



***Information and Resources  
for Living Green in Livingston***

*May 2012*



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Livingston Green Team  
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The Livingston Green Team is composed of residents and township employees and includes representatives from:

Livingston Township Council  
Township Manager's Office  
Livingston Purchasing Department  
Livingston Health Department  
Livingston Department of Public Works  
Livingston School District  
Business Improvement District  
Livingston Planning Board  
Livingston Environmental Commission  
Open Space Trust Committee  
Composting Promotion Committee  
Recycling and Reclamation Committee  
Trails and Greenways Committee  
Vision 20/20 Committee  
Livingston Living Green

Logo art by David Cimbol

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# BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

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## *What makes a great community?*

It's not only great schools, public safety and municipal services. It's also a commitment to operate sustainably and efficiently, with respect for natural resources and a healthy environment.

Livingston is committed to advancing environmental efforts in energy conservation, water conservation, land use, recycling, community education and community health and recreation.

With the input of the township administration, community volunteers, township committees, and township employees, Livingston has created a five-year action plan to advance environmental efforts and become a greener community. *To see the five year strategic plan, visit the Green Team web page, [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html).*



**Livingston's 5-Year Strategic Plan**

## *Being green pays off.*

Livingston's environmental commitment pays off in many ways—including savings to taxpayers, a cleaner environment, and eligibility for grants. As a result of our commitment to sustainability, our town has been honored for environmental innovation and community involvement by Sustainable Jersey and has qualified for numerous grants from the state, county, New Jersey Green Acres and New Jersey Association of Environmental Commissions.

## *Livingston's pledge to pursue sustainability.*

Our town's commitment to being a "green" community is reflected in local ordinances and in the township's Master Plan, adopted in 2007. The environmental goals and recommendations of the Master Plan are summarized in a "Sustainable Land Use Pledge," which sets forth principles that the Township of Livingston will pursue in regard to natural resource

### ***Did you know...***

Livingston was one of the first towns in New Jersey to be recognized for its green initiatives and to receive certification from Sustainable Jersey.

preservation, housing, transportation, parking, green design and public participation. *To read the Sustainable Land Use pledge, go to [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html).*

*Teaching sustainability is part of our school system’s strategic plan—in the classroom and in the use of school district resources.*

In the plan for curriculum and what students learn, the school district has set this strategic goal: “Identify what all students need to know, understand and be able to do in order to thrive in a complex evolving, global, technologically oriented and sustainable environment....”

***Did you know...***

Environmental goals and recommendations appear throughout Livingston’s Master Plan, to guide the development and zoning of our town.

Environmental topics are discussed from pre-school to high school. For example, in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade World Cultures and Geography curriculum students learn sustainability concepts as they pertain to creating a healthier and renewable planet. A number of schools have active environmental committees in which parents and staff participate, as well as environmental clubs and projects for students.

***Did you know...***

Representatives of all Livingston schools meet periodically for a “best practices roundtable” to learn from each other about creative environmental practices and programs that engage students in environmental learning.

## Recycling in Livingston: What to Do With All Kinds of Stuff

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### *Recycling saves tax dollars.*

The more we recycle, the more the township saves in hauling costs and the more it earns in the sale of recyclables.

### *Livingston's household recycling is easy.*

Here's what to do with stuff when you're done with it.

- **Plastic, Glass, Cans (Commingled recycling)**– Put these items together every other week for curbside collection. Livingston recycles plastic containers with recycling numbers 1 through 7, plastic bags, Styrofoam packing and egg cartons, yogurt containers, juice containers, glass bottles and jars, and metal cans of all types.
- **Newspaper, Cardboard, Chipboard** – Put these items out together every other week. You may include phone books, brown paper bags, cereal and food boxes, pizza boxes (no pizza, please!), shipping boxes, and paperback books. Don't include waxed paper or waxed boxes.



### *Did you know...*

Livingston earns more than \$200,000 annually from the sale of recyclables, and our recycling efforts qualify the town for over \$50,000 in recycling grants every year.

Recycling containers should ideally be equipped with drainage holes. Containers may not exceed 32 gallons or 50 lbs.

For more details about specific items and for the pick-up schedule, see the back cover of this brochure. The recycling schedule is published at [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html) and in the Town Planner Calendar.

Waste that is not recyclable is picked up twice a week. The schedule for the collection of household garbage is published on the Township website.

***Electronics recycling is the law.***

Both state and local law requires that computers, televisions and other electronics be recycled, not placed in household garbage. The township's waste collection service is instructed not to pick up any electronics during curbside collections. As a service to residents, the township holds three electronics recycling events annually at which residents may dispose of all types of used electronics and techno-trash. Electronics recycling is held at the Senior Community Center on Hillside Avenue. Check the township's website [livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html) for the dates and times of these events and for a complete list of electronics recyclables.

***Did you know...***

Since the first town-wide electronics recycling day in 2007, Livingston residents have recycled over 313 tons of electronics! At the town's paper-shredding events, over 37 tons of documents have been shredded and recycled.

***Got lots of old documents and papers you want to get rid of?***

In collaboration with the Recycling and Reclamation Committee, the township provides secure and environmentally responsible paper shredding three times a year. Records shredding is conducted at the Senior Community Center on Hillside Avenue on the same days as Electronics Recycling. Check the Green Team web page for dates and times.

***Reduce the volume of your garbage by composting.***

The Composting Promotion Committee, also known as "the rot squad," offers workshops on



backyard composting and makes composting bins available to residents at a reduced price. Composting significantly reduces the volume of garbage, thus saving on collection and disposal costs....and your garden will love the "black gold" that results.

***Did you know...***

By composting and recycling, you can **reduce your garbage** by 50% or more.

***Just Say No! to disposable shopping bags.***

In conjunction with the West Essex Tribune and the township, the Recycling and Reclamation Committee is actively promoting the use of reusable bags in place of plastic or paper shopping bags. Reusable bags in their own pocket-size pouch are distributed at community events and are available from the Recycling and Reclamation Committee to anyone who wishes to use them.

***Did you know...***

Plastic bags are fouling waterways and endangering wildlife. By using a cloth shopping bag, you can save over 300 plastic bags a year.

***It's important to dispose of old medications properly.***

Old medications should be removed from easy access to youngsters at home, but should never be flushed down the drain. In the spring and fall, the Community Policing Unit of the Livingston Police Department conducts Operation Take Back, events at which expired and unused medication can be safely disposed of. Check with the Police Department or the township website for dates and times of these events.

***How can you safely dispose of syringes?***

Disposal of syringes and used hypodermic needles is regulated by state law. Saint Barnabas Medical Center is a participant in the program for responsible disposal of home-generated syringes, needs and lancets. Contact the Safety Management Department at (973) 322-8257.

For detailed instructions on the proper disposal of home-generated medical waste in weekly garbage pick-ups, go to [www.livingstonnj/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj/greenteam.html).

***What about houses of worship and commercial and business establishments?***

- ***Houses of worship*** – Recycling for houses of worship follows the same rules and schedule as household curbside recycling. Commingled plastic, glass and cans and mixed paper are collected alternately, once

***Did you know...***

Recycling is the law....for all households, business establishments, and office and professional buildings.

per week, at curbside by the Township's residential recycling collector. The schedule for recycling collection can be found on the Township website and Town Planner Calendar.

- **Commercial Recycling** – State and local laws requires that all businesses, office buildings, apartment houses and professional buildings recycle plastic, glass, cans and mixed paper. Commercial establishments and landlords are responsible for arranging their own recycling collections.

### *Proper disposal of all kinds of other stuff...*

- **Batteries** – For the convenience of Livingston residents, battery recycling containers are placed throughout the Township. Battery recycling receptacles can be found at the Livingston Library, Livingston Senior Community Center, and Northland Pool. No rechargeable batteries, please.
- **Household hazardous waste** – Essex County holds two hazardous waste collection events each year at a location within Essex County. Check the Township website or the Essex County Utilities Authority website for dates and times of these events.
- **Metal** – All kinds of scrap metal, including appliances and swing sets, are picked up by the Department of Public Works on the last Wednesday of the month. To schedule a pick-up, call the Township Clerk's office (973-992-5000, then press 1) by Friday before the last Wednesday of the month.
- **Bulk Collection** – Bulky items (e.g., furniture, box springs, carpet, toys, rimless tires) are collected at curbside once a month, on the last regular collection day of the month.



## What YOU Can Do!

- Review the list of recyclables on the inside back cover to make sure you're recycling everything that you can.
- Check the Green Team web page [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html) to find out when the next composting workshop will be held and how you can get a discounted compost bin.
- Carry reusable shopping bags in your car and use them whenever you shop.
- Take advantage of electronics recycling events to recycle everything from computers and televisions to toasters and microwaves.
- Before you put furniture or household goods at the curbside to throw out, contact one of the many organizations that collect household goods: for example, Habitat for Humanity, the Freecycle Network or Green Demolition that recycles kitchen cabinets and countertops contact the Freecycle Networks ([www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)) to recycle your castoffs to someone who can use them.

# Water: Your Role in Conserving This Precious Resource

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## *Water quality and availability affect us all.*

The pure water that flows to Livingston homes and businesses is a blend from twelve Township wells, supplemented by water purchased from New Jersey American Water. The Township's artesian wells tap a deep underground aquifer that is fed by rainwater that percolates slowly to the finite supply underground. This means that the level and purity of groundwater has a direct effect on Livingston's water supply.



Livingston has its own water utility that not only maintains the infrastructure that supplies water to homes and businesses but also monitors wells and their output to assure a constant level of water within the township, even during periods of heavy use.

Everything that we flush down our drains ends up at the Livingston Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), where every day 3,000,000 gallons of sewage are treated and then released as clean effluent into the Passaic River.

## *The Township is leading the way on water conservation.*

To reduce water usage in its operations, the Township installed low-flow fixtures at the Municipal Building, the Senior Community Center and at Monmouth Court. This reduces water usage by at least 20% annually.

Further water conservation and protection actions that are already enacted or underway include:

- Using clean effluent to sweep streets and wash vehicles and for irrigation and catch-basin cleaning;
- Re-engineering the sewage treatment process to save 16,000 gallons of potable water daily;
- Installing rain gardens at the Library and Municipal Building, to capture and cleanse storm water runoff before it reaches streams and aquifers.

### *Did you know...*

Livingston's per capita water usage—ranging from 143 to 229 gallons per day—is among the **highest in the state**. This is not a statistic to be proud of.

### *What's your water consumption?*

Water bills come out quarterly---but now it's possible to get water usage data on a monthly basis. This will alert you to water leaks or unusually high usage and enable you to take corrective action promptly. To receive your monthly water usage notification, sign up on the Township's web site, [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html) or mail a registration form to the Tax Collector's Office.

### *Saving water saves lots of money.*

The bathroom, kitchen, laundry room, and residential lawns are tremendous users of water. Even small steps can make a big difference in water usage...and your water bill!

- Installing a low-flow toilet can save 10,986 gallons of water and up to \$70 annually for a family of four;
- Fixing leaky fixtures can save 10% or more on your water bill;
- A faucet aerator can save 15,622 gallons of water and up to \$100 annually for a family of four;
- Washing clothes only when you have a full load can save 14,585 gallons of water and up to \$68 annually for a family of four.

#### *Did you know...*

A **leaky toilet** wastes enough water in a year to fill a swimming pool.

For many other tips on practical and cost-saving ways to save thousands of gallons of water, check the Green Team web page on the Township website.

### *Smart watering saves water and keeps lawns and gardens healthier.*

New Jersey landscapes need approximately one inch of water a week...most of which usually comes from rain. Watering deeply and less frequently produces a deeper, healthier root system. You are over-watering if puddles are forming on the landscape or in the street.

#### *Did you know...*

**Drip irrigation** and micro-sprays use 30-50% less water than sprinklers.



***Watering restrictions apply year round.***

To assure that the Township will have a constant level of water during periods of heavy usage in spring and summer; Livingston has year-round watering restrictions that permit houses with odd-numbered addresses to water only on odd numbered days and those with even numbered addresses to water only on even-numbered days. For exceptions and special cases, refer to the ordinance at [livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html).

***Are you in compliance with stormwater ordinances?***

Stormwater is rainwater and melted snow that runs off streets, roofs, lawns and paved areas. When stormwater runs into storm drains, it can cause erosion and habitat destruction and can carry oil, fertilizer, and other pollutants directly into streams and rivers.

To protect streams and the aquifers that feed our drinking water wells, Livingston has a number of ordinances that require residents to help in regulating stormwater. Reducing our personal contribution to pollution is crucial to protecting our water supply.

- ***Application of fertilizer*** – In accord with state law and to prevent polluting runoff, Livingston prohibits application of fertilizer when heavy rain is predicted. Local ordinance regulates landscape maintenance practices involving fertilizers.
- ***Covering refuse containers and dumpsters*** – Garbage containers must be properly maintained and all refuse containers must be covered to prohibit spilling, dumping and leaking of any materials into the Township storm sewer system.

***Did you know...***

Storm drains are not connected to sanitary sewer systems nor to treatment plants. Storm drains flow directly into our brooks, creeks and rivers.

***Did you know...***

There are three **rain gardens** on township property---one at the library and two at the Municipal Building—to absorb storm water runoff and filter it. Rain gardens can reduce the pollution that reaches streams by up to 30%.

➤ ***Disturbance of steep slopes*** – To prevent erosion, Livingston’s ordinance regulates all kinds of development and earthwork on steep slopes.

➤ ***Pet waste disposal*** – Pet owners are required to clean up after their pets and properly dispose of solid pet wastes so that pet waste is not washed into storm drains and carried to rivers, lakes and the drinking water supply.



➤ ***Leaf collection*** – New Jersey law on stormwater management prohibits placing leaves closer than 10 feet to any storm drain and prohibits having leaves in the gutter for more than 7 days. Livingston publishes a leaf collection schedule annually, specifying when leaves may be put in the street in different sections of town.

More information on these ordinances is available on the Green Team web page [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html).

### **What YOU Can Do!**

- Operate your clothes washer and dish washer only when you have full loads.
- Install an inexpensive aerator on your faucets or update your faucets, showerheads and toilets with money-saving low-flow versions.
- Follow restrictions about application of fertilizer and placement of yard waste in gutters--- and remind your landscaper to do so.
- Compost your food waste rather than using the garbage disposal.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing them off.
- Turn off your automatic irrigation system when it’s raining.
- Wash your car with a bucket, not a hose, or use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- In landscaping, use mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and raise your lawn mower blade to at least 3 inches to promote a root system that holds soil moisture.

*Visit the Green Team web page on the Township website for a list of other simple ways to save water in your bathroom, kitchen, laundry room, household chores and recreation.*

# ENERGY CONSERVATION: MANY WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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Whether driving your car, heating your home, using an appliance, or screwing in a light bulb, every day you are faced with decisions that have impact on energy use, in big and little ways.

## *What is Livingston's carbon footprint?*

In conjunction with Livingston's participation in the Sustainable Jersey program and as a signatory to the Sierra Club Cool Cities pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; the Township is calculating the carbon footprint of municipal operations and of the community as a whole. This calculation will establish a baseline against which we measure progress.



## *Setting an example for energy conservation.*

The Township of Livingston is pursuing a number of energy-conservation approaches that are intended to set the pace and provide examples for what home-owners and businesses can do.

- **Energy audit** – With support from a state grant, Livingston conducted an energy audit of every municipal operation, to see where greater efficiencies are possible. The recommendations from the audit are being implemented with the expectation that the reduced energy usage will save at least \$65,000 annually.

## *Did you know...*

The Municipal Building and Senior Community Center have motion sensors to ensure that lights are not left on in empty rooms.

- **Wind and solar energy** – With the expectation that Livingston homeowners will increasingly pursue non-polluting, renewable energy from solar and wind systems, in 2011 the Township Council passed an ordinance regulating the installation of residential solar and wind systems. The Council



and Planning Board created this ordinance in the belief that alternative energy systems will be advanced by having them established as permitted structures. To read the ordinance and regulations governing residential wind and solar installations, visit the Township website, [www.livingston.nj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingston.nj.org/greenteam.html).

- **Hybrid and high efficiency vehicles** – Whenever vehicles are replaced in the township fleet, every effort is made to purchase hybrid or high efficiency vehicles. Currently, Livingston has seven hybrid vehicles in the township fleet.

### ***Making Livingston a No-Idling zone.***

From initial efforts that began with the environmental committee at Collins School, the issue of “no idling” is now a town-wide program embodied in the phrase, “Turn the Key, Be Idle Free.” An anti-idling resolution passed by the Township Council in 2011 reminds residents that idling your engine wastes energy and is costly to the environment and human health. To read the resolution, go to [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html).

#### ***Did you know...***

Idling your car for 10 seconds uses more gas than restarting the engine.

Numerous scientific studies have found links between exhaust emissions and increased incidents of asthma, allergies and breathing disorders. Since children breathe at tail pipe level, breathe faster than adults, and inhale more air per pound of body weight, they are especially susceptible to these illnesses. “No idling” signs have been installed near schools to encourage residents to turn off their engines while waiting to pick up their children. State law prohibits idling more than 3 minutes, with a minimum fine set at \$250.

#### ***Did you know...***

The energy used in the average home is responsible for twice as many greenhouse gas emissions as the average car.

### ***Energy conservation starts at home---really!***

The average home spends more than \$2200 a year on energy bills, with half of this going for heating and cooling costs. Yet in the average home, up to 60% of energy used for heating and cooling is wasted due to leaky ducts, inefficient equipment, poor insulation, and air leaks.

A good first step in reducing energy use is to arrange for an energy audit to assess how much energy your home consumes and to assess what measures

***Did you know...***

Through proper use of a programmable thermostat, you can save roughly \$200 per year in energy costs.

you can take to make your home more energy efficient. Smart decisions on heating, cooling and insulation save on energy costs, make your home more comfortable...and fight global warming.

To take advantage of incentives and rebates for installing new energy efficient appliances and equipment and to learn about state programs to promote residential energy efficiency, visit [www.njcleanenergy.com](http://www.njcleanenergy.com).

### **What YOU Can Do!**

- Replace light bulbs in your home with compact fluorescents or LED bulbs.
- Turn off your computer at night.
- Arrange for an energy audit of your home.
- Using one of the carbon footprint calculators on the internet (for example, CoolClimate Carbon Footprint Calculator), compute your household's carbon footprint and compare it to the average.
- When you replace appliances, purchase energy efficient or Energy Star appliances.
- When you are stopped for more than one minute---waiting for a child outside the school, in line at the ATM, waiting for a companion, or caught in traffic---turn off your engine.

## Enjoying and Preserving Our Outdoor Treasures

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In 2002 the residents of Livingston demonstrated how much they value the natural beauty of our town by voting overwhelmingly to establish an Open Space Trust Fund. Since that time, the township has purchased three pieces of property for preservation and recreation and has made giant steps in documenting and preserving the natural resources of Livingston.



### *Did you know...*

Because of Livingston's active plan for purchasing and preserving open space, since 2003 Livingston has applied for and received over \$2.5 million in grants from state and county open space and Green Acres funding.

### *Livingston has an updated and comprehensive Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI).*

With a grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, in 2009 the Livingston Environmental Commission published a detailed inventory of Livingston's natural resources. The 171-page inventory includes extensive maps of the area and descriptions of Livingston's geology, topography, wildlife, water supply, historical places, air quality, soil quality and existing and planned infrastructure.

### *Did you know...*

Livingston has 2,297 acres of open space within its boundaries, including 1,450 acres belonging to the East Orange Water Reserve.

The ERI serves as a planning tool for township officials, the Planning Board, the Environmental Commission and Open Space Trust. It is also a valuable resource to educators and residents to increase public understanding of the environment and the abundant natural resources in our area. A copy of the

ERI is available in the library and can be downloaded at [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html).

***Planning for a more walkable community.***

A walkable community is a healthy community, and Livingston is committed to having more quality sidewalks. The sidewalk program includes a switch from asphalt to concrete sidewalks, starting with replacing worn or adding sidewalks on municipal property. The Township is developing a program for residential property owners to improve sidewalks on their property.

Livingston's *Trails and Greenways Plan* proposes a system of local and regional trails that builds on existing sidewalk infrastructure and recreational facilities in the Township to connect parks, neighborhoods, schools and shopping areas. As a resource to residents, the Plan includes a detailed map of the fourteen existing park and trails in Livingston. The Plan is available at the library and at [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html).

***Did you know...***

You can take a 5- minute video tour of Livingston's 14 parks and trails by going to [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html)

***Finding the treasures in our own backyard.***

Can you name the recreational areas that are located in our 14-square mile piece of New Jersey? If not, go to [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html) to download a brochure that describes active recreation opportunities in town. Also listed are website addresses for locating maps of the various recreational sites. Be sure to see the trail map of Prospect Park, a 29-acre wooded area that is the most recent addition to Livingston's outdoor treasures.

***Preserving and protecting our tree canopy.***

Through its community forestry program, Livingston has made a commitment to maintaining and increasing the tree cover of our community. Not only do trees provide aesthetic beauty that makes our streets and neighborhoods attractive, trees also support a healthy environment by reducing carbon dioxide. Trees add value to a property, enhance the

character of homes and neighborhoods, and promote cooling and shade in the summer. When removed, the loss of trees may negatively influence drainage and contribute to soil erosion.

Because trees are one of our most valuable natural resources, Livingston's tree ordinance requires a permit for removing more than three trees from a property in any year, or more than one tree from the front yard. Since tree removal affects the character of a neighborhood, the ordinance requires that neighbors be notified of tree work near a shared property line. There is no limitation for removing diseased trees or those within 10 feet of a house. For more details about tree protection requirements and exemptions, visit [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html).

### ***Did you know...***

The Tree City USA program recognizes municipalities for their commitment to tree planting, preservation and maintenance and their community forestry programs. Livingston has been recognized as a Tree City USA since 2009.

### ***Fighting litter on public property.***

Livingston is a recipient of the New Jersey Clean Communities grant, a statewide litter-abatement, education and enforcement program. In Livingston the grant money has been used for educational programs, anti-littering enforcement and to off-set costs of clean-ups on public land and purchasing recycling and trash bins.

## **What YOU Can Do!**

- Get your club or family involved in a litter clean-up effort.
- Go to the library and look at the Environmental Resource Inventory and Trails and Greenways Plan.
- Let the Township Council know that you're interested in preserving our town's outdoor treasures. Volunteer to be appointed to the Open Space Trust Fund, Trails and Greenways Committee, Prospect Park Committee, Littell's Pond Committee, or Orchard Hill Committee.
- Take your family to a historic trail, path or recreation area in town that you haven't explored before.
- Do a survey of trees on your property to determine species, age and condition. Maintain your trees to avoid disease and removal.

# Livingston's Open Space History

*Friends of Livingston Open Space* formed  
Spring 2002

Referendum question passed with strong voter support  
November 2002

"Open Space" Ordinance adopted by Township Council  
January 2003

*Open Space and Recreation Plan* published  
February 2003

Applied for and received funding under NJDEP Planning Incentive Grant Program  
2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007/8, 2009 & 2010

Applied for and received funding from the Essex County Open Space Trust Fund  
2005, 2006, 2009

"Gateway North" purchased  
October 2006

*Trails & Greenways Plan* published  
July 2007

"Orchard Hill" purchased  
December 2007

Voters overwhelmingly renewed Open Space Trust  
November 2008

"Madonna Park" purchased  
July 2009

Opening of Prospect Park  
October 2010

## Frequently-Asked Questions

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***Q: When I recycle paper, may I put it out in plastic bags?***

A. No recyclables—neither paper nor commingled—should be placed in plastic bags of any type. The electronic sorters at the reclamation site can't handle the plastic bags. Recyclable paper should be placed in paper bags or some type of reusable rigid container. Commingled recyclables (glass, plastic, cans) should be placed in reusable rigid containers, preferably with drainage holes at the bottom.

***Q. How do I get rid of an old refrigerator or freezer?***

A. The NJ Bureau of Public Utilities currently offers a \$50 rebate for working refrigerators and freezers. Under this program, discarded appliances are disassembled and 95% of the materials are recycled. Call 877-270-3520 to arrange pick-up or register online at [www.njcleanenergy.com](http://www.njcleanenergy.com) under “residential programs.” (Alternatively, the Department of Public Works will collect old refrigerators and white metal, by previous appointment. See instructions for recycling metal, p. 6.) When you replace your refrigerator or freezer, make sure you buy an Energy Star, energy-efficient appliance.

***Q. What's the concern about using fertilizer on my lawn?***

A. Livingston prohibits application of fertilizer prior to heavy rainfall because stormwater runoff carries fertilizer into our water stream. The residue can show up in drinking water and can be tracked into the house from lawns. Chemical fertilizers have possible negative impact on wildlife, pets, and people and possible links to cancer and other health issues. Overall, lawns tend to be over-fertilized. More than ten times as many chemicals are used per acre on lawns as on industrial farmland.

***Q. What should I do with grass clippings?***

A. Grass clippings may be placed at the curb in plastic bags not to exceed 50 lbs. for once-a-week collection by the solid waste collector. A better solution, however, is to use a mulching mower and leave grass clippings on the lawn. Grass clippings decompose quickly and release nitrogen and other nutrients back into the lawn— a natural and free means to improve lawn quality.

***Q. Where can I dispose of household hazardous waste such as paint and oil?***

A. The Essex County Utilities Authority (ECUA) provides two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days annually, in May and October, both held at the Essex County Fleet Maintenance Facility, 99 West Bradford Avenue in Cedar Grove. For dates and times of these recycling events, check the township website or the ECUA website: [www.ecuanj.com](http://www.ecuanj.com). Oil-based paint must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

Water-based paint may be disposed of on your bulk garbage day (last garbage day of the month); add kitty litter or sand to soak up any unused paint and scoop it into a garbage bag for disposal. The empty paint cans may be placed at the curb with the lids removed.

**Q. *Why can't old medicines be disposed of down the drain?***

A. Over-the-counter and prescription medications should not be flushed down the drain because wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove pharmaceutical compounds, and they may end up in our local waterways, and may eventually be found in drinking water. Mix liquid medicine with coffee grounds, cat litter or dirt. Dilute pills with water and then add coffee grounds, cat litter or dirt. Place the discarded medicines in an opaque container and hide the container in the trash. (For details, go to [www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html](http://www.livingstonnj.org/greenteam.html).) Or take discarded medicines to an Operation Take Back event held in the spring and fall at the police department.

## Recycling Made Easy: A Guide for Livingston Residents

### Plastic • Styro • Glass • Cans

Put these out for collection alternate weeks:

#### PLASTICS & STYROFOAM®



✓ Plastic bottles for water, milk, soda, ketchup, shampoo, bleach, detergent.  
 ✓ Styro packaging & food containers.  
 ✓ Yogurt cups.

✓ Plastic bags of all kinds.  
 ✓ NEW! Juice boxes.



**Styrofoam® and Juice Boxes can be recycled. Put them out with plastics.**

**GLASS Bottles:** Clear, green, and brown only. Do not recycle light bulbs, mirrors, window glass.

**METAL Cans:** Aluminum or Steel cans from food, drinks, pet food, coffee.

### So What's Just "Trash?"

**Regular Trash** includes: Food waste, Dishes, Diapers, Bagged pet waste. You can use food waste to make compost, too.

**FACT: Recycling saves tax dollars!** The Township of Livingston receives over \$300,000 a year from the sale of recyclables. Plus, recycling saves on the per-ton fees for garbage disposal.

Visit [www.livingstonnj.org/recycling](http://www.livingstonnj.org/recycling) or call Township Hall at (973) 992-5000

### Newspaper • Cardboard

Put these out for collection the other weeks:

#### NEWSPAPERS, PAPER, CARDBOARD BOXES

Newspapers, magazines, bulk mail, catalogs, office paper, phone books, paper-back books, brown paper and non-shiny paper bags.



**Put cardboard boxes out with newspapers.**

**Shipping boxes:** Please flatten or nest inside each other. Remove foam packing.

Pizza boxes (no pizza, please!)  
 Cereal boxes, pasta boxes, gift boxes, cardboard egg cartons, shirt cardboard

**Don't include:**  
 Waxed paper or waxed boxes,  
 milk cartons,  
 boxes w/ plastic windows, boxes with Styrofoam inside

### These need special disposal:

It's against the law to throw these in your regular trash:

#### Electronics, Computers, Phones



**TV's, Computers, Laptops, Phones**  
 Electronics, computers, TV's & rechargeable batteries contain hazardous heavy metals.

Bring these to free collections at the Livingston Senior / Community Center on June 9 & Sep 29, 2012. For future dates, check [www.LivingstonNJ.org/recycling](http://www.LivingstonNJ.org/recycling).

#### Paint, Chemicals, Oil, etc.

**Oil-based Paints,** Spray paint, Paint thinner, Oil, Gas, Pesticide, Propane, Antifreeze, Driveway sealer & Pool chemicals are hazardous. **Don't put these in trash.**

Bring these to Essex County Hazardous Waste collection, the first Saturday of May and October, in Verona.

**Latex** paints are OK to dispose of in regular trash. Just let the open can dry out, then put in the trash.

#### Batteries and CFL Bulbs

**Drop Off Regular Household Batteries** (not rechargeable) at boxes at Town Hall, the Library, Town Pools & Senior Center. Bring rechargeables to Electronics Collection Day.

**Compact Fluorescent Bulbs** contain hazardous mercury. **Recycle these at Home Depot.** They accept any CFL bulb, no matter where you purchased it.



*Working together for a Green Livingston*