#### **Great Egg Harbor River Council**

#### **Chair:**

**Gregory Gregory** 

**Bill Reinert** 

**Somers Point** 

Vice Chair: Rick Coe

Monroe Twp.

#### **COUNCILLORS:**

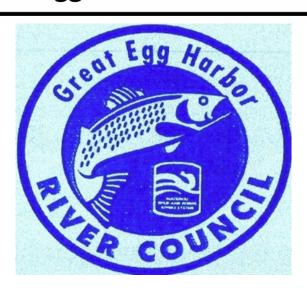
Julie Akers Lou Harvey Jenn Jennings

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

Julie Akers

Buena Vista Twp

(Lou Harvey)

(Jenn Jennings)

Alison Stefanik Corbin City

(Kathleen Federico)

(Daniel Patterson)

Jim Owen

**Estell Manor** 

(Jim Owen Jr.)

Bill Christman

Hamilton Twp.

(Denise Appleget)

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.

#### **Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council:**

- Chair (Greg Gregory current Chair)
- Vice Chair (Rick Coe current Vice Chair)
- Treasurer (Dick Colby current Treasurer)
- Secretary (Brooke Fisher current Secretary)



#### 2025 Great Egg Harbor River Council Enabling Resolutions

Resolution 1-2025--Designating Depository of Funds and Fiscal Agent

**Resolution 2-2025--Designating Official Publications** 

Resolution 3-2025--Notice of Meetings of the River Council



# RESOLUTION R: 01-2025 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DEPOSITORY OF FUNDS AND FISCAL AGENT

WHEREAS, in compliance with the Statutes of the State of New Jersey and the Bylaws of the River Council, it is necessary that the River Council name a depository of funds for the River Council for the year 2025, by resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the River Council that the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, or its successor, be named fiscal agent and depository of funds for the River Council for the year 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the National Park Service.

Motion/Second/Vote

### RESOLUTION R: 02-2025 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, the River Council must designate official publications,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that <u>The Press of Atlantic City</u> and <u>The Courier Post</u> shall be the official publications of the River Council for the publication of all notices and legal advertisements.

Motion/Second/Vote

#### RESOLUTION R: 03-2025 RESOLUTION AND NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF THE RIVER COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the River Council is required to provide notice of all meetings pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the River Council as follows:

- 1. The Secretary shall post a copy of this Resolution on the bulletin board at the Warren E. Fox Nature Center, Estell Manor Park, Route 50, Estell Manor, New Jersey;
- 2. The Secretary shall publish this resolution in the following newspapers and websites:
  - (1) The Press of Atlantic City; and
  - (2) The Courier Post.
    - (3) <u>www.gehwa.org</u>
- 3. The River Council shall conduct hybrid meetings at the Warren E. Fox Nature Center, Estell Manor Park, Route 50, Estell Manor, New Jersey, and on Zoom, commencing at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every other month, as follows: April 16, 2025, June 18, 2025, August 20, 2025, October 15, 2025, December 17, 2025 and February

Motion/Second/Vote

### **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes**



**Great Egg Harbor River Council** 

## **Public Portion**



**Great Egg Harbor River Council** 





Lynn Maun

Education and Outreach Coordinator

Spring 2025 Indoor and Outdoor Classroom Events

## Schools

# Teachers are Scheduling Programs for Spring 2025

## Upper Pittsgrove Science Fair 1-9-2025

# Homeschool Group Fox Nature Center 2-3-2025

St. Vincent De Paul Elective Programs for 6th, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades February, March and April 2025

# Macroinvertebrates at Stockton University March 2025

# GEHWA Meetings and Programs



#### **Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association's Member and Friends Meeting and Program**

GEHWA Members and Friends are invited to join us on, Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 6:30 PM when Fred Akers will present, "The History of Wild and Scenic Rivers in New Jersey"

Please join us at the Fox Nature Center or by Zoom for a presentation on "The History of Wild and Scenic Rivers in New Jersey" Fred will present a story about rivers,

watersheds, landfills, Acts of Congress

and Pinelands protection. All are part of the reasons why, select rivers in New Jersey are protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.



Login information for the meeting, via Zoom, is included with the email.

In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held via Zoom.

Call or text Lynn@856-649-2792 if you have any questions.

Please plan to attend

# Continuing Education 2025

# Pinelands Short Course Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Stockton University

# GEHWA Meetings and Programs

# Annual GEHWA Member Meeting & Program Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 6:30 Nature Center and via



#### Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association's Annual Members' Meeting and Program

GEHWA Members and Friends are invited to join us on, Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 6:30 PM when Bill Reinert will present a program on "New Jersey's Threatened and Endangered Shorebirds"



#### "New Jersey's Threatened and Endangered Shorebirds"

Using photos to help better connect the audience to these creatures, I'll be discussing the endangered migratory shorebirds and beach nesting birds that we are fortunate to have right in our "back yard".

We'll review the current status of these birds, why their populations are declining, some of the unique characteristics of each, and what's being done to help these birds succeed.

Our meeting will be held in person, at the Fox Nature Center, and via Zoom.

(The Zoom link is included in the email announcement)

In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will only be held via Zoom.

Call or text Lynn @ 856-649-2792 or email @ <u>lynnkmaun@comcast.net</u> if you have any questions.

Please plan to attend

## **Community Events**

# ACUA "Earth Day" Celebration April 26, 2025

# Bald Eagle Status in NJ

Bald Eagle in NJ Delisted 1/6/2025 From Endangered to Special Concern -Breeding

#### New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Fish & Wildlife

Dave Golden, Assistant Commissioner
Jason Hearon, Assistant Director
Kathleen Clark, Chief
Endangered and Nongame Species Program

#### New Jersey Bald Eagle Project, 2024

Prepared by Melissa Roach, Larissa Smith, & Kathleen E. Clark

#### Project Staff:

Kathleen Clark, Larissa Smith, Melissa Roach, Dr. Erica Miller, John Heilferty, and Ben Wurst



Photo by Mark Gorman



CONSERVE WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

#### **Nest Survey Results**

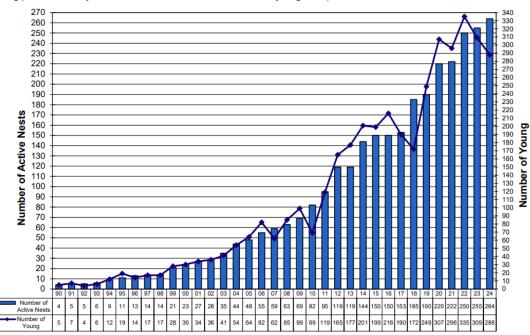
There was a record number of <u>264 active nests</u> this year (nests known to have at least one egg) with <u>29 pairs</u> establishing or maintaining a territory (but did not lay eggs) bringing the grand total of active pairs to 293. Of the 264 active nests, 23 had unknown outcomes.

There were **20 new eagle pairs** found this year.

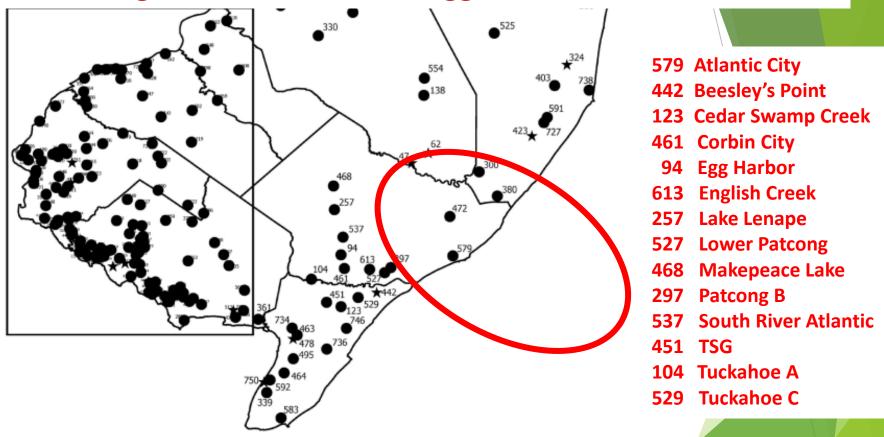
182 nests (76%) were successful and produced a cumulative total of 288 young resulting in a productivity rate of 1.24 young per active nest.

While this is above the ~1.0 young/nest required to maintain a stable population, this is the second lowest productivity rate in the past 10 years.

Figure 1. Number of Bald Eagle nests and young fledged in NJ, 1990–2024. Blue bars = number of nests, and blue lines = number of young produced each year. In 2024, 264 nests were active and 288 young were produced from 241 known-outcome nests.



#### 14 Bald Eagle Nests in the Great Egg Harbor Watershed in 2024



NEST SITE	Nest #	Incubation	Hatching	<b>Banding</b>	<b>Fledging</b>	No. Fledged	<b>Failed Date</b>	Notes
Atlantic City	579	2/27	4/1		7/11	2		
Beesely Pt	442	T				0		
Cedar Swamp Creek	123	2/22	4/12			0	5/6	
Corbin City	461	2/19	3/12		5/10	1		
Egg Harbor	94	2/11	2/15			0		aerial survey 3/14
English Creek	613	3/14				0		aerial survey 3/14
Lake Lenape	257	3/14				0		aerial survey 3/14
Lower Patcong	527	2/5	3/24			0	4/30	
Makepeace Lake	468	3/14			6/15	1		aerial survey 3/14
Patcong B	297	2/25	3/31		6/17	1		New Nest
South River Atlantic	537	2/14	4/2		7/6	2		
TSG	451	2/9				0	3/1	
Tuckahoe A	104	3/14				0		aerial survey 3/14
Tuckahoe C	529	3/14				0		aerial survey 3/14
				Total Fledged		7		

CoCoRaHS Nationwide Citizen Science Precipitation Monitoring Program

# Fred and Julie Akers Volunteers Since March 21, 2008

# 6000+ Reports! Thank You!

According to our database, you have surpassed 6000 reports.

Thank you for being such a great volunteer.

As of 2-14-2025



appreciates

Fred Akers
NJ-AT-1
6,131 Observations

We really appreciate all that you do for us. Please let us know if we can do anything to make your CoCoRaHS experience any better. Thanks again!

# Lynn and John Maun Volunteers Since March 5, 2008



#### 6000+ Reports! Thank You!

According to our database, you have surpassed 6000 reports.

Thank you for being such a great volunteer.



The CoCoRaHS Team

ирргестайни

Lynn Maun

NJ-CD-1

6,164 Observations

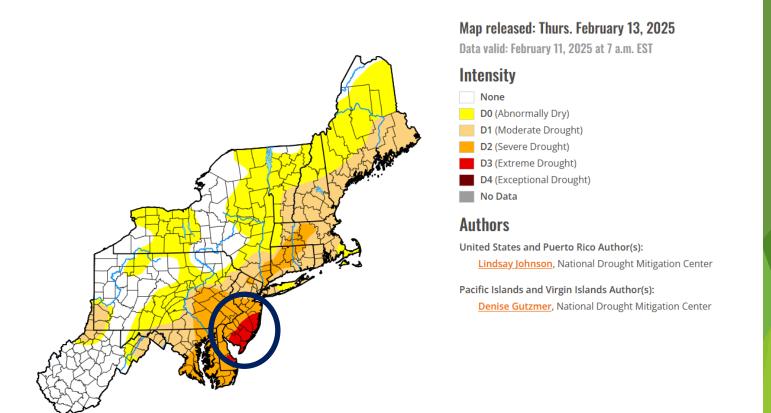
We really appreciate all that you do for us. Please let us know if we can do anything to make your CoCoRaHS experience any better. Thanks again!

As of 2-14-2025

#### U.S. Drought Monitor

Current Maps Data Summary About Conditions & Outlooks Ag in Drought En Español NADM

Northeast Home / Northeast



## Water Supply Status and Actions

#### Normal **☑**

Routine monitoring of water supply and meteorological indicators. All conditions normal.

#### Watch ②

Focus placed on voluntary reductions in demand through increased public awareness.

#### Current Status

#### Warning (1)

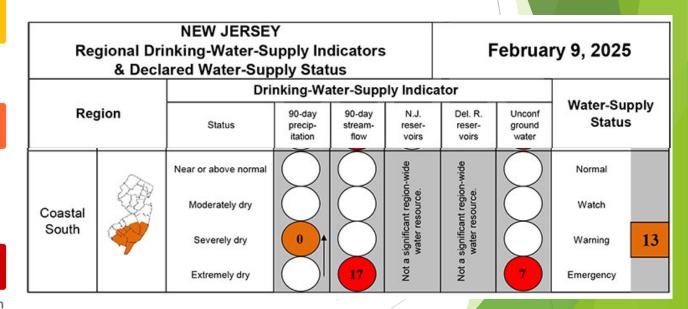
DEP Commissioner issues order urging public to voluntarily use water sparingly; DEP may issue orders to purveyors to manage supplies in most affected regions.

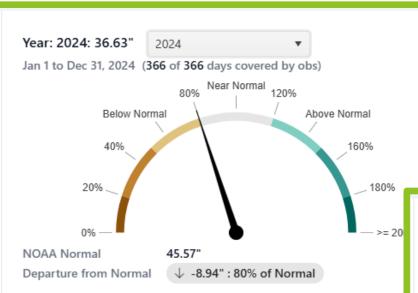
#### Emergency \*\*

Governor orders mandatory restrictions on certain uses of water, usually phased in as conditions deteriorate.



## New Jersey Drought Information

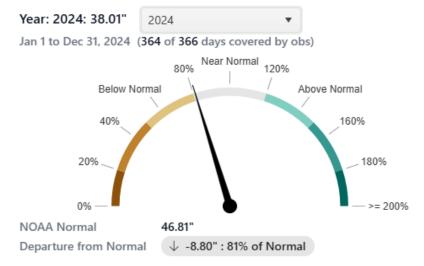


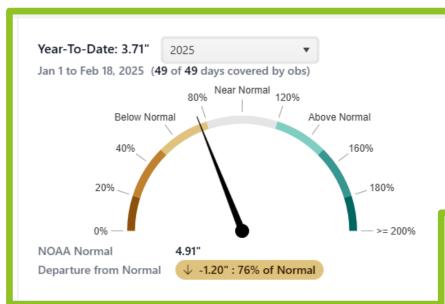


#### Maun's Data

Average NJ Precipitation is Between 40-51 Inches Per Year (Location Dependent)

#### Akers' Data





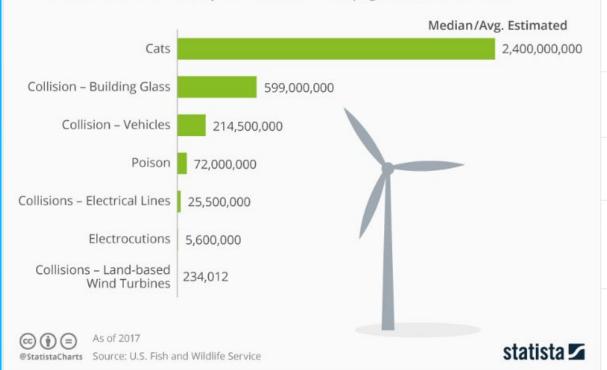
Maun's Data

#### Akers' Data



#### Wind Turbines Are Not Killing Fields for Birds

Annual estimated bird mortality from selected anthropogenic causes in the U.S.



#### DESCRIPTION

This chart shows the annual estimated bird mortality for selected anthropogenic causes in the U.S.







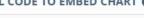




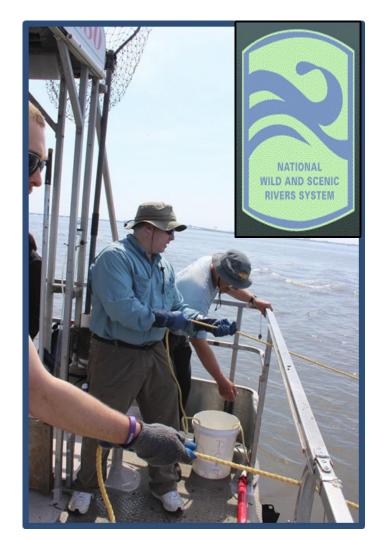
#### URL TO BE USED AS REFERENCE LINK:

https://www.statista.com/chart/15195/windturbines-are-not-killing-fields-for-birds/

#### HTML CODE TO EMBED CHART ()







# National Park Service Mr. Paul Kenney ~

- •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)

# **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



#### **Tuckahoe Island Restoration Work**

On January 7th, GEHWA met with NPS and NJ Fish & Wildlife to discuss doing restoration work on Tuckahoe Island.

Fish & Wildlife agreed to partner with GEHWA and NPS on the project

On February 4, we meet with NJDOT and NJDOT to discuss using dredge material from the Tuckahoe River to do ecological uplift on Tuckahoe Island and surrounding areas.

# The Great Egg Harbor Wetland Islands contain about 800 acres of wetlands and water. Legend Great Egg Harbor Islands = 800 acres Wild and Scenic River System = 129 miles Rainbow Islands **Drag** Island Garrets Island Tuckahoe Island Cowpens Islands Ocean City Shooting Island

On 3/9/16, at low tide, the 2 large ponds on Tuckahoe Island retain water at low tide.



On 3/24/19, at low tide, the 2 large ponds on Tuckahoe Island are drained.



The interior and edges of Tuckahoe Island are being flooded many times per year now due to frequent flooding. The vegetation is rapidly converting to open mud.



We chose to focus on Tuckahoe Island first since it is within our designation, but there are other areas of concern

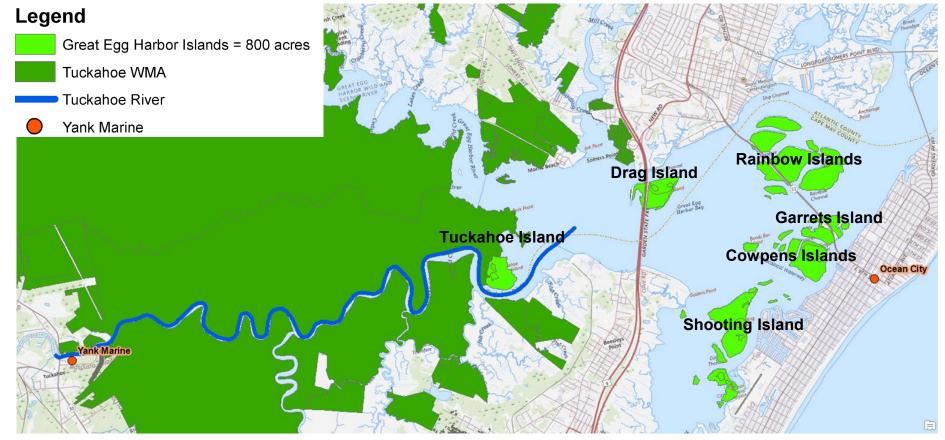
throughout the bay



Across from Ocean City, the marsh eroded 40 ft. in 8 years where the Osprey nest solar camera was installed.



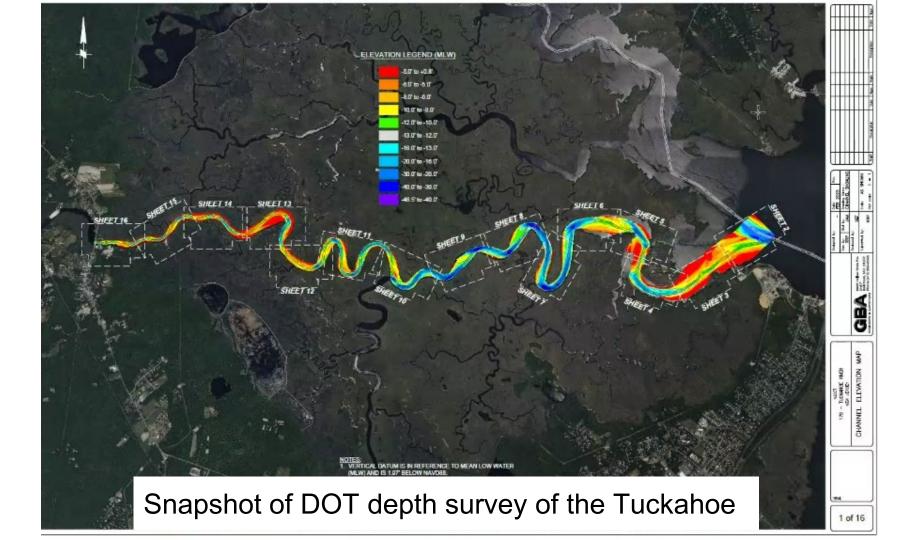
The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association is developing a partnership with NJDEP and NJDOT around a potential project to dredge the Tuckahoe River and beneficially use the dredge material on the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area.

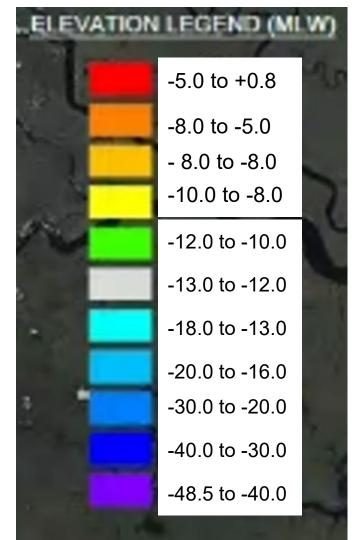


# Tuckahoe River is being surveyed by NJDOT to access the need for dredging

GEHWA contacted Yank's Boatworks about the need for dredging the Tuckahoe and they are very much on board!

Yanks contacted the State & Congress to advocate for dredging the Tuckahoe River





There are places in the Tuckahoe that are very deep, but there is significant shoaling where the river is filling in.

# Princeton Hydro Project in Beesley's Point

GEHWA is currently working with Princeton Hydro and the Beesley's Point Development Group to apply for a NJ Wetlands Mitigation Council grant to do restoration work on the marsh west of the train tracks on the BL England site.

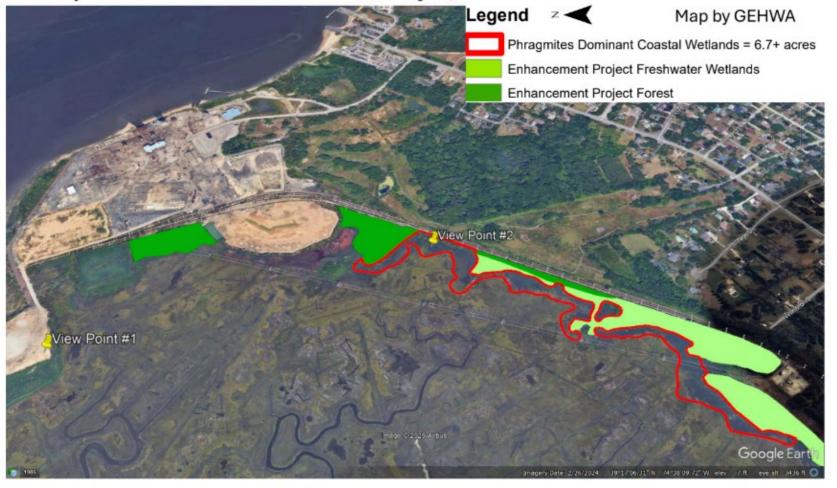
## Beesley's Point Tidal Wetland Enhancement Project

Letters of support from the <u>National Park Service</u>, <u>Upper Township</u>, and the <u>Beesley's Point Development Group</u> were submitted with the application.

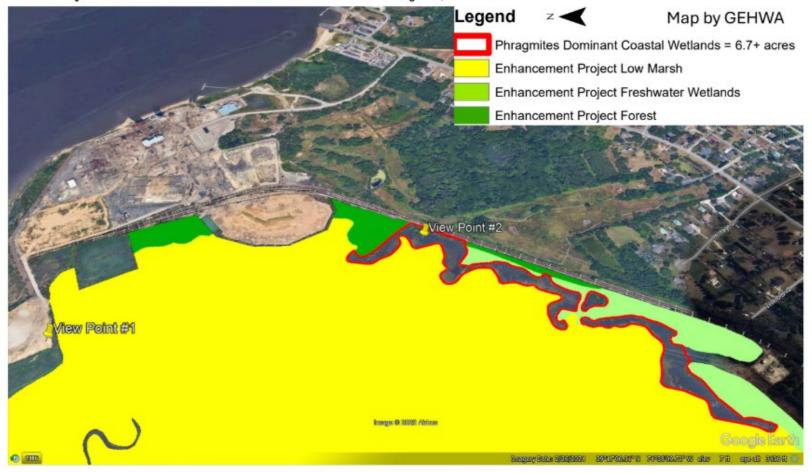
## **Project Goals**

- Remove invasive plant species (Phragmites) from high marsh.
- Plant native high marsh species: Saltmeadow Cordgrass (Spartina patens) and salt grass (Distichlis spicata)
- Plantings will be monitored and maintained for 5 years and the project will include a comprehensive bird study

#### Beesley Point Tidal Wetland Enhancement Project, NJDEP 2015 Land use Land Cover Data.



#### Beesley Point Tidal Wetland Enhancement Project, NJDEP 2015 Land use Land Cover Data.



On 2/7 GEHWA went out in the field with Princeton Hydro, BPDG, and the NJ Wetlands Mitigation Council A decision was made to expand the project to include stabilizing the bay shoreline for \$1.5 million.





## Somers Point Nature Preserve along Patcong Creek

On 1/29, GEHWA went out in the field to survey the proposed Patcong Creek Nature preserve in Somers Point with the Somers Point Environmental Commission.

The site was beautiful with multiple overlooks over tidal marsh and roughly a mile of hiking trails.



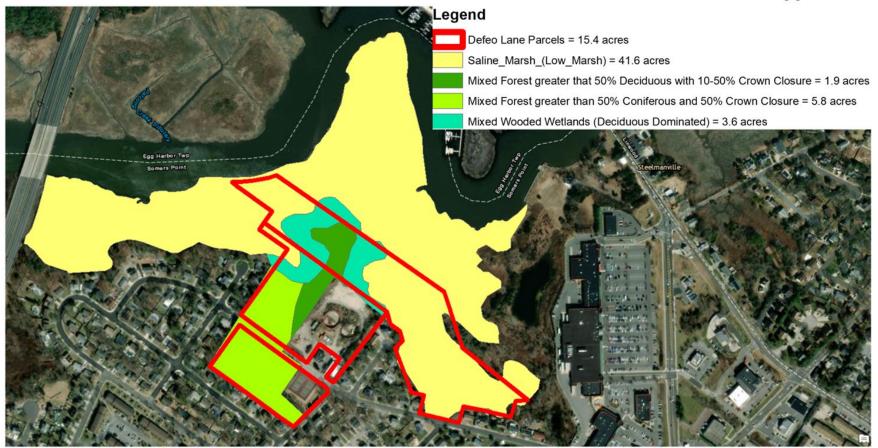


City of Somers Point-Proposed Environmental Education Trail





#### Somers Point Defeo Lane Natural Area 2015 NJDEP Land Use Land Cover Types.



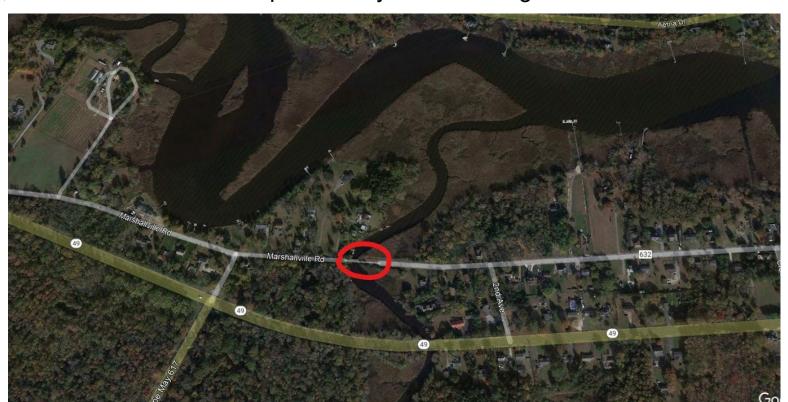
### The bridge over Mill Creek is under contract!

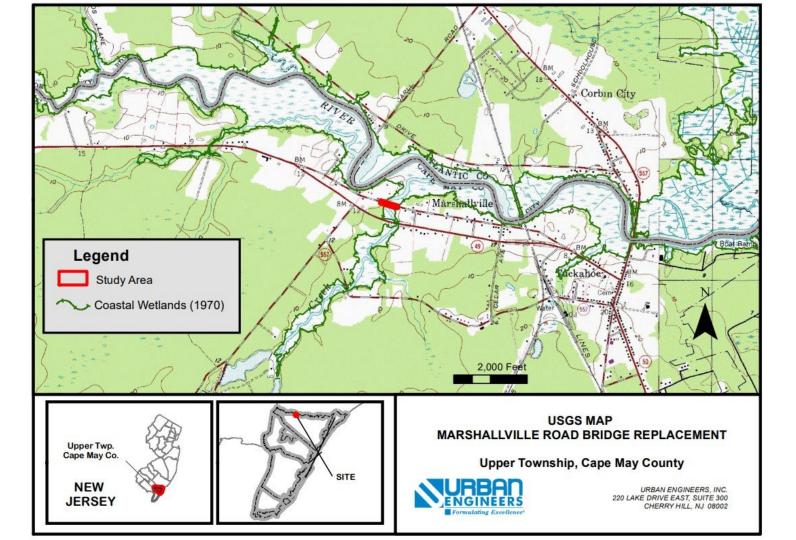


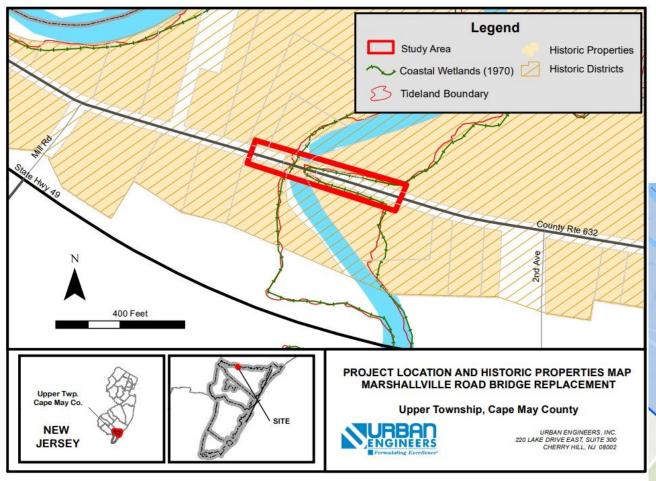
# Cape May County funds Upper Township bridge, historic preservation, park

Contract approved for replacing Marshallville Road Bridge with pedestrian bridge

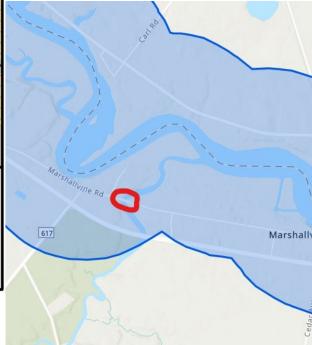
The county plans to remove the superstructure and replace the bridge, which would result in the total loss of a historic district contributing resource. However, the replacement would result in a modern bridge that would match the historic bridge in design, materials and color complementary to the setting.







# Mill Creek Bridge is within our designation

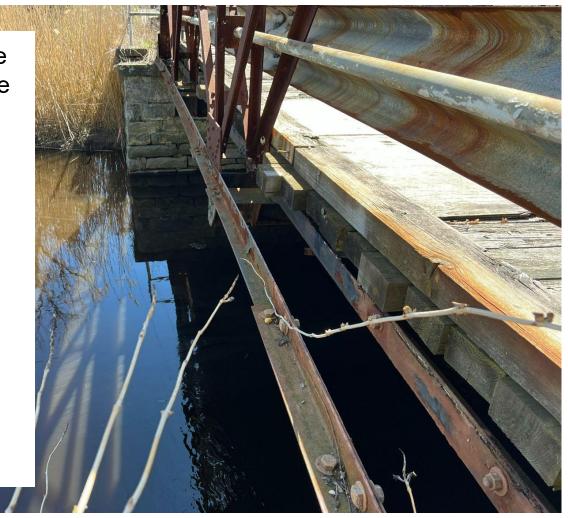


The county's design would increase the bridge elevation to provide more clearance for boat traffic.

The 10-foot-wide pathway would comply with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Maintaining a bit of its history, the stone masonry would be repointed and repaired.

County engineer Bob Church said work is set to begin this spring and be completed by early summer.



## Clean Up in Hamilton Township scheduled for 3/29 at 9am





Help protect our waters - Join your local Watershed Ambassador and partners to remove trash

Saturday, March 29th, 9 AM - 11 AM

Hardings Lake Ballfields, 6207 Knight Ave, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Meeting on the basketball court



Registration preferred & more information here





- · Rain OR Shine Event
- Supplies Provided



AmeriCorp:













## Marine Debris Program Updates

GEHWA is currently coming up with a plan to remove a small sunfish boat from the BL England Property





#### Pinelands Golf Course Water Allocation

Recently the Pinelands Golf course in Winslow Twp, applied for a water allocation to divert 7 million gallons of water per month from the Kirkwood Cohansey.

During the last 5 years, the Pinelands Golf Course has successfully, on average, kept within its 3.1 MGM (million gallons / month) monthly allocation.

The application request for 7.0 MGM represents a 225% increase over historical water use.

If granted, what incentive would Pinelands Golf Course have to conserve water?

Fred went to the Pinelands Commission on January 10, provided handouts about the issue, made sure they were aware of the proposed increase, and asked them to apply their new rules to this application.

Table 15B. Summary of HUC11 Remaining Available Water and Full Allocation

Z I	HUC11	HUC11 Name		Water		Curr	ent	Full	Allocation	(F.A.)		Largest D	ep-Con Los	is	
DEP Value						% Available Used	Remaining Available Water (mgd)	Net Dep-Con (mgd)	% Available Used	Remaining Available Water (mgd)	Largest Loss Current Use	Largest Loss % Available Water (Current)	Largest Loss F.A. Use	Largest Loss % Available Water (F.A.)	
111	02040302030	Great Egg Harbor R (above HospitalityBr)	2018	4.5	5.9	131%	0.0	19.7	438%	<u></u>	Potable	82%	Potable	100%	
		e 2024 Nev				A Grand	G /	7	Leg	gend					
Avai	lable Water	lan, there is at the curr				1	12	7 A		HUC	11 GEH	HR abov	e Hospi	tality Br	
this HUC11.							Pinelands Golf Course								
10	- manage	5		TAI	1 1	/	3 7	brk celedry	0	Folso	m Stre	amgage	е		
1	X Tox	1	000	17.10	1	Yil :	1	1-		GEH	R Wild	and Sc	enic Riv	er	
X	1/4		1	Show to anno	to supplied the same	Harber B (	above HospitalityBr)	X		Winsl	low Tw	р			
32/2	SO !		PACTOR PART	I	Sieat Egg	Y THE PARTY OF THE	4 1. S			Great	t Egg H	Harbor V	Vatershe	ed	
4	-	1	1		125	了对	THE PLE	X	X		3/	11		A Company	
A	TX.	TIL	1	111	L	1	9	8	( )	50	and the same	and I		为某人	
	Lory	No. Assets	Mary Mary		2	1	-		Tian	The same	119	5	3-4	16	
XX.	L'	1	7	-36	1	~ ·	A STATE OF	1800		3			1	4	

#### Pinelands Commission Responds to Golf Course Water Allocation

On December 16, 2024, the Commission received notice of a public hearing to be held on January 15, 2025 by NJDEP, Division of Water Supply & Geoscience, on an application to divert seven million gallons of water per month from four wells and one pond intake.

Commission staff met with NJDEP staff on January 14, 2025 to discuss the application and relevant CMP standards.

By letter dated January 16, 2025, Commission staff notified NJDEP that the application was inconsistent with the CMP's water management rules, which took effect on December 4, 2023 and were incorporated in Winslow's land use ordinance on August 20, 2024.

The letter advised that, due to the inconsistencies, NJDEP could not issue the requested Water Allocation Permit.

## Ocean City Welcome Center Sign Updates

We are still working on installing an educational salt marsh sign on the 9th Street Bridge into Ocean City.

Currently we are navigating the NJDOT application process for this site, but we have several other locations in mind:

- Patcong Creek Park
- Beesley's Point Park
- Kennedy Park

View of the Coastal Marshes from the Ocean City Visitor Center.

This location offers an exceptional opportunity to teach about coastal marshes.



Possible new sign location at the Ocean City Visitor Center



Interpretive sign concept from Texas.



# 6000+ Reports! Thank You!

According to our database, you have surpassed 6000 reports.

Thank you for being such a great volunteer.



We really appreciate all that you do for us. Please let us know if we can do anything to make your CoCoRaHS experience any better. Thanks again!

# One of our past projects in 2009.

900 car tires = 9 tons 120 truck tires = 6 tons 1020 tires = 15 tons

Cost = \$4,113.60

**Volunteer Hours = 220** 

