

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

Kristen Welser

Jenna Mudforte

Winslow Twp

John Keenan

Lynnee LoCicero

Hammonton

Jim Owen

Jim 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.*

(Kristen Welser)

(Jenna Mudforte)___

Bill Handley *Upper Twp.*

(Steve Eisenhower)

(Bill Stuempfig)

Dick Colby *GEHWA*

(Paul Ludgate)

(Clay Emerson)

Greg Conway *Borough of Folsom*

David Brown *Egg Harbor Twp.*

(Tom Baum)

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 1-2026--Designating Depository of Funds and Fiscal Agent

Resolution 2-2026--Designating Official Publications

Resolution 3-2026--Notice of Meetings of the River Council



RESOLUTION R: 01-2026
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 2026, 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 2026.

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

Motion/Second/Vote

RESOLUTION R: 02-2026
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 The Press of Atlantic City and The Courier Post shall be the official publications of the River Council for the publication of all notices and legal advertisements.

Motion/Second/Vote

RESOLUTION R: 03-2026
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) www.gehwa.org

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 15, 2026, June 17, 2026, August 19, 2026, October 21, 2026, December 16, 2026 and February 17, 2027

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

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades, creating a modern, layered effect. The shapes are primarily triangular and polygonal, with some areas appearing more translucent than others.

Spring 2026 Indoor and Outdoor Classroom Events

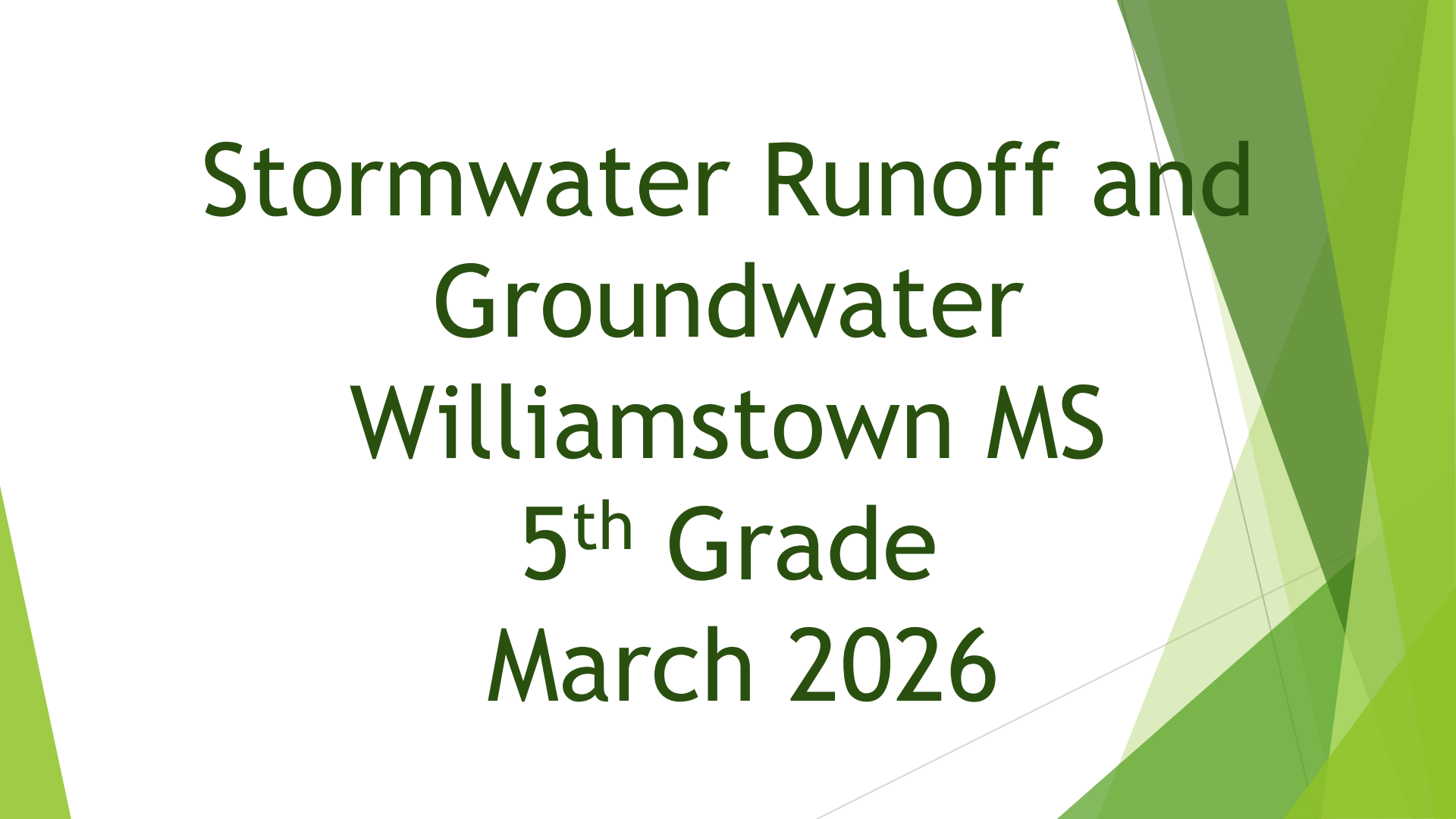
Schools

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic look.

Upper Pittsgrove Science Fair 1-8-2026

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and naturalistic feel.

Homeschool Group Fox Nature Center 2-16-2026

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Stormwater Runoff and Groundwater Williamstown MS 5th Grade March 2026

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern, layered effect on the right side of the slide.

Frogs and Toads

Hammonton MS

March 2026

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern, layered effect on the right side of the slide.

Frogs and Toads Pleasantville School at Nature Center March 2026

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern, layered effect on the right side of the slide.

Frogs and Toads at Nature Center Hess School April 2026

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Macroinvertebrates at Stockton University April 2026

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Environmental Seminar at Stockton University April 2026

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 27, 2026, at
6:30 PM when Stephen Jasiecki will present,
"Dealing with Microplastics"**

Please join us at the Fox Nature Center or by
Zoom for a presentation on
"Dealing with Microplastics"

Stephen Jasiecki is leading a campaign to
require contractors and homeowners to take
protective measures to prevent microplastics
from entering the environment. He will give us
the background on the problems with
microplastic construction waste and how he is
working with local municipalities and state
lawmakers to elevate local municipal
ordinances to a statewide New Jersey bill to
prevent microplastics from entering the
environment.



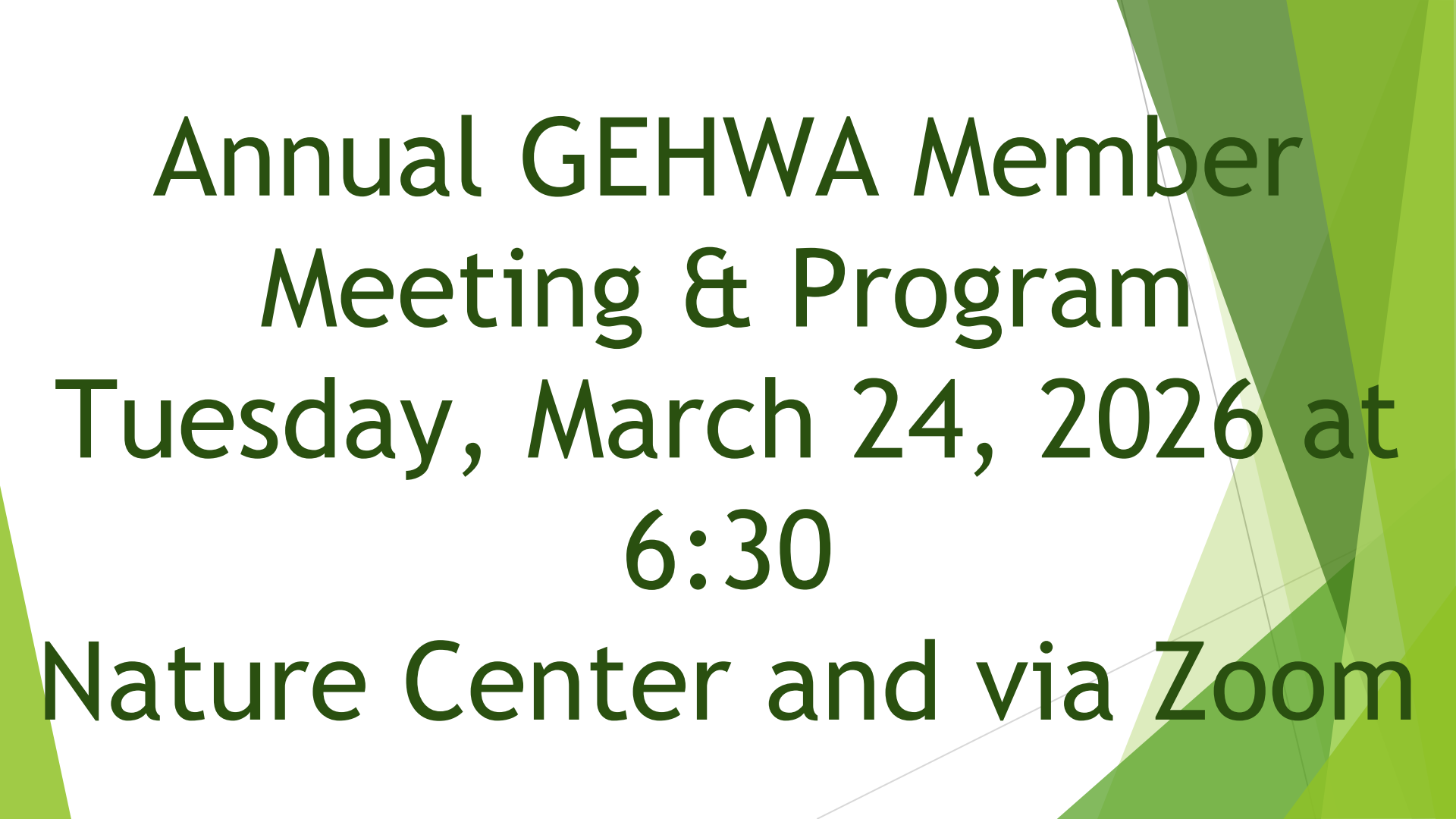
Stephen Jasiecki,
Chair, Sustainable Margate
and Sustainable Downbeach
(Atlantic County)

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

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Annual GEHWA Member
Meeting & Program
Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at
6:30
Nature Center and via Zoom

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic feel. The shapes are layered, with some appearing more prominent than others, and they frame the central text.

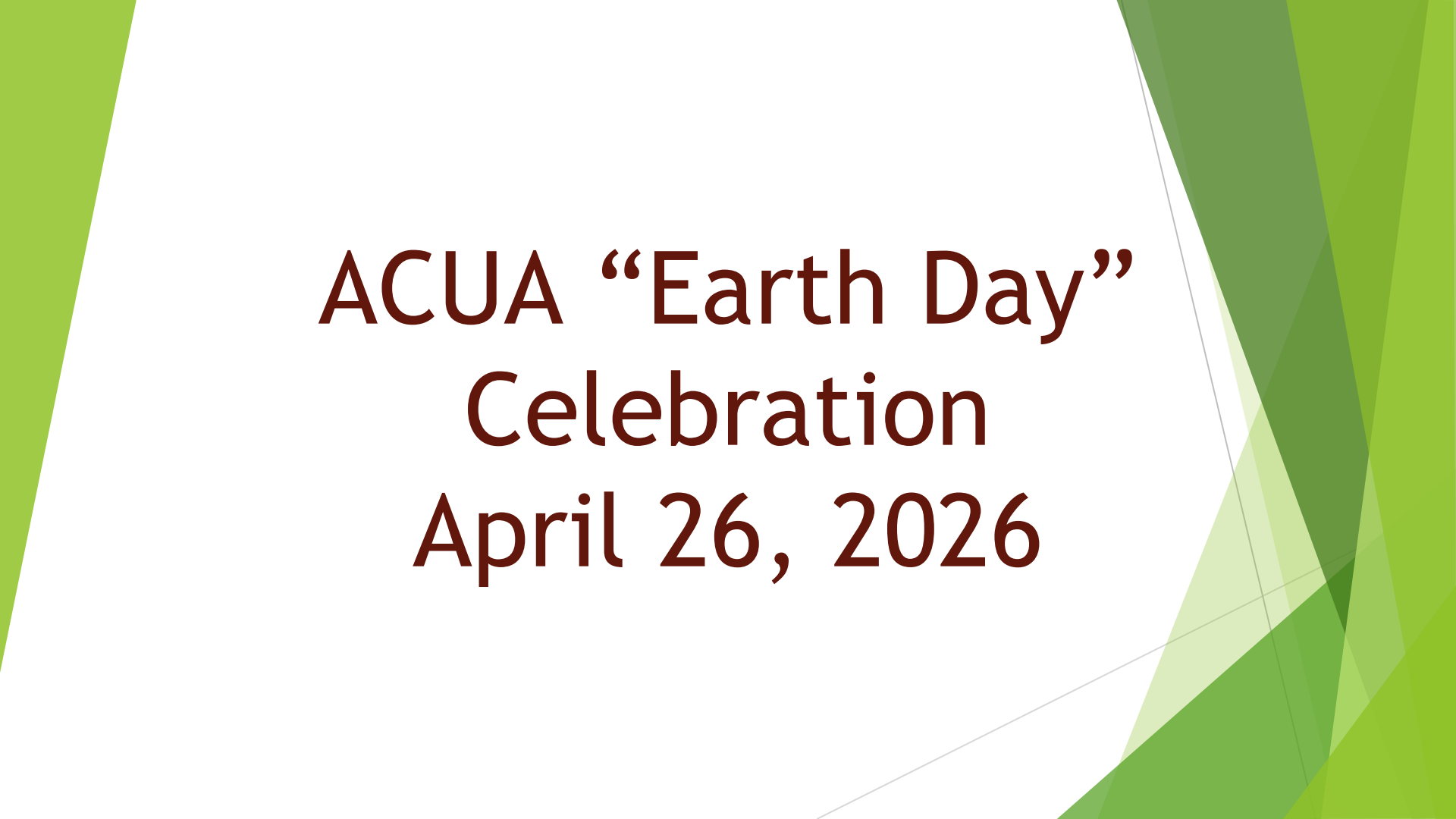
Continuing Education 2026

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern, layered effect.

Pinelands Short Course

Saturday, March 7, 2026, at
Stockton University

Community Events

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic feel.

ACUA “Earth Day” Celebration April 26, 2026



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)

Annual Funding Increase: \$210,000 to \$220,000

NPS Funding History for Great Egg Harbor River					
Year	CA	CA2	Total	Approp.	NPS
FY2006	\$100,000		\$100,000	\$150,000	\$50,000
FY2007	\$89,900		\$89,900	\$118,000	\$28,100
FY2008	\$138,000		\$138,000	\$179,000	\$41,000
FY2009	\$138,000		\$138,000	\$179,000	\$41,000
FY2010	\$134,000		\$134,000	\$178,000	\$44,000
FY2011	\$109,500		\$109,500	\$174,000	\$64,500
FY2012	\$109,000		\$109,000	\$172,000	\$63,000
FY2013	\$105,000		\$105,000	\$164,000	\$59,000
FY2014	\$117,000		\$117,000	\$172,000	\$55,000
FY2015	\$117,000	\$2,400	\$119,400	\$172,000	\$52,600
FY2016	\$132,000	\$7,300	\$139,300	\$172,000	\$32,700
FY2017	\$140,000		\$140,000	\$172,000	\$32,000
FY2018	\$140,000		\$140,000	\$172,000	\$32,000
FY2019	\$140,000		\$140,000	\$172,000	\$32,000
FY2020	\$140,000		\$140,000	\$220,000	\$80,000
FY2021	\$150,000		\$150,000	\$241,000	\$91,000
FY2022	\$165,000		\$165,000	\$300,000	\$135,000
FY2023	\$210,000		\$210,000	\$300,000	\$90,000
FY2024	\$210,000		\$210,000	\$300,000	\$90,000
FY2025	\$210,000		\$210,000	\$300,000	\$90,000
FY2026	\$220,000		\$220,000	\$300,000	\$80,000
			\$3,024,100		

2026 PWSR Supplemental Funding Opportunity

Amount: can apply for \$5,000-\$30,000

Date due: Monday, February 23

Possible Projects: Interpretive and trail signs for Somers Point Defoe Lane Nature Preserve, Coastal Marsh restoration video documentary.

Note: The FY2026 PWSRs Congressional Dear Colleague Letters to the appropriators requested \$5.648 million, and Congress appropriated \$5.648 million which was a \$348,000 increase over FY2025.

Old Business



Great Egg Harbor River Council

New Business



Great Egg Harbor River Council

Tuckahoe Island Partner Introduction + Update

Tyler Kinney, Coastal Biologist
NJDEP



Tuckahoe Island Partner Introduction + TNC Marsh Pipeline Project

Bill Shadel, Coastal Projects Manager
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)



TNC Grant Awarded for Pipeline Project

TNC was awarded **.989 million** to study and create 5 restoration designs for areas of interest in the Great Egg Harbor Estuary.

Goals: Restore habitat for wildlife, coastal resilience for surrounding communities

Developing Designs to Enhance Marsh in the Great Egg Harbor Estuary (NJ)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$988,900

Matching Funds:.....\$461,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,450,700

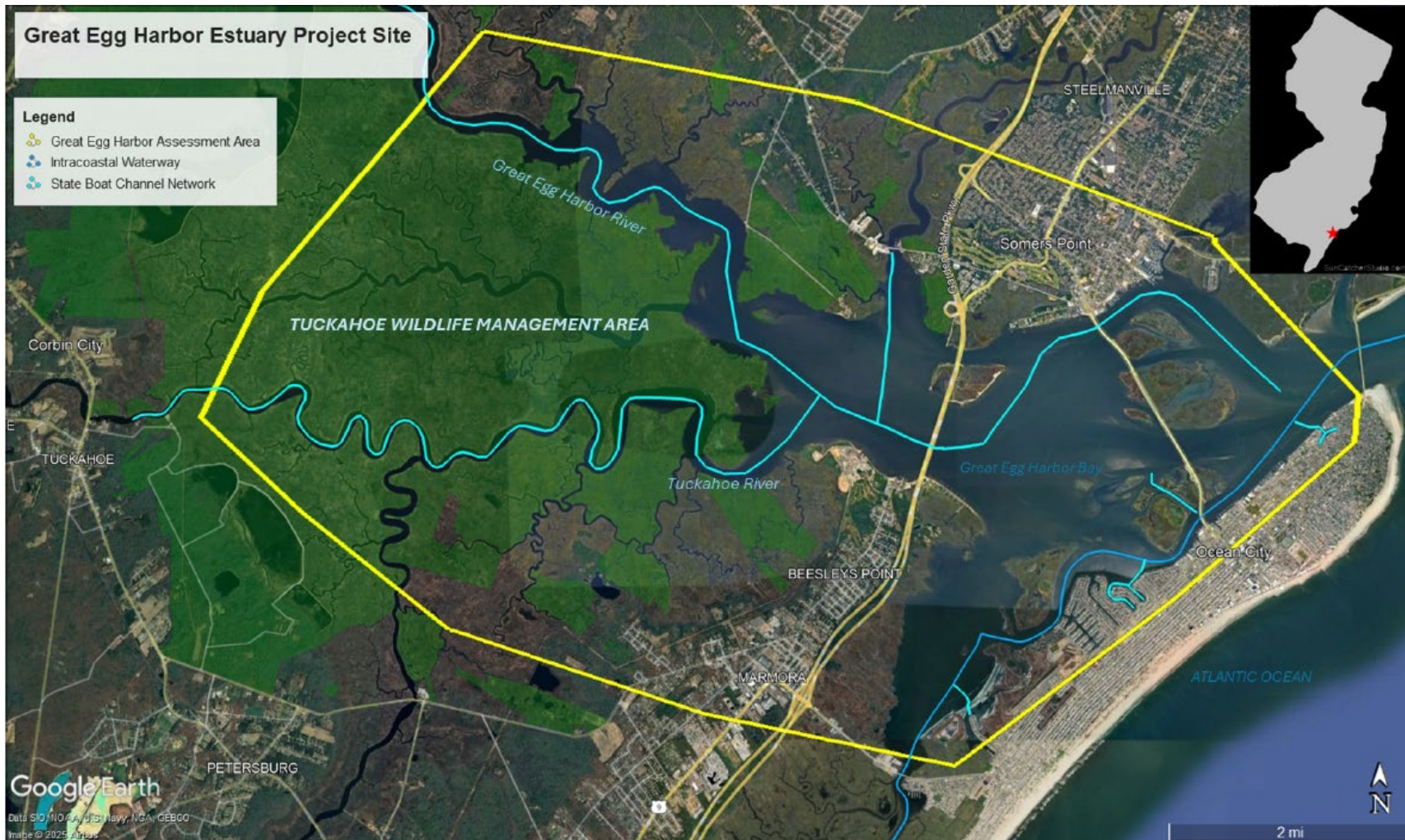
Assess the marsh complex within the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area to create preliminary restoration designs for up to five areas of interest and identify additional locations for future restoration. Project will benefit 1,000 acres of marsh, restoring vital habitat for species, such as the saltmarsh sparrow and black duck, while protecting adjacent communities in the Great Egg Harbor Estuary.



Great Egg Harbor Estuary Project Site

Legend

- Great Egg Harbor Assessment Area
- Intracoastal Waterway
- State Boat Channel Network



Steve Jaisecki on Microplastics in Construction

At our 1/27 Members meeting, Steve Jasecki presented on the issue of Microplastics in construction.

All over South Jersey and especially in shore towns, new homes are being built with different materials that are toxic to the environment.

Steve is leading the charge on educating contractors as well as promoting a model ordinance to municipalities in NJ.

<https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/video/news/local/combating-waste-pollution-at-construction-sites-at-the-jersey-shore/3758690/>

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

Photo from Greg Conway



A wide-angle photograph of a calm lake at sunset. The sun is a bright orange orb on the horizon, casting a long, shimmering reflection across the water's surface. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and blues. In the foreground, a wooden dock with a ramp and railings extends into the water from a grassy bank. The background shows a dark line of trees and a few distant houses under the twilight sky.

Administrator's Report

2/12 drone footage of Beesley's Point CDF



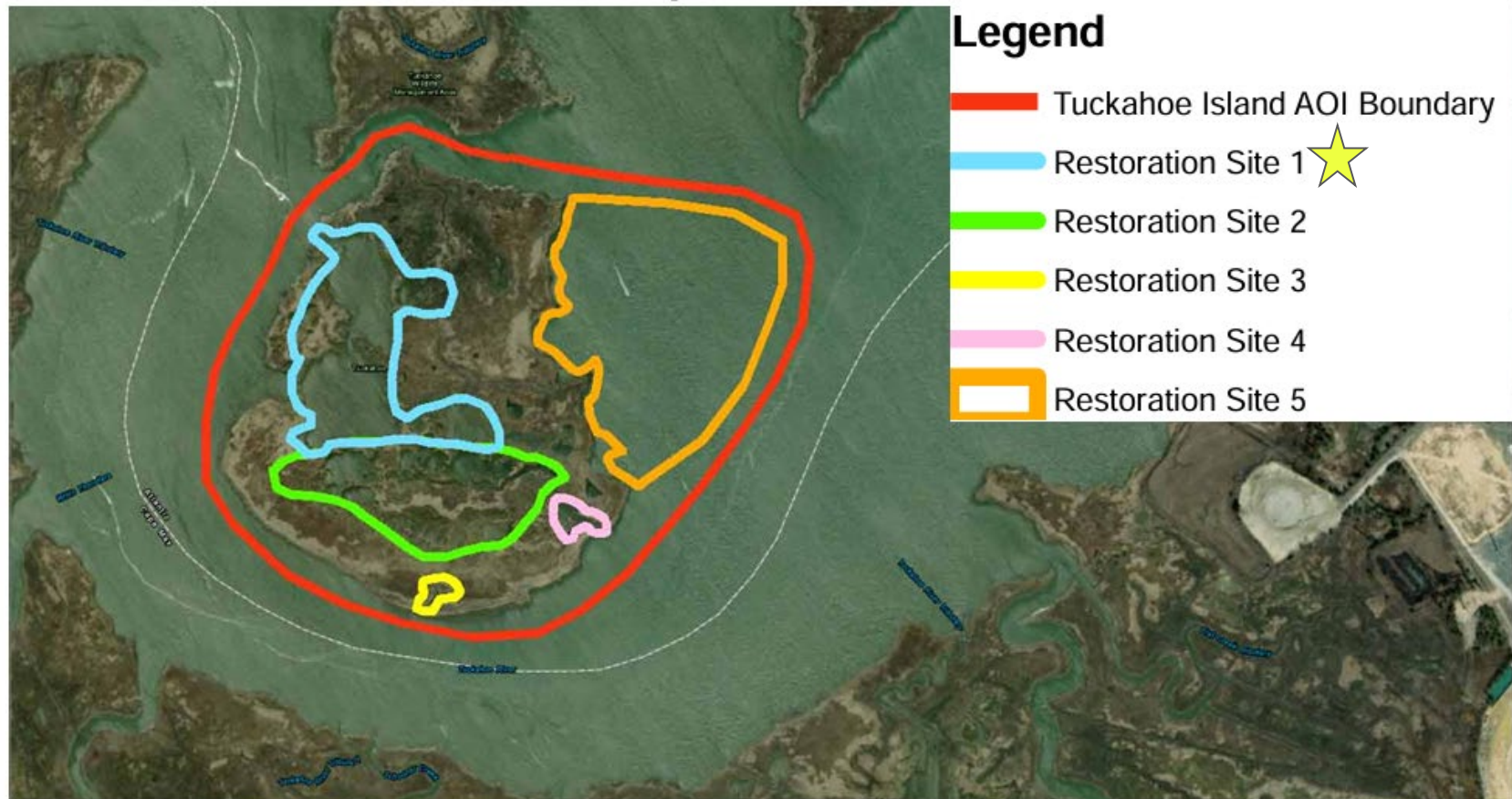


Frozen Tuckahoe
River & Tuckahoe
Island





Tuckahoe Island AOI Proposed Restoration Sites



Appendix A, Figure 3: Proposed Tuckahoe Island AOI Restoration Sites

Tuckahoe Island AOI Proposed Restoration Sites



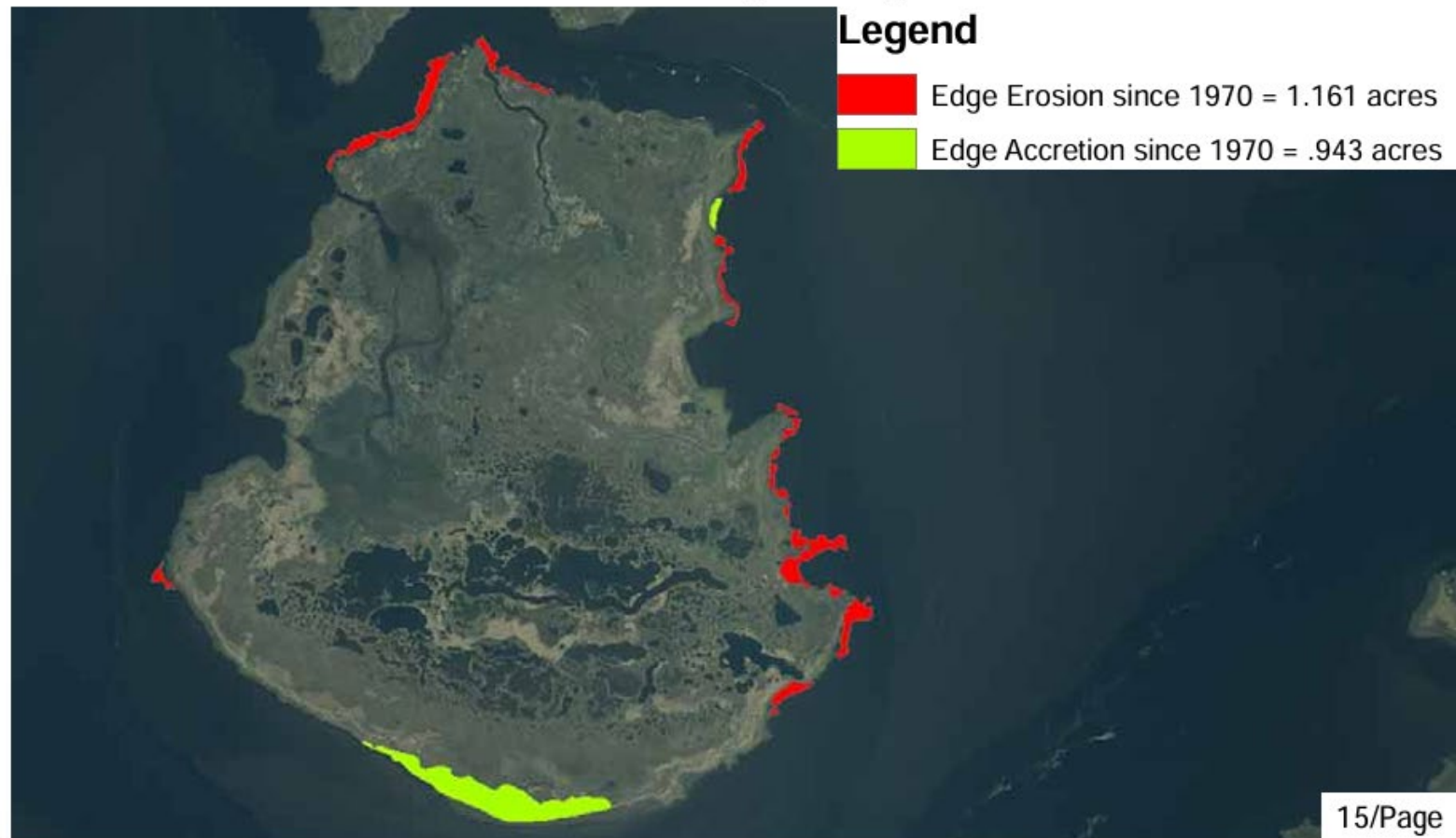
Appendix A, Figure 4: Proposed Tuckahoe Island Restoration Site 1

Tuckahoe Island AOI Proposed Restoration Sites



Appendix A, Figure 5: Proposed Tuckahoe Island Restoration Site 2

Tuckahoe Island Estimated Edge Changes from 1970 to 2023

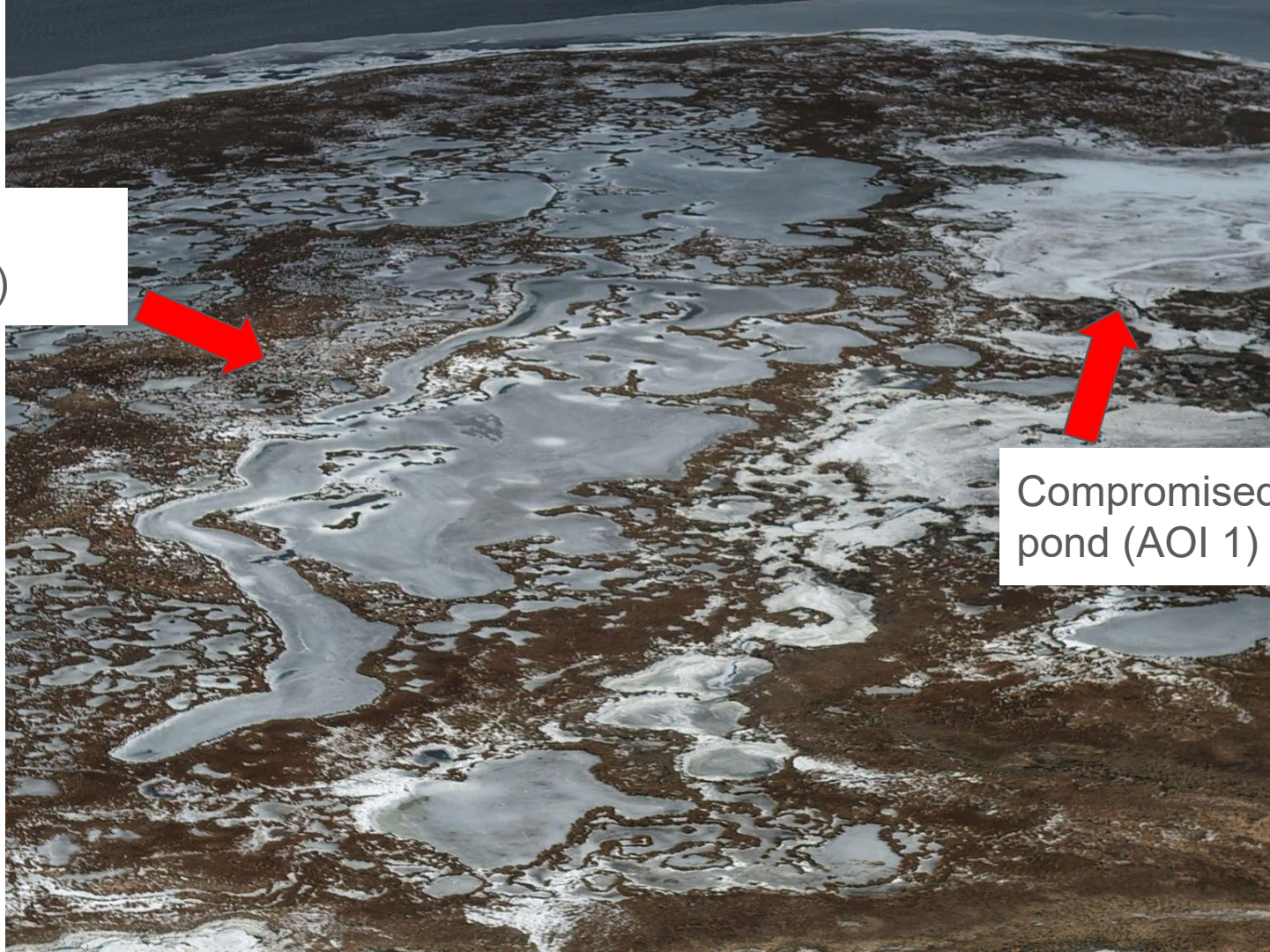


Appendix A, Figure 9: Tuckahoe Island Estimated Edge Changes from 1970 to 2023

Fragmentation
ponding (AOI 2)



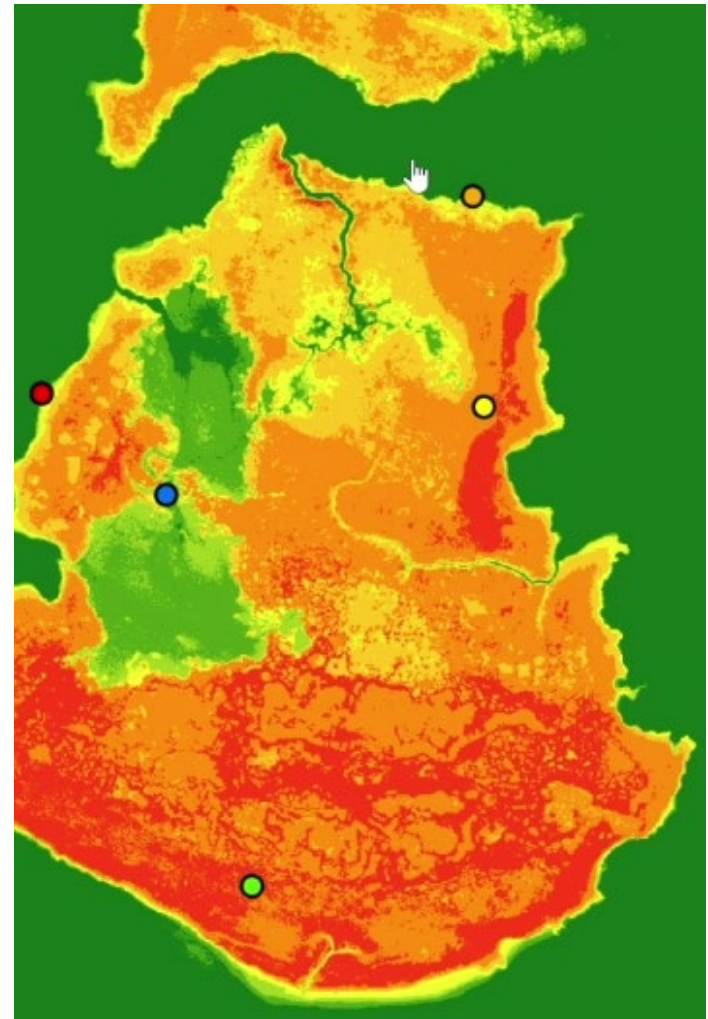
Compromised
pond (AOI 1)



We currently have 5 data loggers on Tuckahoe Island and are planning to install 2 more to better understand the hydrology of the southern portion of the island

There is speculation that the ponding and fragmentation in AOI 2 may be due to groundwater mounding and flooding caused by sea level rise or other forces.

More work needs to be done to understand the best way to restore this area.

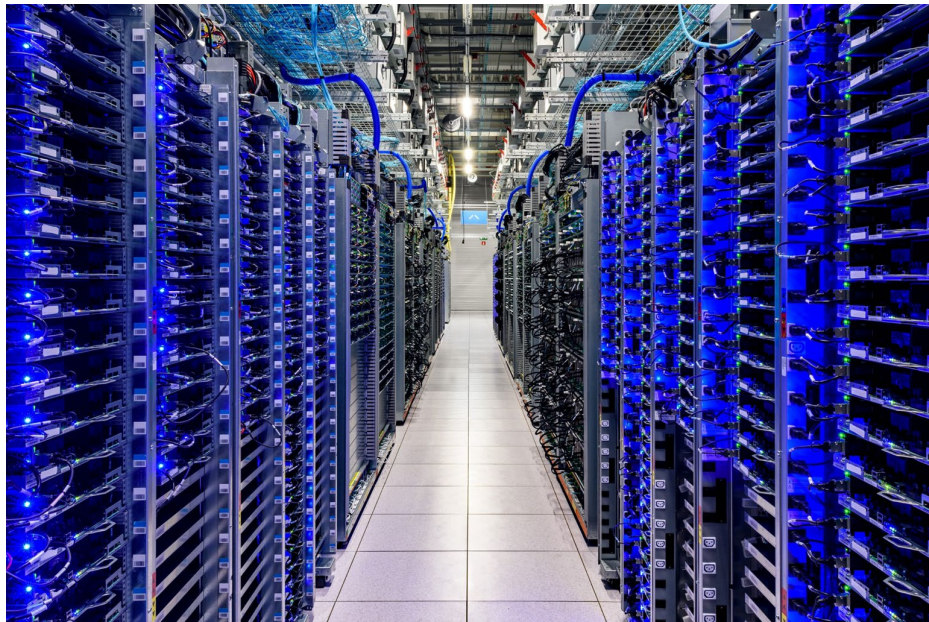




Data Centers in the Watershed

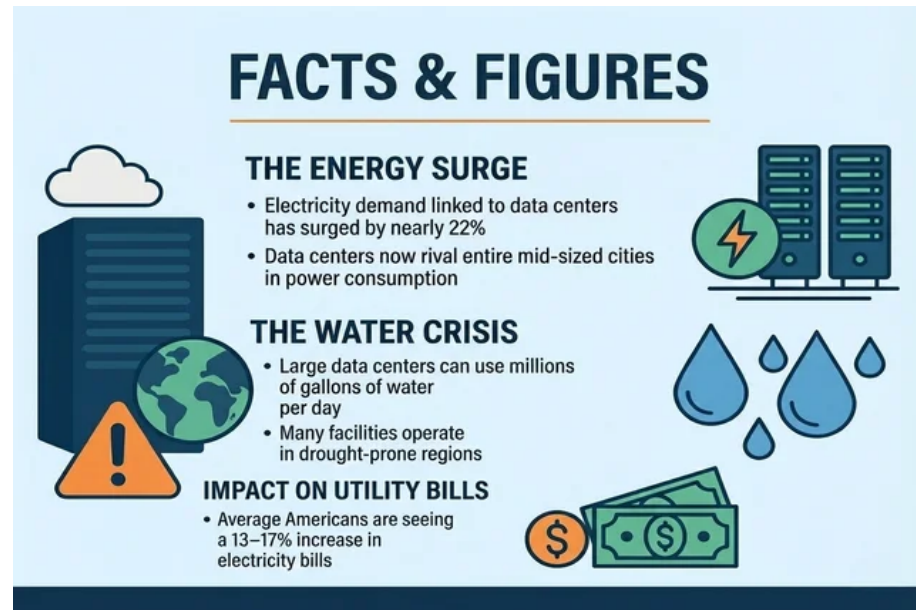
Across New Jersey, data centers are being aggressively pursued by municipalities as a new form of “economic development.”

These facilities promise tax revenue and jobs, but they also bring intense environmental demands—especially for water, energy, and land.



Why Data Centers Raise Red Flags in the Pinelands

Data centers are often marketed as clean, quiet, and low-impact. In reality, they can function more like industrial power and cooling plants, with consequences that ripple far beyond municipal boundaries.



Environmental Concerns

Water Resource Impacts:

Data centers require enormous cooling capacity, that typically requires **millions of gallons of water usage per day**. In the Pinelands, this raises serious concerns about drawdown from the Kirkwood–Cohansey aquifer, impacts on nearby wetlands, streams, and recharge areas, and competing water demands like residential and agricultural use.

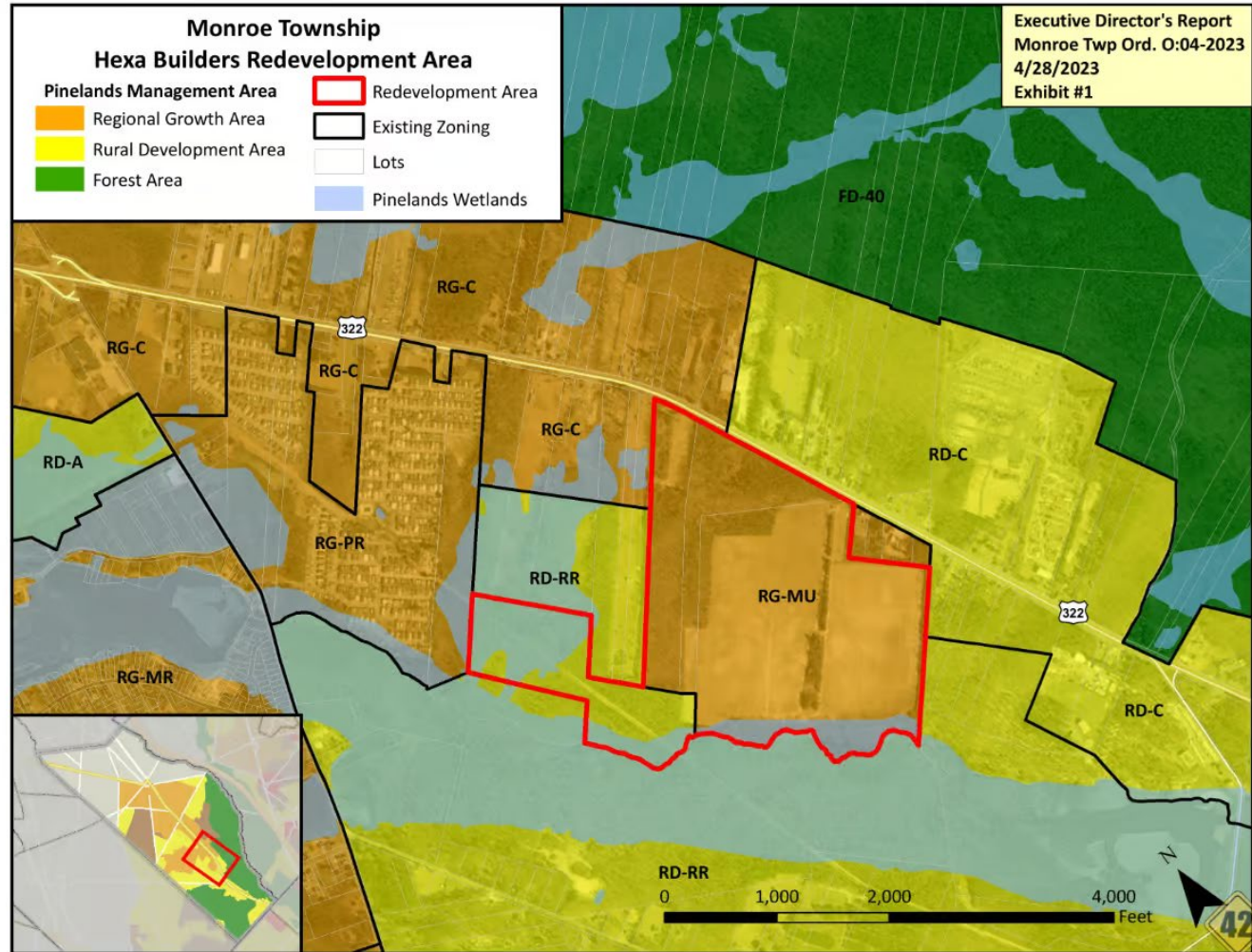
Monroe Twp Block 8401 Lots 10, 9, 8

In December 2025, town council adopted an amendment of the Hexa Builders Redevelopment Plan (Ordinance O: 2-2025), adding Data Centers as a permitted use.

We can urge the Pinelands Commission to not approve of the changes, which includes a variance that was granted for an additional 1.4 million gallons of water a day (Source: Pinelands Alliance)

Over 50,000 gallons / day triggers a Pinelands Commission Full Review.

Hospitality Branch
runs behind
redevelopment area



Pinelands Commission on Data Centers

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) provides protections that local zoning does not.

In the Monroe case, the Pinelands Commission has the authority to approve or deny the changes made to the redevelopment plan. This means residents still have a meaningful avenue to intervene, by urging the Commission to reject the amendment that added data centers as a permitted use.

Pinelands Commission on this Property in 2023

“Any development or redevelopment of the area will be subject to all CMP environmental standards. This includes continued protection of the wetlands along the rear of site and in the Rural Development Area, imposition of the appropriate wetlands buffer requirement called for by N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.14, and compliance with the CMP’s new stormwater management regulations. Under those stormwater rules, no variance or exception may be granted from the prohibition on direct discharge of runoff to wetlands, buffers or waterbodies.”

Data Centers: Something to Watch

This is a new issue to watch out for in the watershed.

Data centers and technology are evolving quickly and there is some research that suggests that not all Data Centers consume copious amounts of water for cooling.

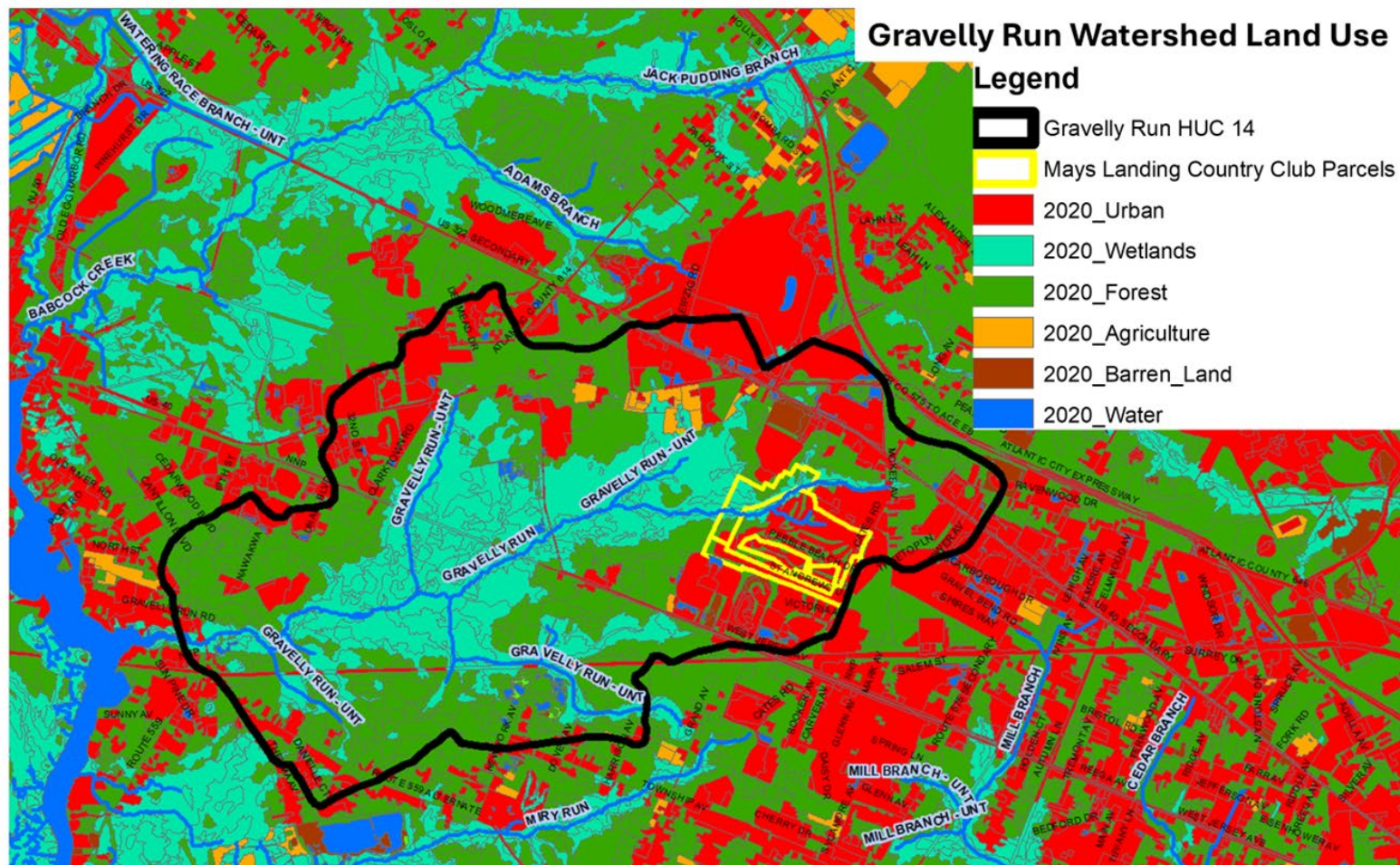
However, extremely large AI Centers (Ex. Google) use about 550,000 gallons / day which is roughly equivalent to 4,000 Americans who on average use 132,000 gallons / day each.

Some sources site that these large data centers can even consume up to 5 million gallons of water per day.

Gravelly Run Watershed Land Use

Legend

- Gravelly Run HUC 14
- Mays Landing Country Club Parcels
- 2020_Urban
- 2020_Wetlands
- 2020_Forest
- 2020_Agriculture
- 2020_Barren_Land
- 2020_Water

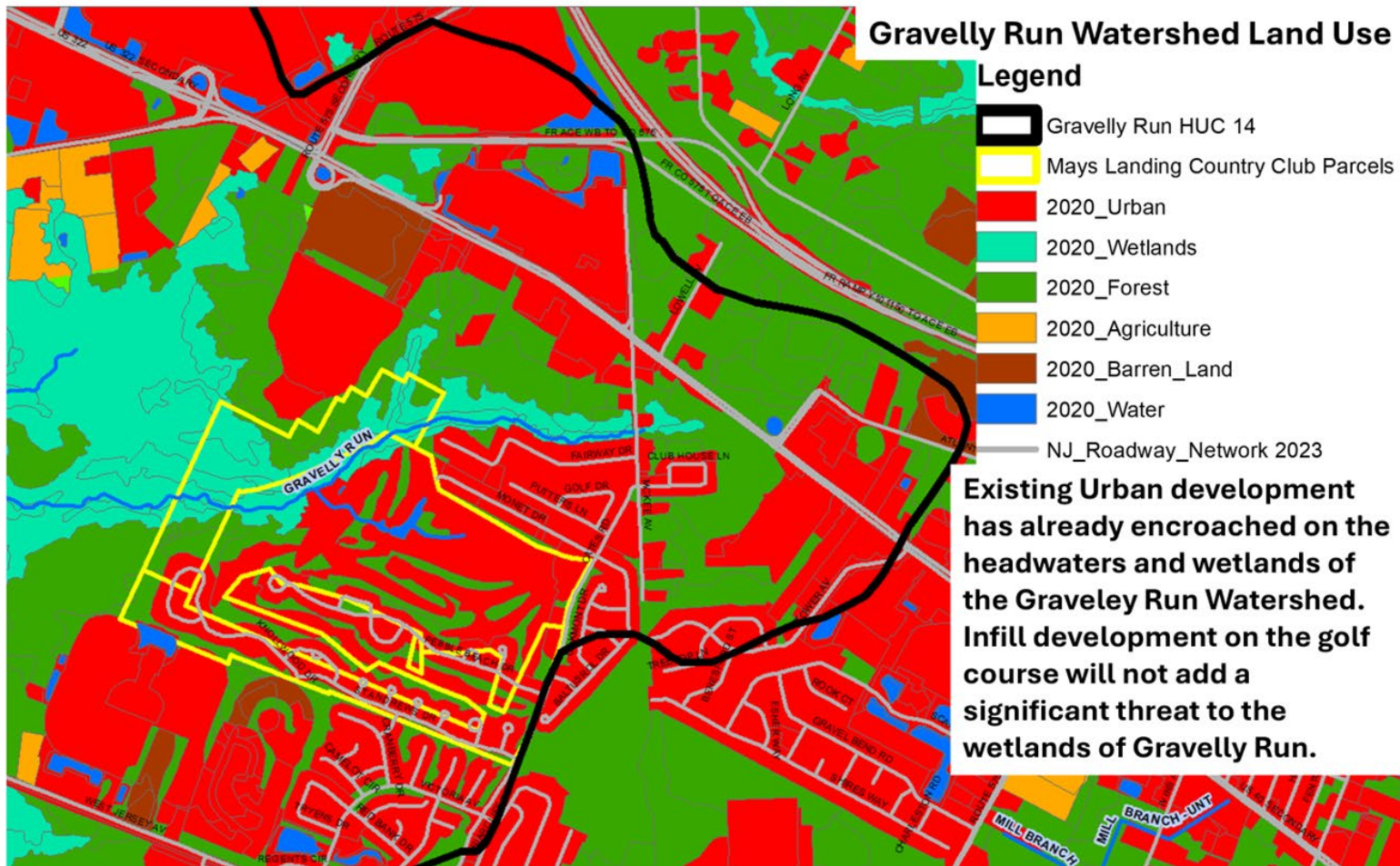


Gravelly Run Watershed Land Use

Legend

- Gravelly Run HUC 14
- Mays Landing Country Club Parcels
- 2020_Urban
- 2020_Wetlands
- 2020_Forest
- 2020_Agriculture
- 2020_Barren_Land
- 2020_Water
- NJ_Roadway_Network 2023

Existing Urban development has already encroached on the headwaters and wetlands of the Gravelly Run Watershed. Infill development on the golf course will not add a significant threat to the wetlands of Gravelly Run.





Adjournment