



New Britain Township

Environmental Advisory Council

To: New Britain Township Board of Supervisors (BOS)
From: Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)
Re: Annual Report (2025)
Date: January 8, 2026

Please find below the Environmental Advisory Council's 2025 annual report.

Members: Kathleen Davis, Chair; Mary Margaret Briggs, Secretary; Carol Weston-Young, Vice-Chair; Lucy Jones, Member; Kathleen Dutil, Member.

The second year of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was busy and productive. With the help of our community volunteers we focused our efforts on the following areas:

Demonstration Pollinator Garden:

The Demonstration Pollinator Garden has been a resounding success. EAC members and volunteers met in early spring to design the garden and source planting materials. Anna Edling was the chief designer and planter, assisted by Sarah Benz, Chester Colburn, Jody Nachman, Gerri Reuter, and EAC members Lucy Jones, Mary Margaret Briggs, Carol Weston-Young, and Kathleen Davis. Anna Edling painted a water barrel and secured it in place. We received two grants for the garden:

National Women's Farm and Garden awarded a \$300 grant to purchase an interpretive sign to educate the community about the purpose and benefits of the garden. Lucy Jones initiated and guided the grant process. We purchased two signs that will be installed in spring 2026.

Bowman's Hill Nature Preserve awarded us a grant of 100 native herbaceous plants, which comprised the majority of the plantings. The rest were donated by community volunteers. The *Herald* carried an article on the garden written by Margaret Briggs: [Pollinator Garden Herald Article](#)

Work is underway to extend the garden. Cardboard and mulch were laid in early December and we will apply for a Bucks Beautiful grant to fund shrubs and one or two trees.

Open Space: Since 2024, Kathleen Davis and Mary Margaret Briggs have participated in meetings between the Bucks County Planning Commission (BCPC) and New Britain Township, which have focused on updating the New Britain Township Open Space Plan (last revised in 2008).

After completion of the open space survey (end 2024), the BCPC issued a report reinforcing township residents' support of the township's efforts to preserve open space. Common reasons for support were: to protect or enhance woodlands, streams, wetlands, fields, meadows, & other natural resources; to protect habitat for wildlife, to preserve scenic views & historic resources; and to stop development & prevent suburban sprawl. Results of the survey can be found here.

[2024 NBT Open Space Survey Report](#)



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In September, the BCPC sent a draft open space revision for NBT to review. The draft was shared with the EAC and reviewed, comments from the EAC were consolidated, and the EAC's feedback was returned to the BCPC. Several meetings to further revise the draft have been held. Kathleen Davis and Mary Margaret Briggs will continue to meet with the BCPC and township officials to review future BCPC open space plan drafts. When the draft is deemed complete and accurate, the EAC will propose approval of the final revision to the Board of Supervisors.

Also in September, the BOS tasked the EAC with identifying properties within NBT that are good candidates for open space purchase or conservation. Therefore, concurrent with the BCPC open space plan revision activities, Lucy Jones and Kathleen Davis have been listing and mapping properties. They have also been revising the 2000 Open Space Plan criteria, which will be used to rank desirable properties.

Outreach: We have continued to strengthen our relationships with partners and with the NBT community:

[A Day](#): The EAC ran a booth at Del Val's A Day, held April 25-27. Our displays included an enviroscape, dark skies lighting information, a rain barrel raffle, and an antique Ford pickup provided by supporter Kathy Keller, who also donated a banner, rack cards, and a table runner, all of which the EAC will use for years to come.

[Bucks County Conservation District's Growing Greener event](#): The EAC hosted a table at this event held at the County Grange. The event gave us an opportunity to introduce ourselves to the broader environmental community and to network with other organizations.

[Fall Festival](#): The EAC made extensive preparations for its booth at the Fall Festival. The displays included an Enviroscape (stormwater management teaching display) borrowed from the Bucks County Conservation District; a rain barrel; posters and examples of environmentally-friendly lighting, and resources on native plants. We encouraged residents to visit the Demonstration Pollinator Garden where Anna Edling and Sarah Benz educated visitors about the various species and distributed free native plants.

[Winter Seed Sowing with Scouts](#): In October, Carol Weston-Young, Lucy Jones, and Margaret Briggs guided the scouts of Pack 133 in a winter seed sowing project. When seedlings emerge in spring the EAC will assist scouts with transplanting them.

[Rain Barrel Workshop](#): On May 3 the EAC held its inaugural rain barrel workshop for residents. Barrels were donated by Coca-cola and diverter kits were donated by the NWA. EAC members rented a U-haul to collect the barrels, which the Township stored for several days. EAC members and volunteers washed and drilled the barrels, and on the day of the event residents installed the diverter themselves, leaving with fully functional rain barrels that will benefit their properties and our watershed. A second workshop is scheduled for May 2, 2026.



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The EAC continues to post announcements of activities, photos, and environmental tips on the Township website and Facebook page and regularly contribute several articles to the Township's Newsletter, advising residents on various environmental topics.

Ordinances: EAC feedback on ordinance changes continued through the first half of 2025, including updating and reformatting a comprehensive native plant list (Chapter 22, Attachment 4, Appendix D - Required Plant Material List), which is now part of the Township's e-code.

Subdivision and Land Development Review: The EAC reviewed one Subdivision and Development plan (Barry Rd) in 2025 and has suggested modifications regarding plantings and lighting on several plans already in progress.

Tree Plantings: On October 3 the EAC partnered with the Neshaminy Watershed Association, Bucks County Conservation District, and the Mill Ridge Home Owner's Association to plant 150 trees on a conservation easement in a new development.

On October 28 the EAC led a tree planting along the new Neshaminy Trail. EAC volunteers Gerri Reuter, Dale Kowaleck, Dave Kutish, Bill Davis, and Jerry Coleman joined EAC members Lucy Jones and Kathleen Davis to plant, cage, and mulch 18 native water-tolerant trees.

Bird Town: At the December 3 EAC meeting, a resident suggested New Britain Township consider entering the Bird Town Pennsylvania program. A discussion ensued, resulting in a motion to pursue becoming a Bird Town member. The motion passed unanimously. As part of the process, a volunteer sub-committee of the EAC will need to be formed, with a minimum of three members required. M. Briggs presented the proposal at the December 15, 2025 Board of Supervisors meeting and volunteered to lead formation of the sub-committee. Residents Sarah Benz and Mike Barba have also volunteered to be on the inaugural sub-committee. The process for joining is currently underway, pending passage of a resolution by the BOS.

Grant Applications: The EAC worked with Bucks County Conservation District, NBT Public Works and Neshaminy Watershed Association (NWA) to apply for a Trees for Watershed Grant. The Trees for Watersheds grants are managed by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) and funded by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to improve water quality. This grant application demonstrates the EAC's ability to work with several partners in achieving a positive goal for the community. If awarded, the funds will be used to naturalize the stormwater basin at the edge of North Brant Park with native trees and shrubs to improve water quality by reducing pollutant transport, improve infiltration and lessen downstream impact from stormwater surges.