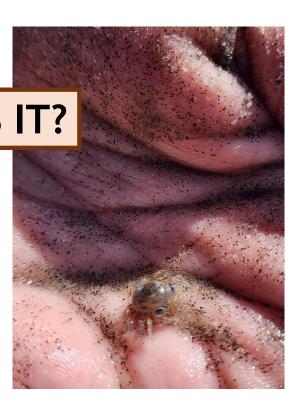


What IS IT?





































Community Events

CoCoRaHS Program Vineland Library June 25, 2025



This workshop is an opportunity to get involved in community science with a national volunteer program called <u>Community Collaborative Rain. Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS)</u> to measure and map precipitation in your backyard. The only requirements to join are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions, a desire to learn more about how weather can affect and impact our lives, and purchase of the programs of fficial rain gauge (§42). Please pre-pay for your rain gauge to ensure we have enough for everyone, and we will hand them out at the workshop.

Lynn Maun, Cumberland County's Coordinator for this program, will be leading the workshop. Also the Education Coordinator for the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, Lynn will explain how the program works and how to install your gauge and monitor rainfall.

The Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer, present throughout nearly the entire New Jersey Coastal Plain, is an unconfined resevoir close to the surface layer and relies on rainfall for its recharge. Because it is mear the surface, it discharges locally to streams, wetlands, and other water bodies. Pumping ground water can cause the water table to drop and can diminish stream flow and impair wetlands. Monitoring rainfall accurately is important because the aquifer relies on a certain amount of annual precipitation for healthy streams and wetlands.

WHAT

Community Science Rainfall Monitoring Workshop

WHEN

Wednesday June 25, 2025 5:30 p.m.

WHERE

Vineland Public Library 1058 E Landis Ave Vineland, NJ 08360

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Please register at the button below and

click here to nay for your rain gauge, which costs \$42.





GEHWA's 19th Annual Picnic and Campfire Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 5:30 pm at Lake Lenape West









Oyster Spat Survey 8/29/2025 One of Many Days







Somers Point Good Old Days at Kennedy Park 9/6/2025



GEHWA Fall Adventure Stephen's Lake 9/27/2025









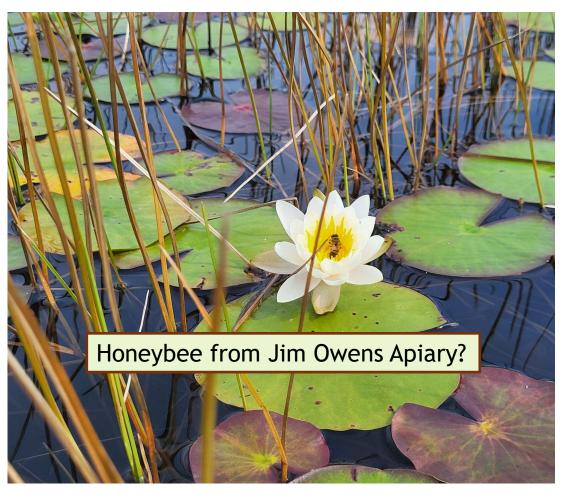












MIDTram Survey Tuckahoe Island 9/29 & 30/2025









Osprey Program



Ben Wurst,
Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ
&
Kathleen Clark,
Endangered and Nongame Species Program
NJDEP Fish and Wildlife







Published February 2025

In 2024, ospreys had favorable conditions for their successful reproduction throughout the

> state, with few severe weather events to limit their ability to find and catch fish, especially in

> > coastal waters offshore. However, this season had some irregular outcomes, with some

females not laying eggs in the spring.

On January 6, 2025, NJDEP announced the adoption of a rule change which upgraded the status of ospreys from threatened to stable.

Osprey Nesting Surveys

- Occupied Adults Present
- Active Egg and Young
- Productive Young are ~ 3 Weeks Old

2024 Nesting Season in NJ

Over 729 Occupied Nest (Pair Present)

800 in 2023

533 Known Outcome Nests (Active) - Produced 867 Young

657 Known Outcome Nests (Active) - Produced 762 Young

in 2023

1.63 Young/Active Nest (productivity rate)

89 Nests Failed (17%)

1.16 in 2023 with a 32% failure rate.

Minimum necessary for a stable population 1 or (.8) young/active nest, so statewide population is still stable with 1.66 young/active nest

2024 Nesting Season in NJ

Productivity rate in 2022 was 1.30 chicks per nest.

Productivity rate in 2023 was 1.16 chicks per nest.

Productivity rate in 2024 was 1.63 chicks per nest.

Productivity has been declining since 2014.

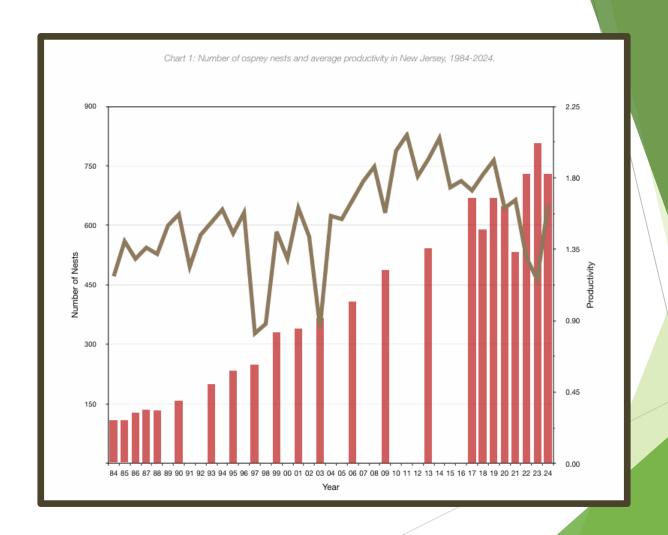


Table 1. Osprey productivity in 2022 in all major nesting areas. Productivity was determined by ground surveys in June-July.

Productivity rates in 2021-2022 provided for comparison.

						PR	EVIOUS YE.	ARS
NESTING AREA	# NESTS	KNOWN- OUTCOME NESTS	# YOUNG	# BANDED	PRODUCTION 2024	2023	2022	2021
Delaware River Basin & North/ Central Jersey	31	24	41	0	1.71	1.74	2.08	1.53
Hackensack/Hudson Rivers	13	7	13	0	1.86	1.33	1.69	1.70
Raritan River & Bay	58	21	38	0	1.81	1.06	1.83	
Monmouth County	69	42	74	0	1.76	1.15	1.93	0.88
Barnegat Bay	125	77	112	21	1.45	1.28	1.47	1.53
Sedge Islands	37	32	55	16	1.72	1.55	0.82	1.50
Great Bay to Atlantic	55	37	53	10	1.43	0.59	1.25	1.70
Great Egg Harbor/ Ocean City	96	73	121	0	1.66	1.02	1.35	1.60
Sea Isle City	34	25	47	0	1.88	1.28	0.77	1.4
Avalon & Stone Harbor	85	77	117	11	1.52	0.90	0.55	1.60
Wildwood & Cape May	53	49	95	0	1.94	2.00	1.11	1.84
Delaware Bay & Maurice River	73	69	101	43	1.46	1.54	1.81	2.10
TOTAL of Study Areas	729	533	867	101	1.63	1.16	1.30	1.66
Barnegat Bay	162	109	167	37	1.53	1.30	1.32	1.51
D. River/N. Jersey	44	31	54	0	1.74	1.95	1.95	1.59
Atlantic Coast	612	433	712	58	1.64	1.14	1.16	1.60
Delaware Bay	73	69	101	90	1.46	1.81	1.81	2.10

Compare 2024 to 2025

Same # of Active Nests but 2025 less productive

	River Council Osprey Colony Project Data Summary							
Year	Total Nest Sites	Active Nests	Chicks Hatched	Chicks Banded	Chicks/Nest			
2009	36	19	28	10	1.47			
2010	37	16	38	26	2.38			
2011	39	20	42	25	2.10			
2012	39	22	33	26	1.50			
2013	40	21	51	37	2.43			
2014	40	25	57	48	2.28			
2015	40	21	34	14	1.62			
2016	40	21	47	29	2.23			
2017	42	24	50	28	2.08			
2018	47	29	62	18	2.14			
2019	52	28	55	14	1.96			
2020	52	28	59	0	2.11			
2021	47	29	55	0	1.90			
2022	48	31	68	0	2.19			
2023	50	24	42	0	1.75			
2024	50	17	36	0	2.12			
2025	50	17	29	0	1.70			
			786	275				

2024 Nesting Season in NJ

• Statewide productivity increased from prior year 1.16 to 1.63

NOTE: Nests monitored by GEHWA/GEHRC had a rate of 2.12 chicks/nest, but the GEH/OC colony combined only had a rate of 1.66 chicks/nest

These 2 nesting colonies should not be combined

2025 17th Year of the GEHWA/GEHRC Osprey Project Survey done 6/25 & 6/26/2025

Compare 2024 to 2025

Same # of Active Nests but 2025 less productive

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2015	40	21	34	14	1.62			
2016	40	21	47	29	2.23			
2017	42	24	50	28	2.08			
2018	47	29	62	18	2.14			
2019	52	28	55	14	1.96			
2020	52	28	59	0	2.11			
2021	47	29	55	0	1.90			
2022	48	31	68	0	2.19			
2023	50	24	42	0	1.75			
2024	50	17	36	0	2.12			
2025	50	17	29	0	1.70			
			786	275				











Upcoming Events

Fernwood MS Macroinvertebrate Programs 10/16/2025 & 10-30/2025

Jordan Road School Event at Kennedy Park 5th & 6th Grades 10-17-2025

Hammonton's 16th Green Day Event November 1, 2025

GEHWA Member and Friends Meeting Tuesday, November 25,2025 at 6:30PM

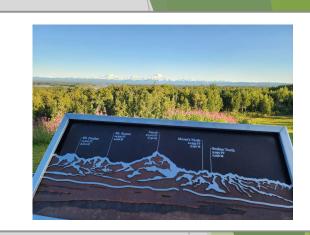
Lake Lenape Dam



Alaska

















National Park Service Sarah Bursky ~

- •Outdoor Recreational Planner NPS NE Regional Office, Philadelphia, PA
- •Great Egg Harbor River (Atl., Glo., Cam., Cape.)
- Maurice River (Cumberland County, NJ)
- Musconetcong River (Hunterdon County, NJ)

White Clay Creek (Delaware)

Lower Delaware (NJ & PA)

Old Business



Great Egg Harbor River Council

New Business



Great Egg Harbor River Council

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality.



Buena Vista Township
Corbin City
Egg Harbor Township
Estell Manor
Folsom Borough
Hamilton Township
Hammonton Town

Monroe Township
Somers Point City
Upper Township
Weymouth Township
Winslow Township
Great Egg Harbor Watershed
National Park Service



Oyster Spat Surveys









All summer and into the fall GEHWA conducted Oyster Spat Surveys

Oyster Spat Surveys

For the first time, GEHWA participated with the state in conducting biweekly oyster spat surveys at 4 locations in the Great Egg Harbor Bay.

In August, we had one notably successful week counting 17 spat on 20 shells from the Historic Seedbeds Site.

We are unsure however if this year was considered "good or bad" for spat.

We'd like to compare our findings with those who have been conducting these counts longer than us (ex. Stockton Marine Field Station)

Great Egg Harbor Estuary Oyster Spat Monitoring sites June to October 2025

We started with 4 stations, but the Patcong Creek station disappeared in September.

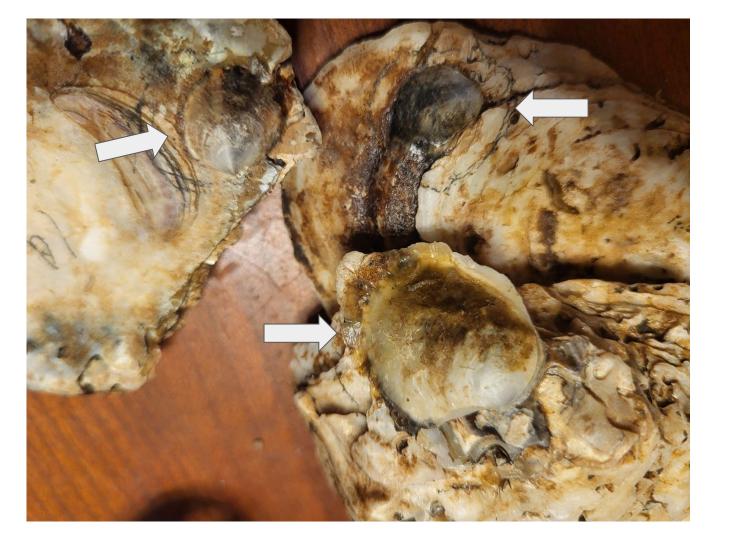


The spat station highflyers kept sinking, so Dave and Fred grappled the bottom for 3 hours at the Patcong site, and dragged up only derelict crab pots



Fred found and pulled the 3 remaining spat stations on 10/11/25 before the nor'easter flooding. Special thanks to Tom Baum (and his boat), Dave Brown, and Julie Akers for volunteering to help with this challenging project.





Tuckahoe Island Assessments





MidTRAM on Tuckahoe Island

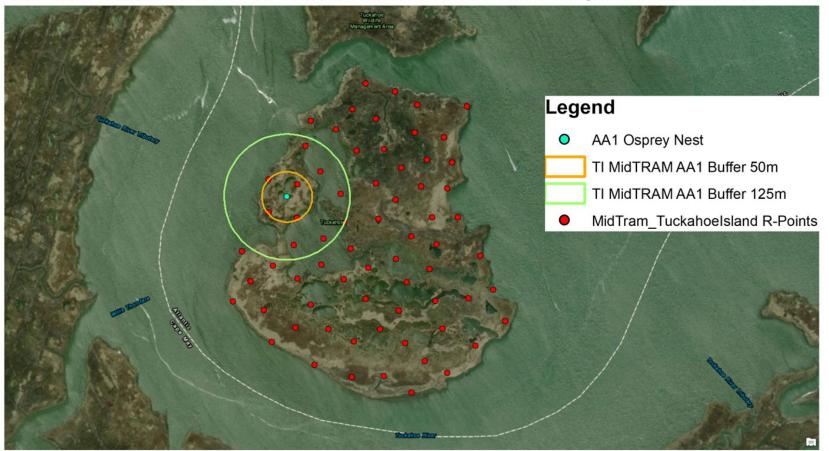
GEHWA completed a series of 6 MidTRAM marsh assessments on Tuckahoe Island as 1 of the many requirements by NJDEP to apply dredge material to the island.

The goal of MidTRAM is to establish a baseline of what is going on in the marsh and the current conditions.

This data can be used to establish Areas of Interest for restoration and can be used as a baseline to compare areas that have been ecologically uplifted too.

Special thanks to Dave Brown and Paul Kenney for volunteering to help with this MidTRAM marsh assessment.

Tuckahoe Island MidTRAM AA #1 created and assessed on 9/19/25 by GEHWA and NJDEP



The Orange Circle is the 100-meter diameter data collection assessment area.



Ocean City Welcome Center Sign

The sign that we have collaborated on with the Ocean City Yacht Club has been delivered to Fred's house.

Our next task is to promote the sign and ask for Ocean City to install it at the Welcome Center on the 9th Street Bridge.

Ocean City Welcome Center Sign receiving and assembly.





The cost to purchase this sign and the mounting was \$2,442.



The goal of this sign is to teach the public about the Coastal Salt Marsh



NJ Wetlands Mitigation Council Grant - Beesley's Point

Princeton Hydro and GEHWA have decided to re-apply to the New Jersey Wetlands Mitigation Council for \$1,777,035.97 to re-establish lost coastal wetland and enhance 1.50 acres of coastal wetlands.

The project proposes approximately 1,500 linear feet of shoreline stabilization protected with approximately 1,000 linear feet of rock sill **resulting in a approximately 1.13 acres of wetland restoration.**

The Plan for Beesley's Point

- Use armored marsh sills to restore wetlands back to the 1970 wetland line
- Backfill the sills with beneficially reused dredge material
- Strategically leave sandy beach area for horseshoe crabs and other wildlife, and use places stone as opposed to dumped stone to keep crabs and other animals from getting stuck in the sills.

Our proposal is on the Wetlands Mitigation Council's Agenda for 10/30



Shoreline Stabilization Concept

Our team will set sills at the 1970 wetland line (Figure 2) to maximize the allowable acreage of wetland restoration. Maps reveal a notable opportunity for restoring lost tidal marsh in this area, where rates of 0.8 feet per year lost are estimated in the past 20 years alone (Figure 3).

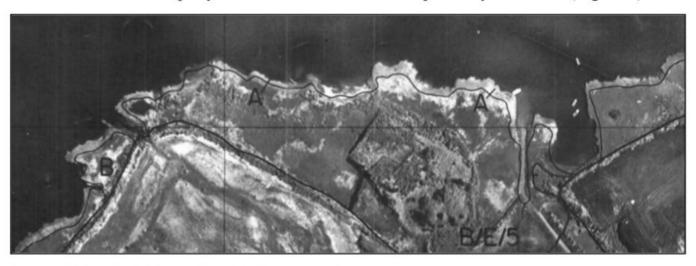


Figure 2. The 1970 NJ Wetlands Imagery. Source: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?layers=cc963c2e469643539a4f2e6724e70a 96



Figure 3. NJ Tidelands Claim Line showing >35feet of tidal wetland loss from 2002-2023, or ~1.6ft/yr.

By positioning an armored sill at the allowable location, our team will be able to restore lost wetland acreage (Figure 4). As ecologists who care deeply about the ecological functionality of the project, design measures to ensure safe passage by horseshoe crabs for in-water features and retention of possible spawning shores within the project footprint will be made using placed (not dumped) stone (Figure 5) as well as critical habitat establishment in the enhanced and restored marshes for rare and locally present bird species.

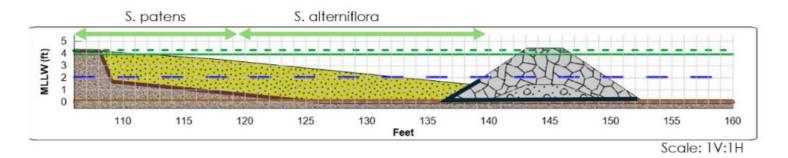


Figure 4. Cross section of conceptual project.



Figure 5. Examples of placed stone to promote access and mobility by aquatic species.

Lake Lenape Dam is up & running

The new dam is the largest labyrinth dam in the state, and features an upgraded powerhouse, new floodgates, a longer spillway and a relocated fish ladder, according to Pat Ennis, an engineer with WSP USA.

The project cost \$14.6 million, with Hamilton Township and Atlantic County each paying \$5 million. Van Drew secured the remaining \$4.6 million in federal funding through a congressional earmark.



Derelict Barge on Stephen Creek

GEHWA has sent a formal proposal to Stockton University to remove the derelict barge on Stephen Creek.

Estimated cost of removal is not to exceed \$15,000.

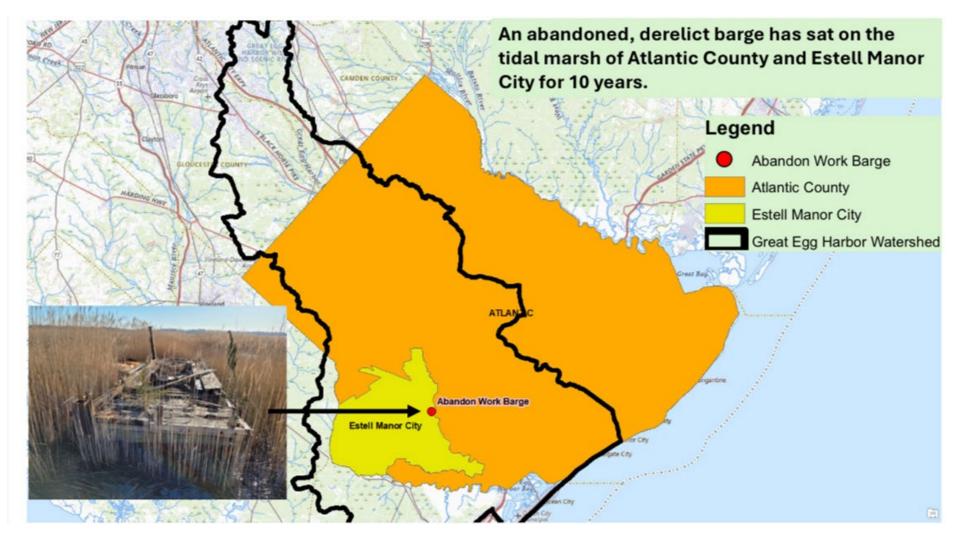
The plan would be for Shamrock Towing to remove the barge in phases and take it to the landfill at ACUA.

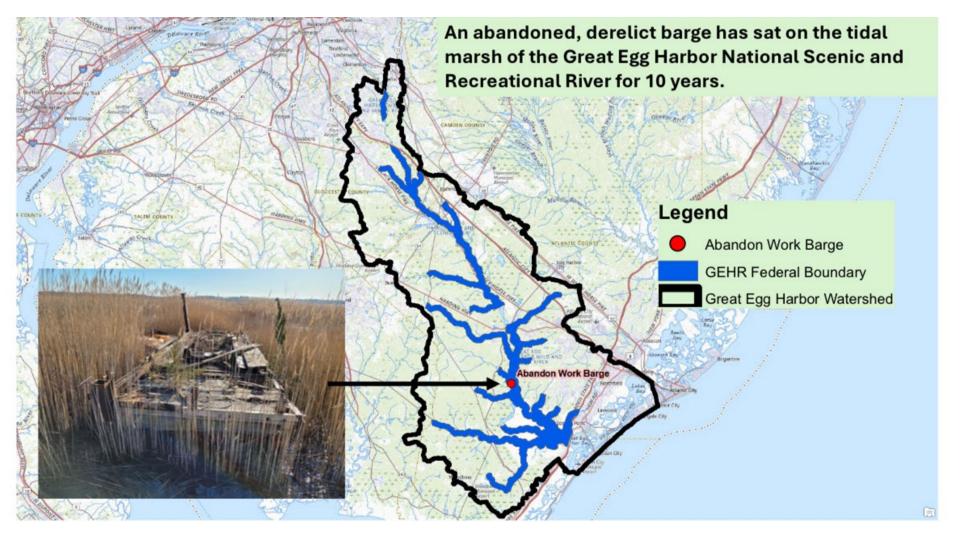
Hopefully Stockton will make the award any day now.

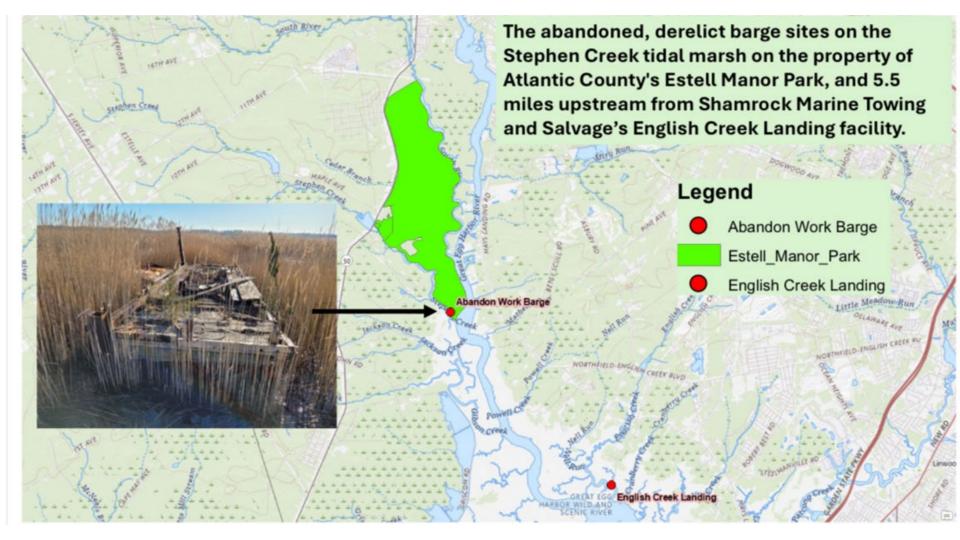
The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association is searching for funding to remove this derelict barge.

Estimated cost not to exceed \$15,000.

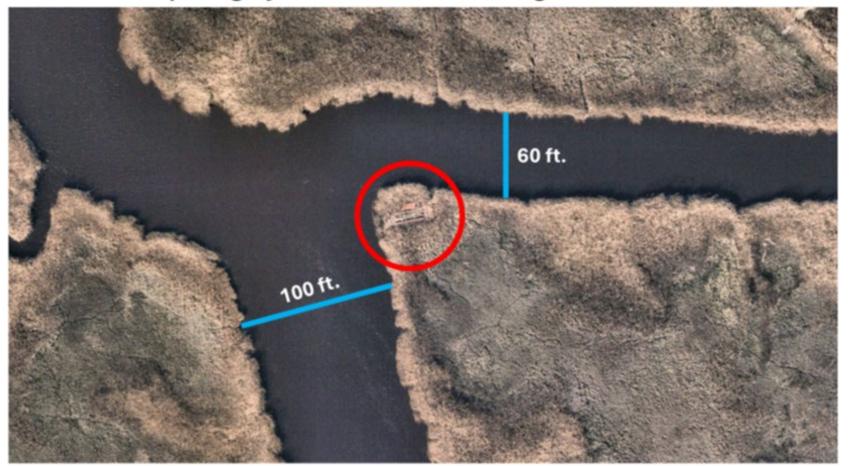








Nearmap Imagery view of the derelict barge in October 2024.



The earliest aerial photograph of the derelict barge on Stephen Creek was 10/5/14.



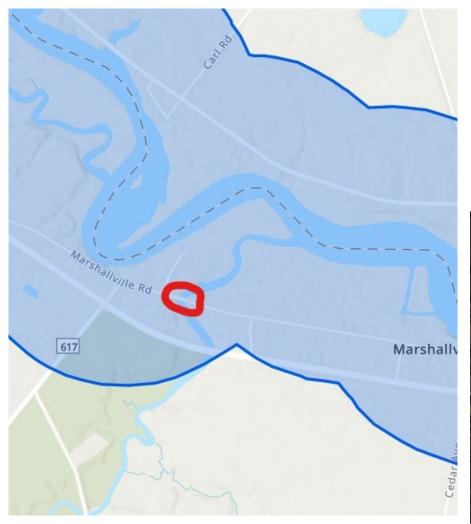
30 ft. x 10 ft. derelict barge on Stephen Creek in phragmites, 2/15/22



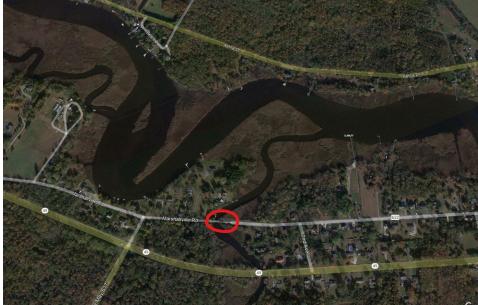
Mill Creek Bridge

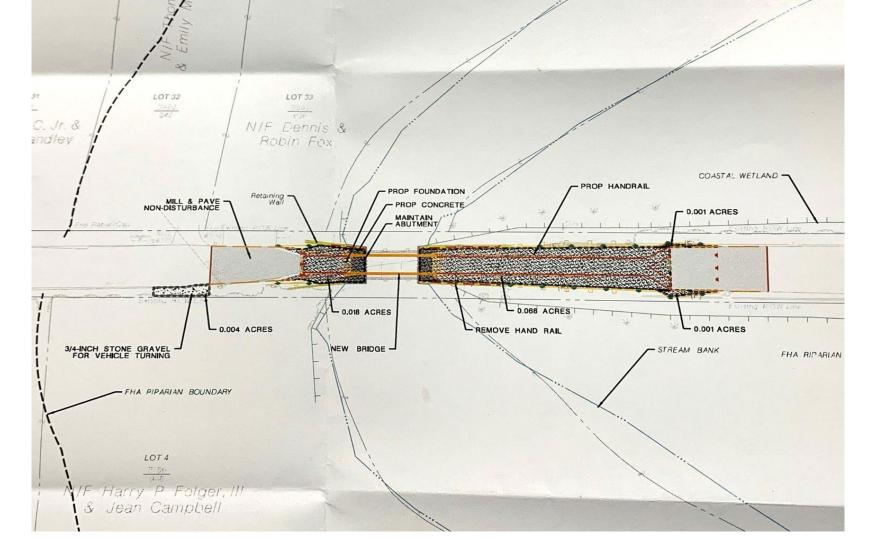
There is action on the Mill Creek Bridge on the Tuckahoe River!

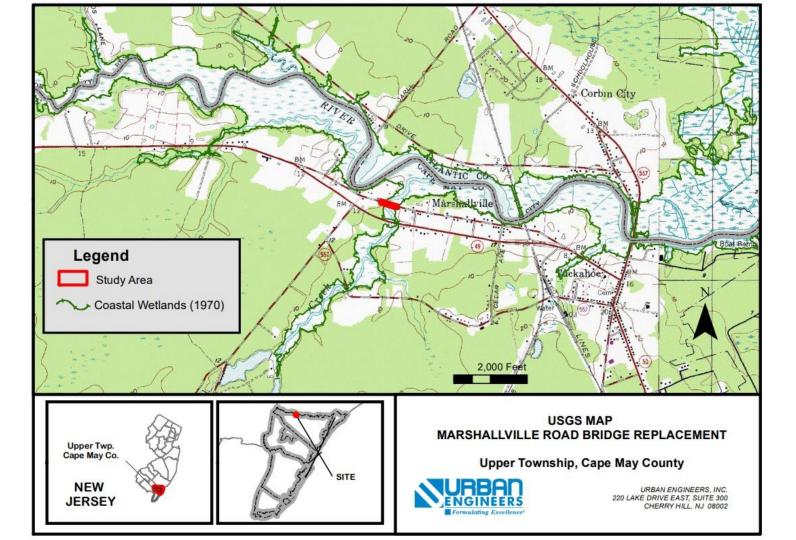
The Historic Bridge has been closed off for over 20 years, but recently with the push from the River Council and the local community, there is finally an effort taking place to replace the bridge.



The bridge over Mill Creek is within the Federal Boundary.







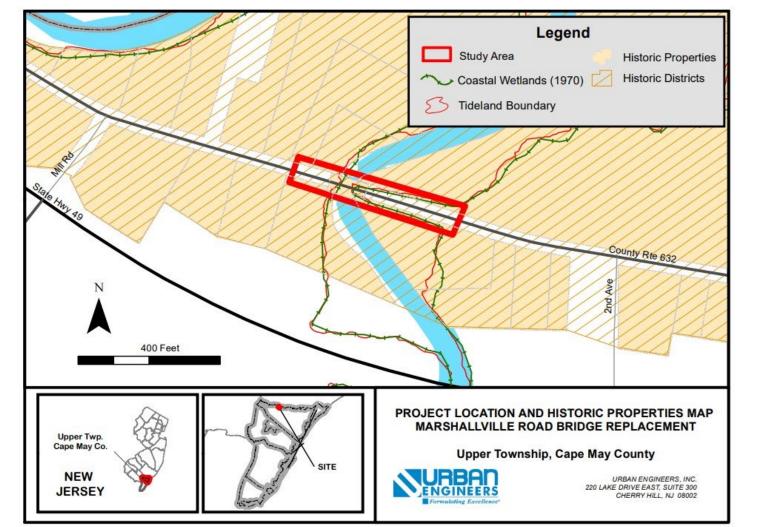


Photo taken 10/11/25

Contractors have removed the old derelict bridge and are in the process of preparing for the new bridge.

The new bridge is a prefabricated bridge that will be installed for bikes / pedestrians.



Federal Funding Updates

We have received our Federal funding for the year!

GEHWA was awarded \$210,000 per our Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service.

We also just completed FY25 and will be working on submitting our annual reporting to the National Park Service.

Living on the Edge

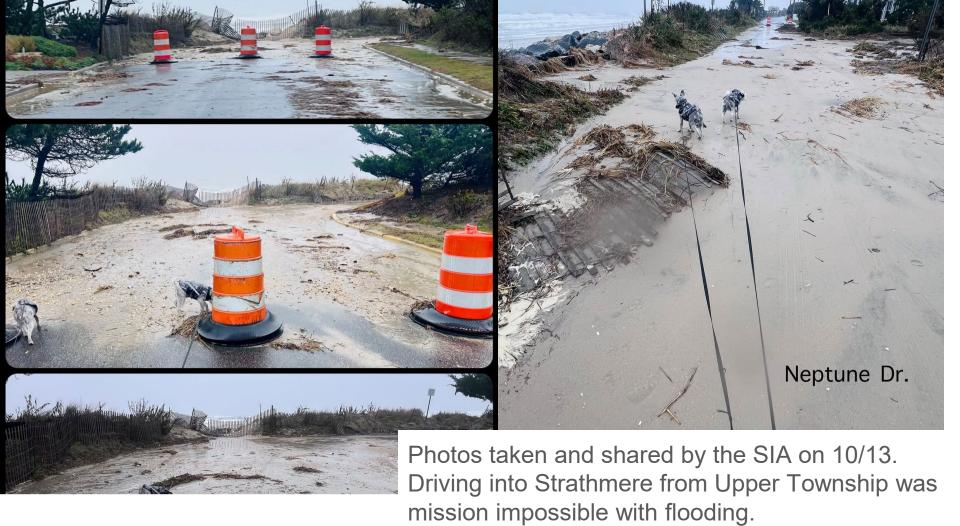
Strathmere's 2023 t-shirt becomes more serious in 2025



We're experiencing serious beach erosion and tidal flooding on the barrier islands.

Protecting our coastal ecosystems that act as shock absorbers and buffers to these more frequent & intensified storms is more important than ever!





The Flooding Doesn't Stop There

Brooke also observed flooding in our back bays behind Ocean City, up river by Cedar Swamp, and along the Tuckahoe.





Bill Christman found a mysterious fish skeleton near his house.





Dave Brown and Tom Baum delivered the skeleton to the Bureau of Marine Fisheries scientists who determined that it was a striped bass with pugheadedness deformity.

