

Towamencin Township Environmental Advisory Council Annual Report 2025



Introduction

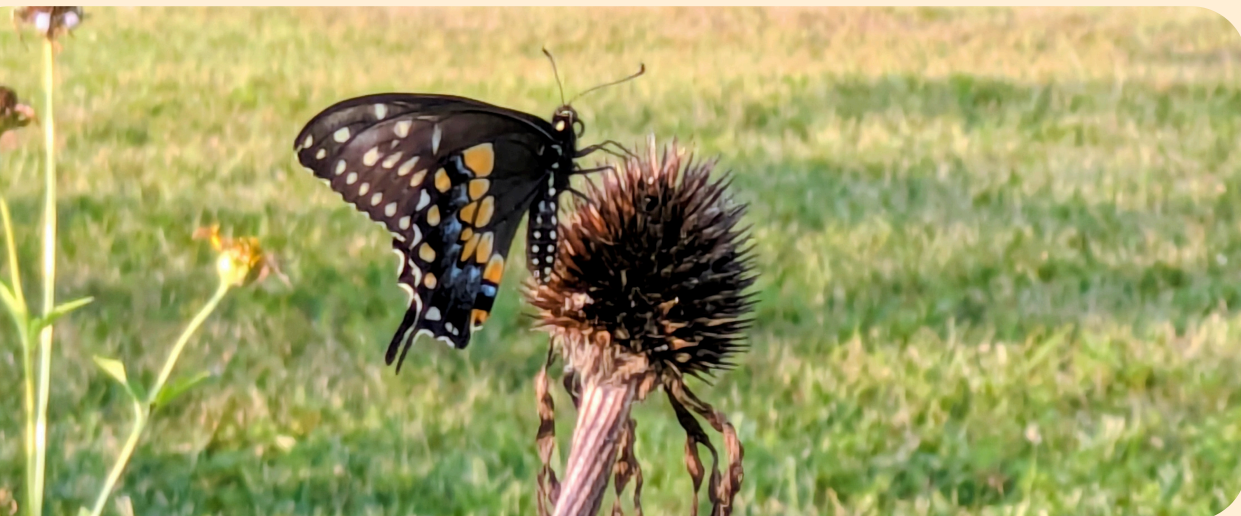
The Towamencin Township Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) is pleased to present its 2025 Annual Report, highlighting a year defined by community engagement, environmental stewardship, and a continued commitment to sustainable practices. Throughout the year, the EAC worked to advance its mission of protecting and enhancing the Township's natural resources while fostering a deeper connection between residents and the environment.

Our efforts in 2025 were guided by three primary focus areas. First, we expanded our education and outreach initiatives, connecting with residents through events such as Towamencin Day, a Stream Explorers Workshop, and a Permaculture Workshop. In addition, Towamencin Township was recognized as a Bird Town in 2025, reflecting a growing commitment to bird conservation, habitat protection, and community education. Together, these efforts provided meaningful opportunities for hands-on learning and helped build greater awareness of local environmental issues and solutions.

Second, the Committee prioritized the restoration and ecological improvement of Township open space, with particular attention to the Troxel Meadow no-mow zone. Through targeted efforts to remove invasive species and support native plant growth, this project represents an important step toward enhancing local biodiversity and long-term ecosystem health.

Finally, the EAC continued its work in reviewing and recommending updates to Township ordinances to better reflect current environmental best practices. By aligning local policies with evolving standards, the Committee aims to support sustainable development and responsible resource management for years to come.

Together, these initiatives reflect a comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship, grounded in education, action, and policy. The sections that follow provide a more detailed look at each of these efforts and their impact on the Towamencin community.



Education and Outreach Initiatives



Bird Town, PA Subcommittee

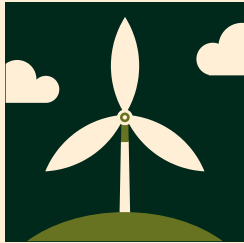
Towamencin Township pursued designation as a Bird Town through a community-driven effort focused on environmental stewardship, habitat conservation, and public education. The initiative, organized through the Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Bird Town Subcommittee, aligned with the mission of Bird Town Pennsylvania to create healthier and more sustainable communities for birds, wildlife, and people. The program emphasizes conservation strategies such as native plantings, habitat protection, reducing invasive species, and promoting environmental awareness.

As part of the establishment process, Towamencin Township highlighted its strong existing birding community and natural resources, particularly Fischer's Park, which hosts diverse habitats and numerous documented bird species. To further involve residents and families, the township hosted bird walks and a children's workshop where participants built bird feeders while learning about bird habitats, feeding practices, and conservation. These activities supported Bird Town Pennsylvania's goals of increasing environmental education, encouraging community participation, and fostering appreciation for local wildlife among residents of all ages.



Permaculture Workshop

As part of the Environmental Advisory Council's ongoing efforts to promote sustainable landscaping and environmental stewardship, EAC member David McCreary led a community workshop introducing residents to the principles and practice of permaculture. The presentation explored how permaculture combines ecological science, food production, and water conservation to create resilient, attractive, and sustainable outdoor spaces. Highlights of the workshop included:



Information about native species

Participants learned about how landscape and garden design that prioritize native species and biodiversity improve water management, soil health, habitat and local ecology, while growing food and reducing cost and maintenance.



Practical Strategies for Homeowners

Towamencin residents learned practical strategies they could apply to their own yards to improve biodiversity, strengthen local ecosystems, and create productive landscapes that benefit both people and wildlife. Residents received free seeds and copies of *The Living Soil Handbook* by Jesse Frost, providing additional resources on soil-building techniques and regenerative growing practices.

Stream Explorers Workshop

The Towamencin Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) hosted a Stream Explorer workshop for children ages 7–12 at Fischer Park, giving them the chance to get hands-on with real stream science. Participants explored the stream, collected macroinvertebrates, and learned how to identify them using simple field guides. The children discovered that certain macroinvertebrates, like mayfly and stonefly larvae, are very sensitive to pollution, while others can tolerate poorer conditions. By looking at which organisms are present and how many of each are found, scientists can assess the overall health and water quality of a stream over time. In addition to biological sampling, the children tested the water for pH, nitrogen, and phosphates, learning how these chemical factors affect aquatic life and contribute to a healthy or stressed stream ecosystem.



Towamencin Day: Interactive Environmental Booth and Sponsorship

The Towamencin Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) also spent time connecting with the community at Towamencin Day by hosting an interactive booth focused on environmental issues and sustainable practices. We shared information about invasive species and the importance of native plants, and led nature walks around Fischer's Park to help people see these concepts in action. ENACT from North Penn High School coordinated with the EAC to provide hands-on nature learning opportunities for kids, making the booth especially engaging for families. Children were able to make seed bombs to take home, and we also offered free native plants for anyone interested in planting at home, including obedient plant and wild strawberry.

Restoration and Ecological Improvement





Troxel Meadow

The Towamencin Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) took action at Troxel Meadow after invasive species, especially Canada thistle, began to take over the site. Canada thistle spreads easily by seed and through an aggressive underground root system, allowing it to crowd out native plants very quickly. To tackle the problem, the EAC hired a company with extensive experience in invasive species management and worked closely with them on a treatment plan. The invasive plants were killed and then mowed, and the meadow was overseeded to help stabilize the area. Over the next year, the EAC will begin reintroducing native plants to bring Troxel Meadow back to a healthier, more diverse meadow.

Invasive Species Park Cleanup

The EAC continued its on-the-ground stewardship work in Fischer's Park. The EAC worked to restore one of the park's rain gardens by removing invasive plants such as Canada thistle, lesser celandine, and multiflora rose, helping the garden function as intended while supporting native species. The EAC also organized and participated in a successful invasive species cleanup event at Fischer's Park, bringing together volunteers to remove invasives, protect existing native plants, and improve the overall ecological health of the park. After the volunteer event, one of our committee members lead a nature walk through the park, pointing out many of the native species that live there.



Ordinance Review



Dark Skies Ordinance and Landscape Ordinance

The EAC prepared amendments to the Township Lighting requirements to update the ordinances to reflect current LED technology and include lighting standards consistent with best practices for responsible outdoor lighting as per Dark Skies International. Revisions included requiring fixtures shielded to focus light at a downward angle, reducing the brightness color temperature (wavelength) of the LED lighting, and reducing the height of lighting fixtures in parking areas. These changes reduce glare, increase safety and security, improve human sleep quality and health, and reduce harm to wildlife such as nighttime pollinators and migrating birds.. The ordinance revisions were reviewed by the Township professionals and adopted by the Board in 2026.

The Landscape Ordinance updated the current regulations to include information about current native plant and noxious weed best management practices.



Conculsion

In 2025, the Towamencin EAC made notable progress in fostering a sustainable, environmentally-conscious community. We are proud of the accomplishments we achieved and are excited about the work ahead in 2026. We look forward to working alongside the Towamencin Board of Supervisors and other community stakeholders to ensure that Towamencin remains a model of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to the collaborative efforts that will further strengthen our township's commitment to a green and sustainable future.

Respectfully submitted,

Towamencin Township Environmental Advisory Council