

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)

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 of green, creating a modern, layered effect. The shapes are primarily triangular and polygonal, with some areas appearing more translucent than others.

Community Outreach “Schools”

Williamstown MS

March 4, 10, 11, 17, 19 &
20, 2026

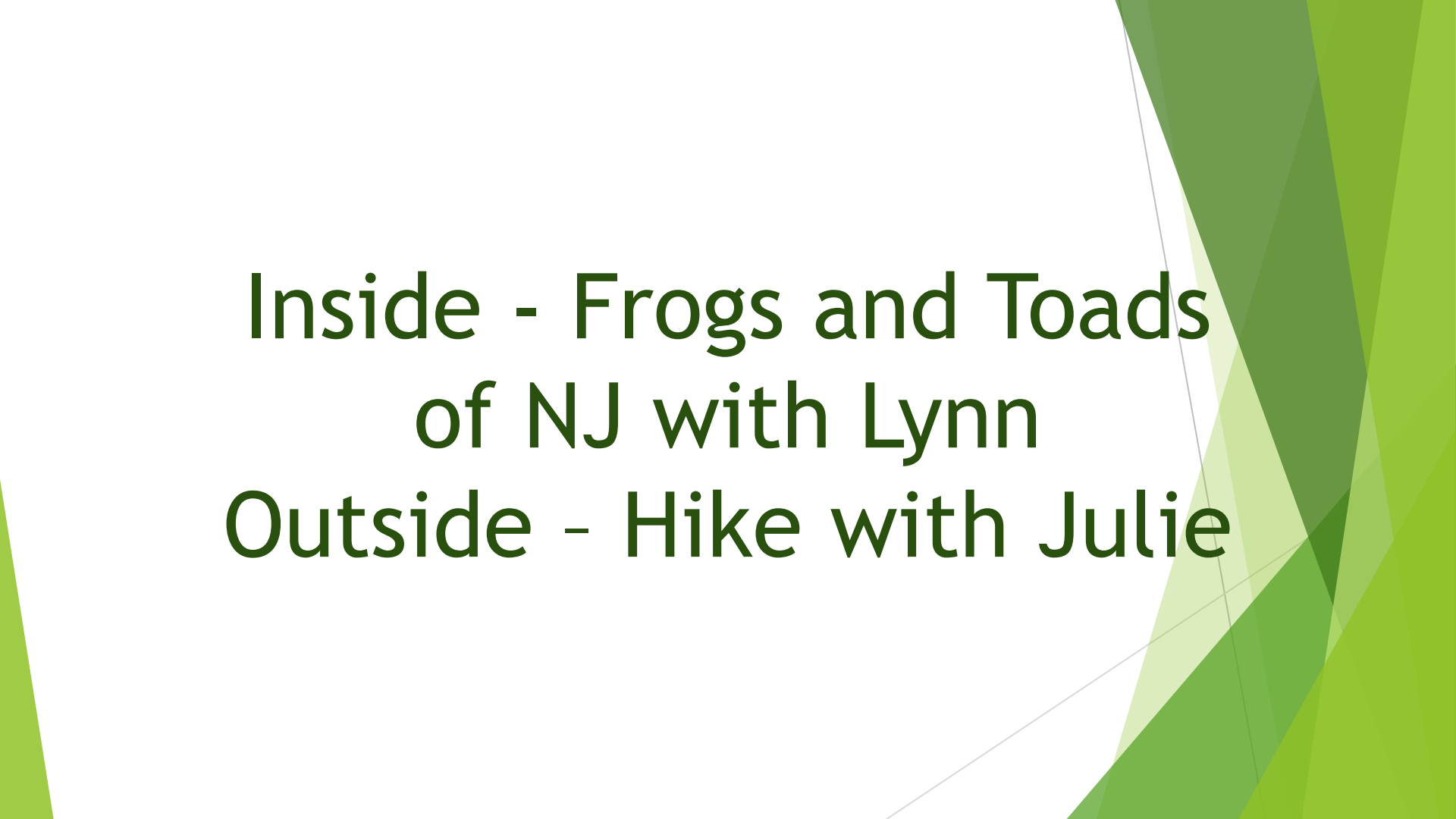
27 Programs on Stormwater
Runoff and Groundwater
for 561 Students

Finally, after rescheduling 4xs

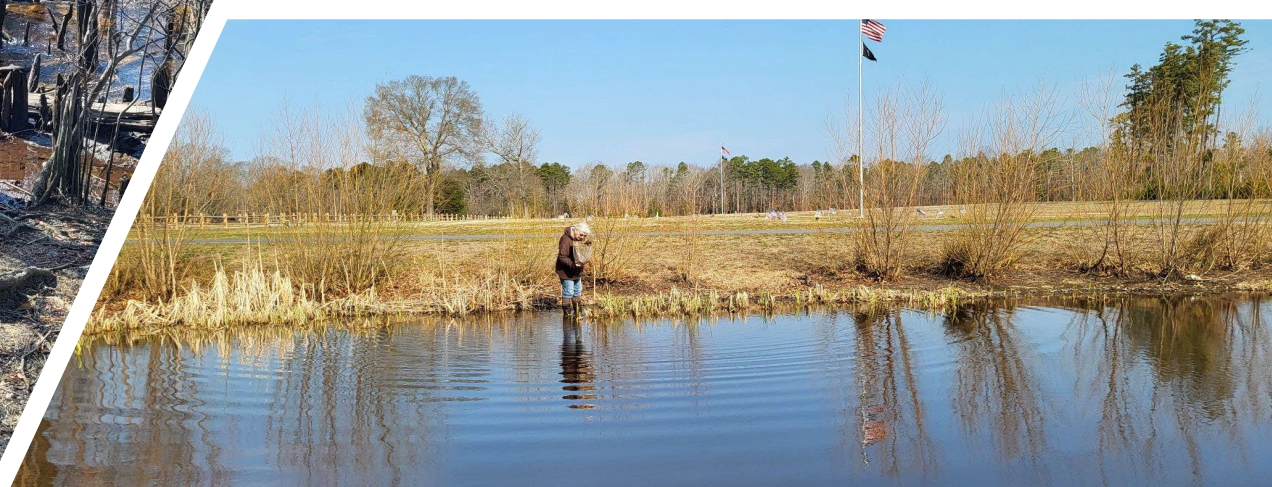
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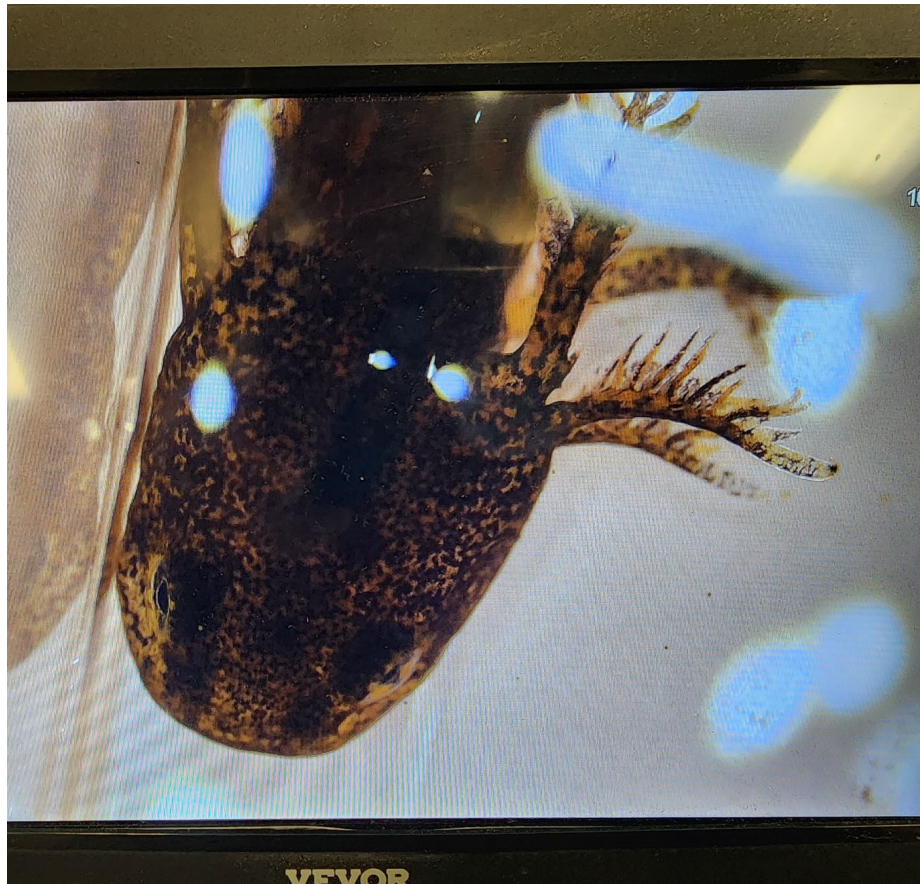
Hammonton MS
7th Grade
Frogs and Toads of NJ
March 5, 2026

South Main Street School
from Pleasantville
3rd Grade Students at
Estell Manor Park
on Friday, March 26, 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.

Inside - Frogs and Toads
of NJ with Lynn
Outside - Hike with Julie

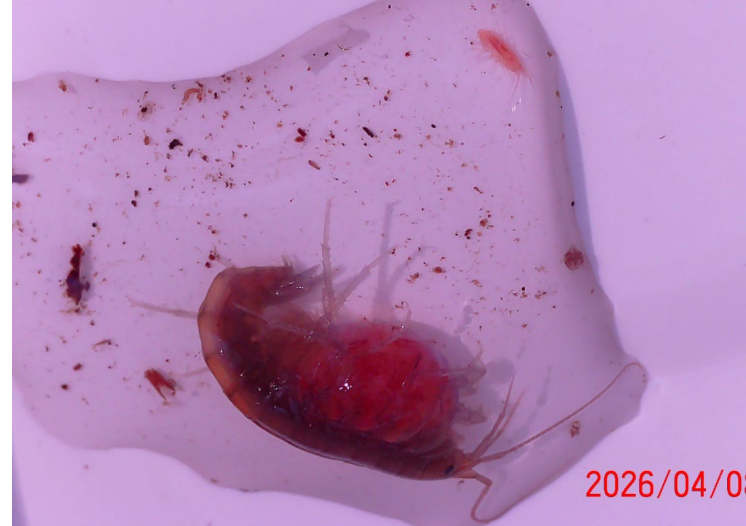




The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern, layered effect on the right side of the slide.

Stockton University
Streamside Classroom
for Ecological Principals
Lab on
Macroinvertebrates
April 6 & 8, 2026







Stockton
University
Environmental
Seminar for ENVL
Sophomores
April 13, 2026

GEHWA will provide student
educational programs in
May & July at Corson's Inlet
for Fernwood MS and OCYC

GEHWA will provide student
educational programs in
May at Estell Manor Park

Events, Meetings & Continuing Education

Zoom Program hosted by
Ocean City Library on March
4, 2026

Doug Tallamy
“Homegrown National Park”

**Pinelands Short Course at
Stockton University on
Saturday, March 7, 2026**

GEHWA's Member & Friends Meeting
on Tuesday, March 24, 2026
Dr. Lenore Tedesco from the
Wetlands Institute
Program "Coastal Resiliency"
Posted on GEHWA's You Tube Site

Upcoming Events & Meetings

ACUA “Earth Day”
Celebration
Sunday, April 26, 2026

2025 Event had
~10,000 attendees





Great Egg Harbor





Rain Gauge
\$33.00

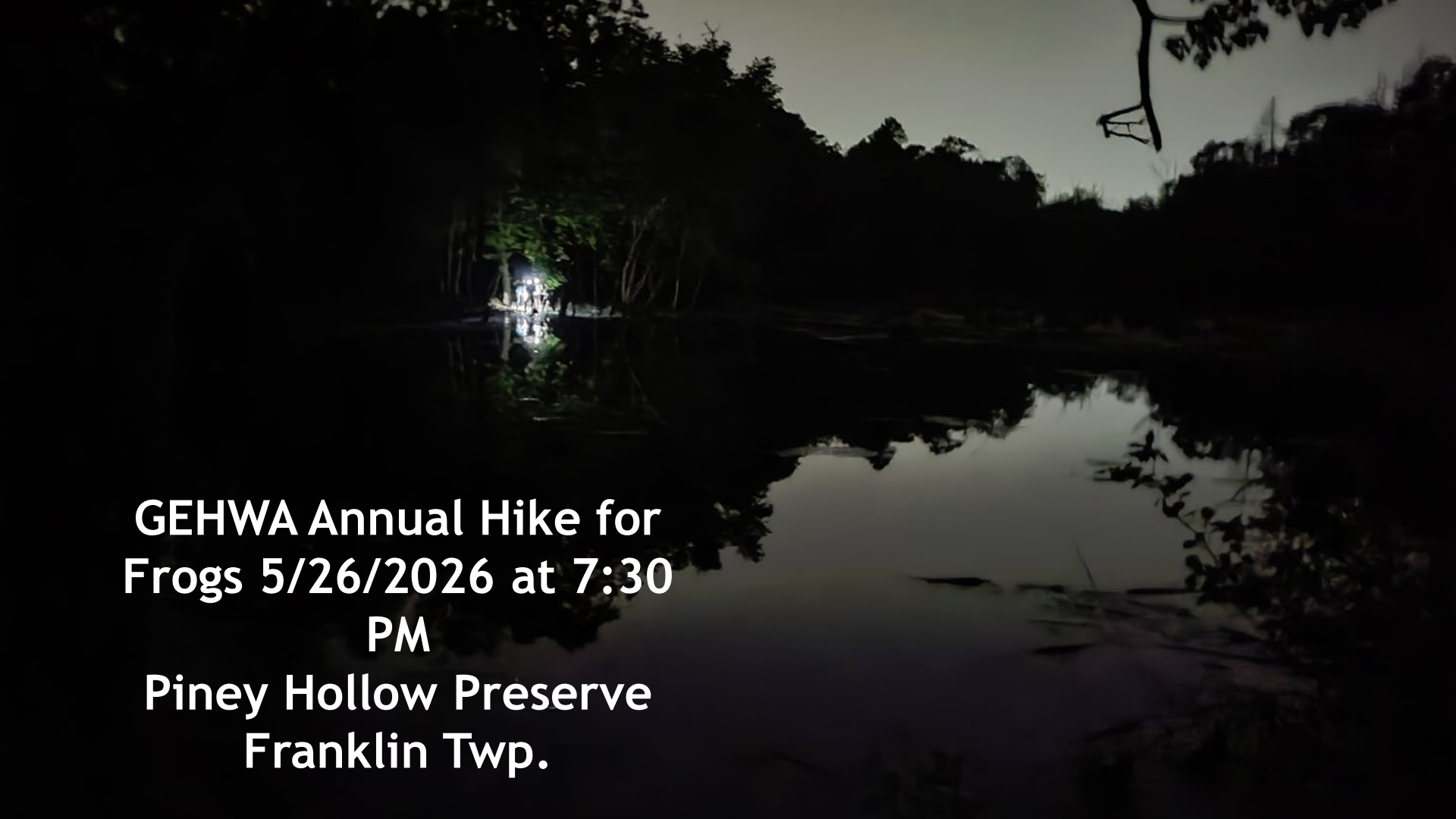
Coastal Salt Marshes of the
Great Egg Harbor Estuary
Important Habitats for Wetlands Wildlife
Great Egg Harbor Reserve and Estuary are Part of the National Wetland and Swamp System

The Great Egg Harbor Estuary has the wetlands that require, where freshwater flows into saltwater and the brackish water provides habitat for many species of plants and animals. The Great Egg Harbor Estuary is a vital part of the coastal ecosystem and is home to many species of plants and animals. The Great Egg Harbor Estuary is a vital part of the coastal ecosystem and is home to many species of plants and animals.

Great Egg Harbor

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern, nature-inspired design.

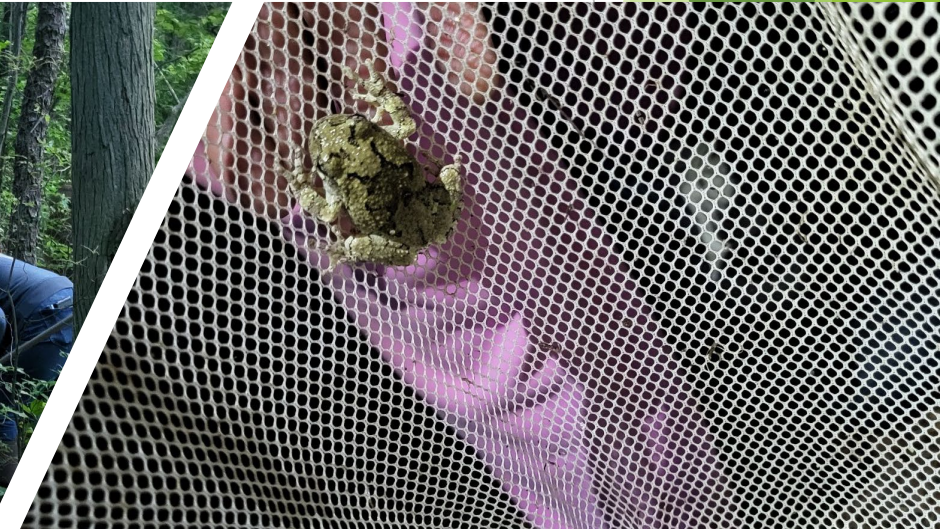
Friends of the Parks
3rd Saturday Program
Nature Center and Pond
Saturday, 5-16-2026
at 9:30 AM
Frog and Toad Program



**GEHWA Annual Hike for
Frogs 5/26/2026 at 7:30
PM
Piney Hollow Preserve
Franklin Twp.**











CoCoRaHS
Since 2020 for Maun
& 2021 for Akers
Precipitation has been
Below Average

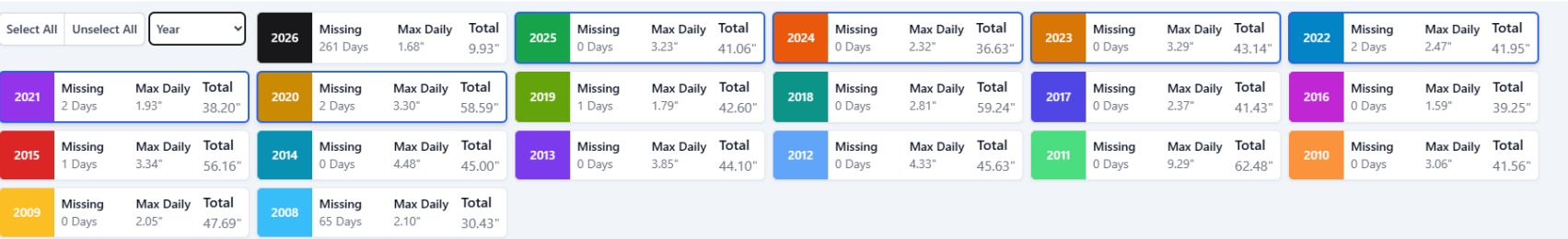
Regional Drinking Water Supply Indicators & Declared Water Supply Status

Drought Status and Conditions (updated weekly) – [View PDF Version](#)

NEW JERSEY Regional Drinking-Water-Supply Indicators & Declared Water-Supply Status						April 11, 2026		
Region		Drinking-Water-Supply Indicator					Water-Supply Status	
		Status	90-day precipitation	90-day stream-flow	N.J. reservoirs	Del. R. reservoirs		
Coastal South		Near or above normal			Not a significant region-wide water resource.	Not a significant region-wide water resource.		Normal
		Moderately dry						Watch
		Severely dry						Warning
		Extremely dry						Emergency

The number in each colored dot is the number of weeks the specific indicator in that region has been in that status. For indicators which changed status this evaluation cycle the arrow indicates the direction of change; it points from the previous status to the current. A water drop (💧) means the indicator has been green for more than a year.

Station: NJ-CD-1: Upper Deerfield Twp 1.7 SW



[illegible]

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of lime and forest green, creating a modern, angular design. The text is centered in a dark red, serif font.

CHECK IT OUT!
Route 52 Causeway
Rookery
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)

Old Business



Great Egg Harbor River Council

Resolution 4-2026

**Supporting the Adoption of a Model Ordinance
to Control Construction Dust and Contaminants**

At our members meeting on 1/27, Steve Jasecki presented on the microplastics, silica dust, and fiberglass that is entering the environment from construction.



Steve and his team are working hard to push legislation at the municipal and state level to contain and control this dust so that we can keep it out of the environment and out of our bodies.

Currently, only Hamilton Twp. and Somers Point have Resolutions for this issue



With construction projects taking place all over, an ordinance for Construction Dust would benefit all 12 towns and better protect the river!

Construction Dust Model Ordinance Requirements

- Dust & Airborne Particle Control
 - Vacuum hoods on saws when cutting
 - Completing dust creating work in enclosed spaces
 - Laying a tarp down before working
- Stormwater Protection
 - No blowing or dumping dust / waste down storm drains
 - Install geotextile filters if runoff is pushing dust to storm drains
- Compliance & Responsibility
 - Contractors must follow rules and educate staff
 - Municipalities can inspect sites and issue fines for non-compliance

Great Egg Harbor River Council Resolution 4 - 2026

A Resolution Supporting the Adoption of a Model Ordinance to Control Construction Dust and Contaminants .

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council is to assist the twelve municipalities in effectively implementing the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Great Egg Harbor River watershed contains ecologically significant wetlands, marshes, aquifers, and surface waters that support biodiversity, fisheries, drinking water supplies, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association and River Council's mission is to provide technical assistance to the twelve municipalities in the watershed on water quality, water quantity, and watershed management issues; and

WHEREAS, stormwater runoff is a pathway by which pollutants, including construction dust, debris, and plastic contaminants, enter waterways and degrade water quality; and

WHEREAS, plastics and composite construction materials can break down into microplastics that persist in the environment and pose risks to aquatic ecosystems, wildlife, and human health; and

WHEREAS, construction activities such as cutting, drilling, and sanding can release dust and microplastic particles that may be transported via wind or stormwater into nearby waterways; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Model Ordinance entitled “Control of Construction Dust and Contaminants” establishes practical, enforceable standards for contractors to minimize pollution at its source, including:

- Use of vacuum attachments and wet cutting methods
- Containment of work areas and debris
- Daily cleanup and proper waste disposal
- Prohibition of discharge into storm drains
- Installation of storm drain inlet protections where applicable; and

WHEREAS, adoption of such measures at the municipal level would reduce pollutants entering tributaries of the Great Egg Harbor River and improve overall watershed health; and

WHEREAS, consistent implementation of best management practices across municipalities within the watershed will strengthen regional water quality and environmental protections;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Great Egg Harbor River Council, at its April 15th 2026 meeting, supports the adoption and implementation of the Model Ordinance titled “Control of Construction Dust and Contaminants” by all twelve municipalities within the Great Egg Harbor River watershed.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to all twelve municipalities within the National Scenic and Recreational Great Egg Harbor River, the New Jersey bill sponsors and the league of municipalities.

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

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

Tuckahoe Island Project Updates



On 2/28, Fred and Julie went out by boat to download and repair data loggers on Tuckahoe Island.

After the big freeze, one broke lose, but was recovered and reinstalled!

Brooke and Fred continue to work and meet with partners on the restoration of the island.

March Members Meeting - Lenore Tedesco



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: BENEFICIALLY USING DREDGED SEDIMENTS TO BENEFIT WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE



Dr. Lenore Tedesco Executive Director
The Wetlands Institute



Tuckahoe River Marine Debris Clean Up

GREAT EGG HARBOR RIVER COUNCIL

Tuckahoe River Clean Up

Let's work
together to
remove large
debris!

Sunday
May 3

10am

BRING WATER & GLOVES
DRESS FOR MUD!

MOSQUITO
LANDING BEACH
17 MOSQUITO LANDING RD

IF YOU ARE ABLE:
WADERS, BOOTS, CROWBAR, SAWS
ARE HELPFUL TO HAVE!



New abandoned boats on Powell Creek

Abandon Boats on
Powell Creek 10/25





**Abandon Boats on
Powell Creek 10/25
(Low tide)**

Abandon Sunk Vessel #1 in Powel Creek just upstream from Thompson Marine in Egg Harbor Township.



Abandon Sunk Vessel #2 in Powel Creek just upstream from Thompson Marine in Egg Harbor Township.



Abandon pontoon on the Great Egg Harbor River across from South River confluence.



Updates on Data Centers in the Pinelands

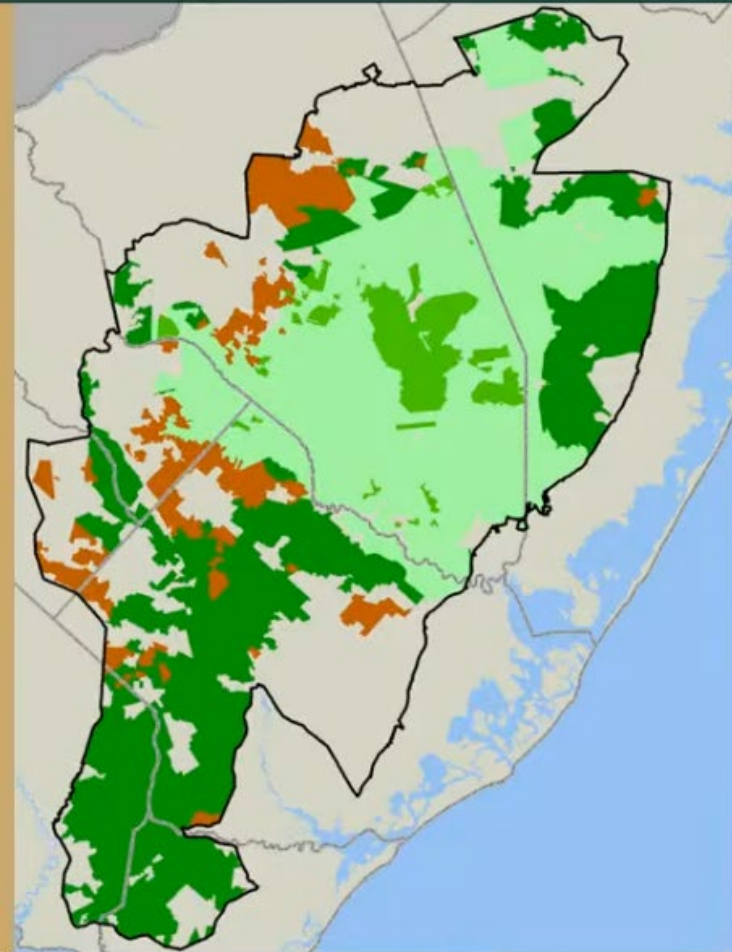
What is a data center?

- Facilities that house servers and digital infrastructure supporting cloud computing, AI, and data storage
- Operate continuously (24/7) with significant power and cooling demands
- Types:
 - Enterprise
 - Colocation and service provider
 - Hyperscale

Impacts: Energy, Water, Land Use

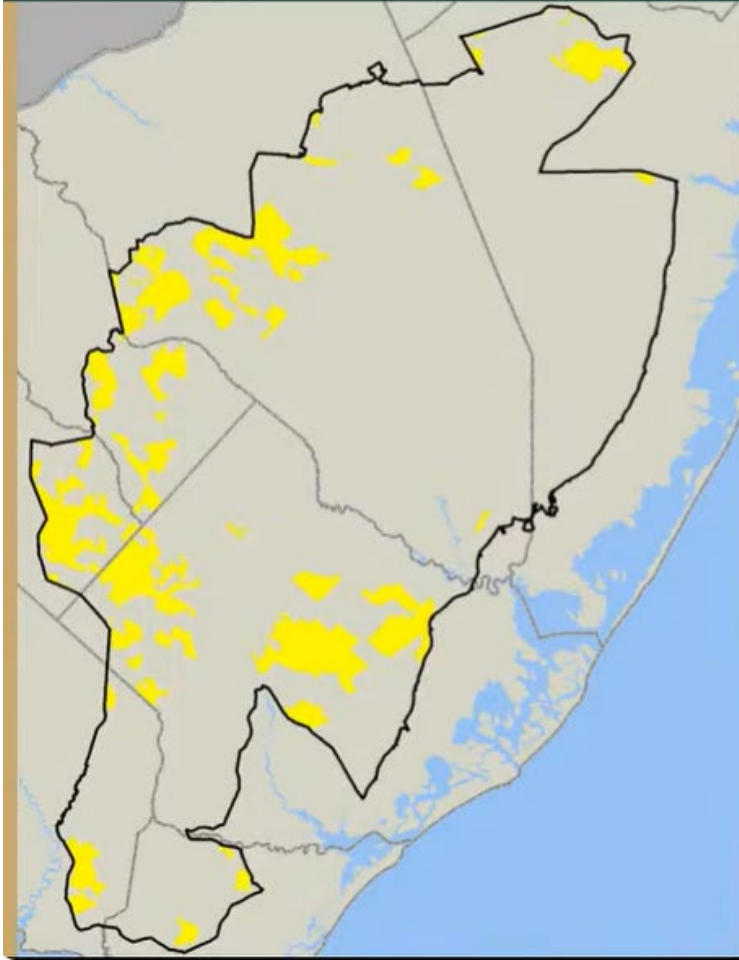
- High electricity demand and associated infrastructure needs
 - Large data centers are exploring behind-the-meter power generation as well as battery energy storage systems
- Water usage as part of HVACs for cooling electronics
- Land consumption: large building footprints
- Potential noise and visual impacts
- Compatibility considerations with surrounding land uses

Permitted Uses by Management Areas



- Preservation Area District (and Infill Areas)**
- Special Agricultural Production Areas**
 - Data Centers are not permitted
- Forest Areas**
- Agricultural Production Areas**
 - While there are a few, very limited opportunities for light industrial uses, existing limitations in those areas would prevent the development of a data center.

Permitted Uses by Management Areas

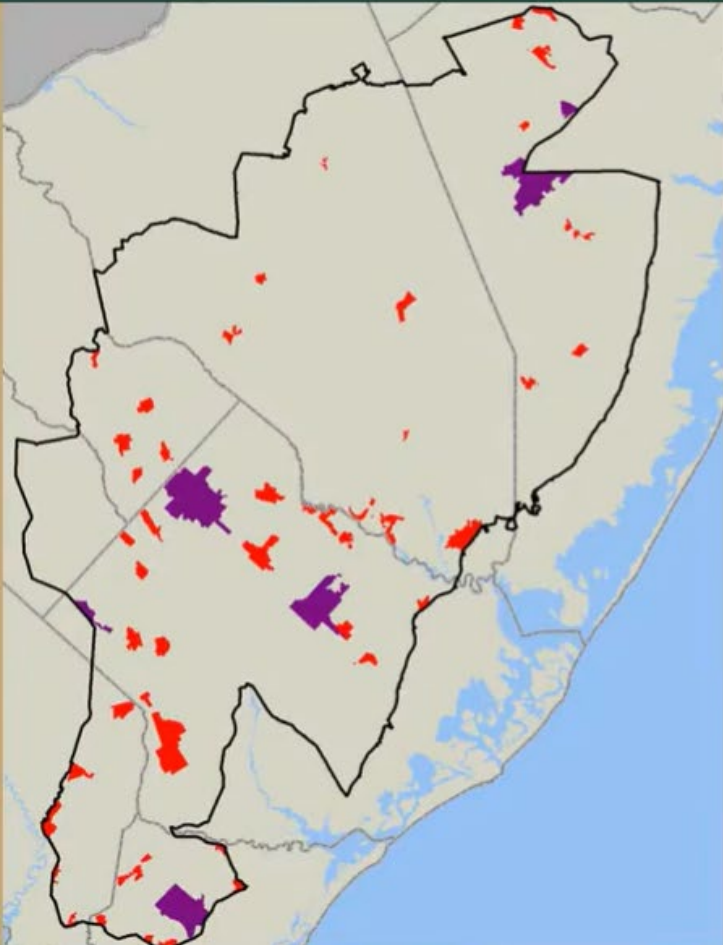


Rural Development Areas

- A municipality may permit any use which is compatible with the essential character of the Pinelands environment **and is similar in character, intensity and impact to the following uses:**
 - ... “Agricultural processing facilities and other light industrial uses”...
- Sanitary sewer is not permitted
- 35’ height limitation

Permitted Uses by Management Areas

Pinelands Commission



 **Pinelands Villages**

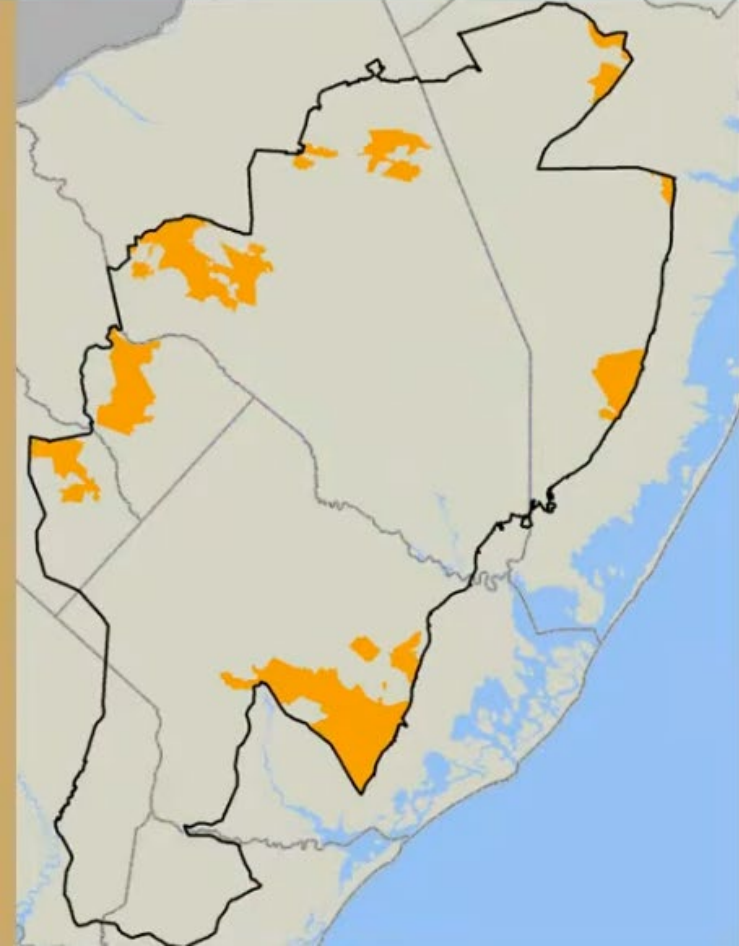
 **Pinelands Towns**

- A municipality may permit a wide variety of uses provided that:
 - Necessary public service infrastructure is available, or can be provided without any development in the PAD, SAPA, or FA
 - The character and magnitude of the use is compatible with the existing structures and uses in the (specific) Village or Town
- 35' height limitation in Villages

zoom

Permitted Uses by Management Areas

Pinelands Commission



Regional Growth Areas

- A municipality may permit a wide variety of uses provided that the RGA zoning plan:
 - Authorizes the number of dwelling units per acre of developable land as specified by the CMP
 - Provides for an increase in residential density by at least 50% through the use of PDCs
- Recent CMP amendments allow for RGA PDC obligations to be shifted to non-residential development

zoom

Minimum Environmental Standards

- Wetlands and wetlands transition areas
- Threatened & endangered species habitat
- Cultural resources
- Fire hazard mitigation
- Air quality

Minimum Environmental Standards

- **Stormwater**

- Large impervious surfaces akin to warehouses. Significant stormwater facilities are required, but have successfully been achieved in warehouse projects.

- **Wastewater management**

- Sewer
- Septic – Land needed for septic dilution will be a limiting factor on wastewater flows (i.e., intensity)

Minimum Environmental Standards



Water Management

Public water

- Municipalities should carefully evaluate impacts of providing water to data centers. No guarantee that additional allocation is available under DEP rules/Commission rules.
- Existing agreements with some RGA municipalities that impose caps on additional K-C allocations; Commission monitors water/wastewater flows.

Well

- Kirkwood-Cohansey Rules: Any proposed diversion of 50,000 gallons of water per day or more
 - Demonstration that there is no alternative water supply source available or viable
 - Only permitted in RGA, PT, RDA, APA, M/F, and limited villages
 - Must demonstrate no adverse local and regional impact.

Zoning Changes and Municipal Conforman

- Any zoning ordinance or redevelopment plan permitting data centers is required to be submitted to the Commission for review and approval before it can go into effect.
- Staff review ensures that the permitted uses align with CMP standards and that CMP minimum environmental standards are incorporated.

Zoning Changes and Municipal Conformance

- **Data Center Related Ordinances**

Monroe Township - Hexa-Builders Redevelopment Area

- Data centers added as a permitted use in 2025
- Township has introduced an ordinance to repeal data centers

Manchester Township - Block 62, Lot 30 and 31.01 Redevelopment Area

- Data centers added as a permitted use in 2025

Pemberton Township - Industrial Zones

- Expressly prohibited data centers in 2026

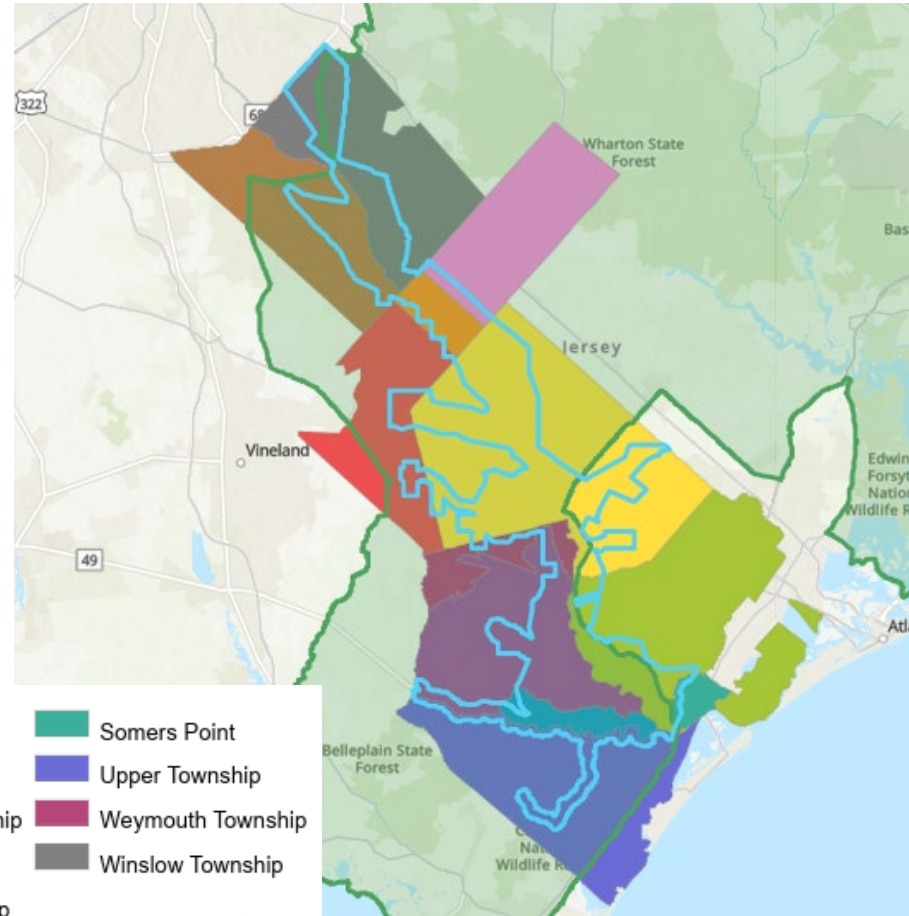
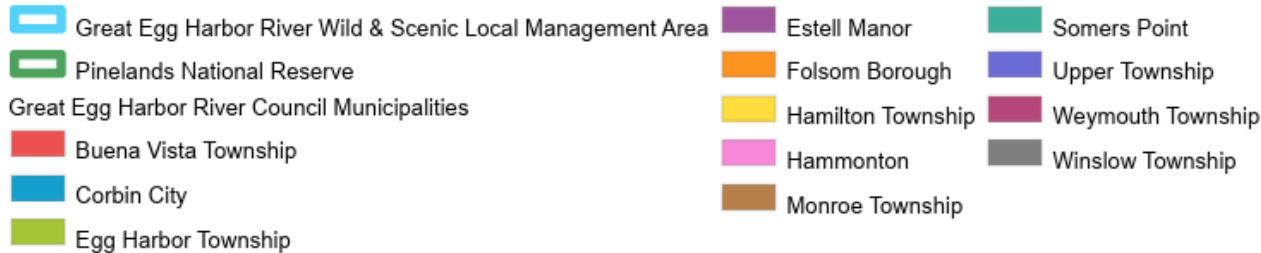
Conclusions and Discussion

- Existing CMP regulations greatly limit where data centers can be sited and offer strong protections against environmental impacts of data centers.
- No immediate action is necessary or feasible.
 - No Commission authority for a moratorium
 - Lengthy rulemaking process
- Staff will continue to implement the framework of the CMP and monitor continuing trends in data center design and development.

Special note on Data Centers

We are fortunate to be protected by the Pinelands, however, not all of our watershed is within the Pinelands.

We have to pay attention to the areas outside of the Pinelands boundary for potential threats, as well as surrounding areas that could impact our water.



Stockton Environmental Seminar

On 4/13, Brooke and Lynn presented to a college class at Stockton on GEHWA and their career paths as Stockton graduates.

The students were engaged and interested in the Watershed Association and what it is like to work at a non-profit!

Sign Projects At Corson's Inlet

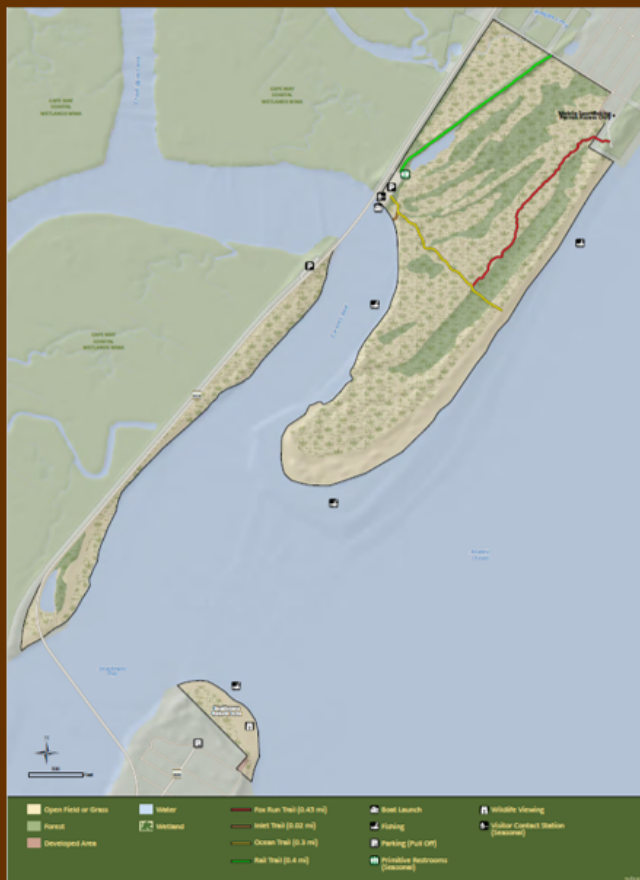
OCYC Grant to Create and Install Signs

GEHWA spends a lot of time at Corson's Inlet State Park in the spring and summer conducting outdoor education field trips for multiple schools and programs.

Over the years, we've noticed that the signage around the state park is in desperate need of replacement.

The Ocean City Yacht Club has granted GEHWA \$2,000 in 2025 to create a new sign for the State Park, and they want to donate an additional \$7,000 to the project this year.

WELCOME to CORSON'S INLET State Park



Corson's Inlet State Park was established by the New Jersey Legislature in 1969 to protect and preserve one of the last undeveloped tracts of land along the state's oceanfront.

The park consists of 341 acres (1.38 km²) of undeveloped and undisturbed sand dunes that serve as a protected nesting site for the endangered piping plover, the least tern and black skimmer. Other shorebirds and waterfowl, such as the American oystercatcher, various species of sandpipers, gulls, herons, loons and ducks also stop during the year. The area's natural habitats are rich in diversity with primary and secondary sand dune systems, marine estuaries and upland areas in which a great variety of wildlife species live and breed. The park is located at the southern end of Ocean City and includes Strathmere Natural Area in northern Strathmere.

Corson's Inlet is a popular area for hiking, fishing, crabbing, boating and sunbathing. Swimming is not allowed. Dogs are not allowed from April 1 through September 15.

The boat ramp is open 24 hours day, seven days a week year-round and has a launch fee from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Fishermen are allowed to use four-wheel drive vehicles (with permit) on the beach from September 16-May 14.



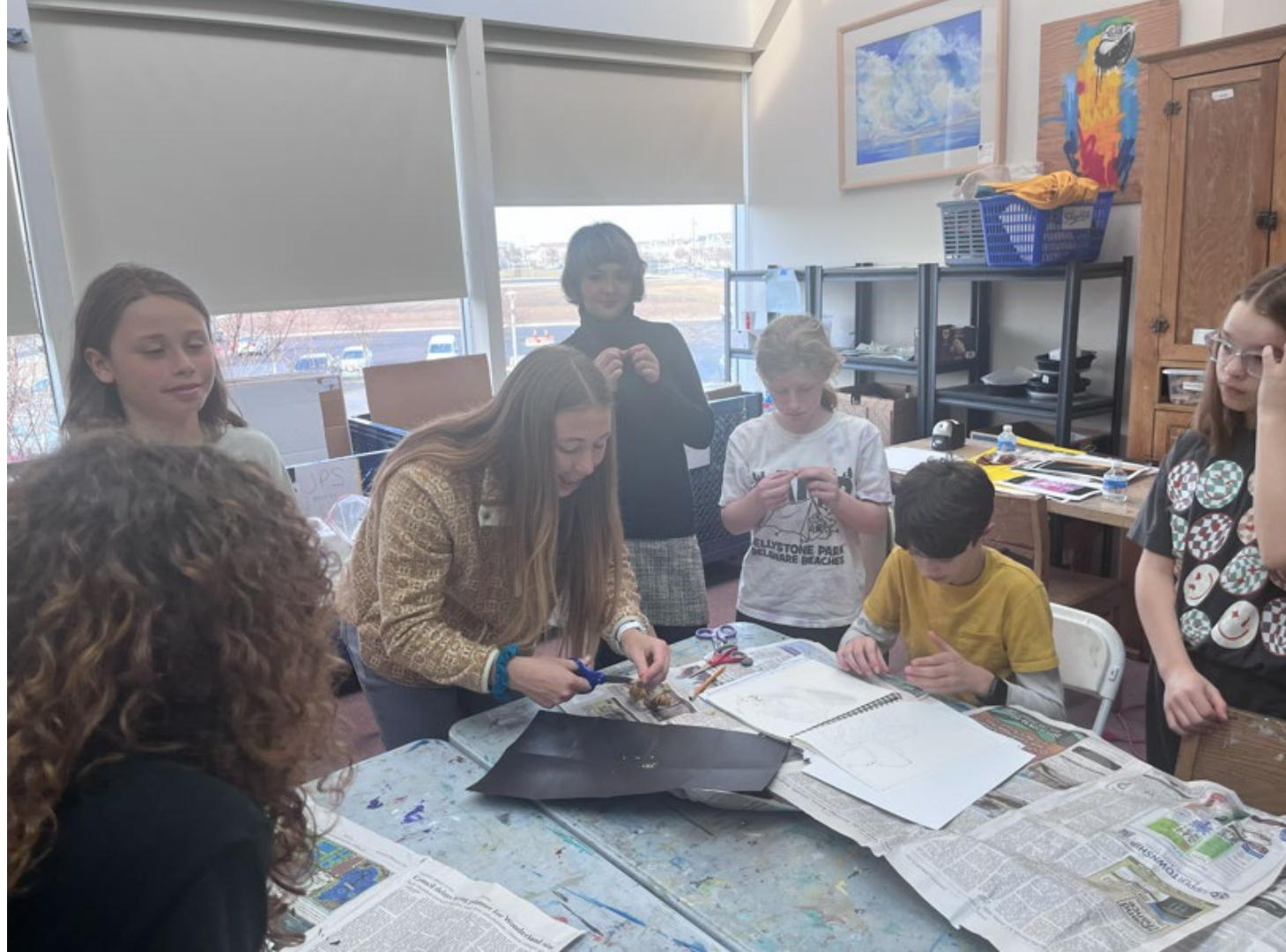
Anticipated Spring & Summer Fieldwork

- Oyster Spat monitoring
- Marsh health surveys
- Osprey Chick Count and nest maintenance.
- ARU bird surveys
- Marine debris removal

Pop up Program at Ocean City Arts Center

On 3/31, Brooke was asked to do a Pop up Program for an after school group at the Ocean City Arts Center.

Students learned about the Great Egg Harbor River and had the opportunity to sketch different shells and artifacts that they learned about.







Sandy Hook Osprey 2026

