



Kingwood Township Environmental Commission Annual Newsletter and Report 2020

Note on covid-19: Due to the pandemic, the March, April, and May EC meetings were cancelled, and the remainder of the year's meetings were conducted virtually. The tree give-away and the tree planting events were delayed, but were accomplished safely with social distancing and masking precautions. The EC extends thanks to Kingwood residents and wishes everyone a healthy 2021.

Roots for Rivers: 500 Trees Planted to Celebrate the 50th Earth Day!

The EC was awarded two Roots for Rivers grants from Nature Conservancy totaling \$5,087. Volunteers from the EC, the Township Committee, Parks and Recreation



Committee, Girl Scouts, and AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors helped plant 500 trees on preserved farmland near the Department of Public Works in the Lockatong Creek riparian zone. Forested riparian buffers reduce sediment, fertilizers and other pollutants from running off surfaces into the creek. The trees will also provide habitat for wildlife and shade that

will be good for trout which need cool water. Tree tubes will protect the young trees from deer browsing.

The EC held two Stewardship Workdays (March and September) to straightened tree tubes, removed netting when trees were growing above the tube height and removed tubes where trees had died.



1,000 Free Trees Reforesting Kingwood

The NJ Forest Service, in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation, provided 1,000 tree seedlings which were distributed for free to Kingwood residents on May 30th at Horseshoe Bend Park. The project was part of a continuing effort to replace trees that were lost in Superstorm Sandy.

PennEast Pipeline Update

Since 2014, the EC has worked together with neighboring towns, environmental groups, and elected officials to protect our environment, health, safety, homes and property rights from the harm PennEast would cause our community.

In January 2020, PennEast submitted a new application to FERC asking to split the project into two phases. Phase 1 would include most of the Pennsylvania portion, and Phase 2 would include the remaining PA and NJ portions. The intention was to complete Phase 1 by November 2021 and Phase 2 in 2023, however regulatory and legal issues put the phased approach on hold. In **February 2020**, FERC gave PennEast a 2 year extension of their certificate, which had expired in January. In **May 2020**, PennEast submitted an [application to DRBC](#) for the phased approach, but a hearing date has not been set.

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear PennEast's case on using eminent domain to obtain 40+ state owned parcels. **Please refer to our [website](#) for current information about our continued opposition to PennEast.**



Trees improve

- * water quality * air quality
- * home value * wildlife habitat *
- * ground water supply * mental and physical health * and reduce energy use

Ordinance relating to Solar Panels

The EC recognizes the importance of solar energy generation in reducing pollution and the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. Calculations made by the EC in 2015 showed that **large solar photovoltaic installations in Kingwood provide 197% of the municipality's residential electricity needs.** This number doesn't even include the power generated by residential rooftop installations, of which there are many. The EC acknowledges that solar panels installed on roofs and over parking lots are preferred to using open land, and submitted comments on draft changes to the township's "Ordinance Amending Chapter 132, Zoning" subsection relating to solar and/or photovoltaic energy facilities and structures in Kingwood.

Kingwood Twp Well Water Testing 2020

Each year, Kingwood Township partners with Raritan Headwaters (RHA) to hold a water testing event enabling residents the opportunity to test their drinking water conveniently and affordably for a variety of contaminants. This year, a Covid-safe, outdoor Community Well Testing event was held at the Kingwood Municipal Building in October. RHA Watershed Scientist, Mara Tippettt assisted residents with choosing the right tests and answering questions about their water quality concerns. In total, 30 residents attended the event to pick up a test kit or get additional information on the program. Of these, 26 households took the next step and returned water samples for testing.



The following chart is a summary of data collected from these 26 wells on Primary Contaminants of Concern:

Contaminant	# wells tested in 2020	Limit or MCL*	Range of results (ND=NonDetect)	# wells exceeding MCL
Coliform bacteria	26	Absent	Absent-Present	6
Nitrate	25	10 mg/L	ND-6.14mg/L	0
Lead	7	15 ppb	ND- 8.8 ppb	0
Radon	2	2000 pCi/L**	324.2-678.8 pCi/L	0
Gross Alpha	7	15 pCi/L	ND-13.9	0 (5 over 5 pCi/L)
Arsenic	23	5 ppb	0.3-11.7 ppb	7
E.coli	26	Absent	Absent-Present	1

* Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The maximum level of a contaminant which is permitted in public water supplies. Maximum contaminant levels are specified in the Primary Drinking Water Standards set by EPA for contaminants that affect the safety of public drinking water.

** There is no standard set in NJ for radon in water. Standards set in other states in our region are used as guidelines. The most protective of these standards is 2000 pCi/L in New Hampshire.

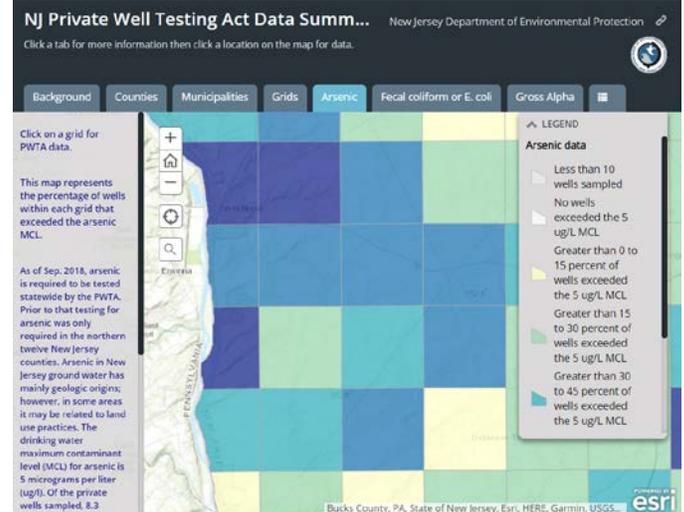
There are approximately 1,720 private wells in Kingwood Township. Private well owners are responsible for the safety of their water and regular testing is the only way to know for certain that the water is safe to drink. Based on available data and current public health guidelines, **residents of Kingwood are encouraged to test their wells annually for coliform bacteria and nitrates.** Arsenic contamination of private wells is common in the Township, and it is best to test every 3-5 years or more frequently if a homeowner is monitoring an arsenic removal treatment system. Those residents living in older homes, built before 1987 are at greater risk of lead exposure from older pipes and solder and should test for lead in their water every 5 years. At least one test for radon and gross alpha are also highly recommended to ensure that members of your

household are not exposed to these naturally occurring carcinogens.

Under the New Jersey Private Well Testing Act (PWTA) which was signed into law in 2001, wells must be tested for an array of contaminants upon transfer of ownership or if there is a rental on the property. The NJDEP collects and publishes data on the results of the testing which may be explored at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/pwta/> (see screenshot below).

In Kingwood Township, 552 wells have been tested as mandated under the PWTA between 2002 and 2018. The following table summarizes available data for Kingwood Township under the PWTA:

Contaminant	Percent Exceedances (# wells tested)
Nitrate	0.4%, (552 wells sampled)
Arsenic	43.7%, (552 wells sampled)
Iron	24.1%, (552 wells sampled)
Manganese	28.4%, (552 wells sampled)
Gross Alpha*	12.2%, (474 wells sampled)
VOC	0.2%, (552 wells sampled)
Bacteria (Fecal coliform or E. coli)	2.0%, (552 wells sampled)
pH	4.4%, (552 wells sampled)



Furthermore, residents can protect their water supply by carefully managing activities on their property and near the well. This includes keeping hazardous chemicals out of septic systems, pumping their septic system every 3 years, and limiting the application of fertilizers to lawns and gardens.

Check the Kingwood website in the late summer for information on 2021 well testing and septic cleaning!

Discount Septic System Pumping

32 residences took advantage of the discount septic pumping arranged by the EC in October. Septic systems must be used properly every day and inspected and pumped every 2-3 years. **See the EC's [septic system fact sheet](#) for more information.**

ERI Update

Kingwood's Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) was last updated in 2009, so the EC will begin working on updating this important reference. Instead of hiring a consultant, this will be done by the EC volunteers, which will save the township many thousands of dollars.

Luxfer Classification Exception Area

Luxfer MEL Technologies (formerly MEL Chemicals and MEI) has been manufacturing zirconium-based products at the Breeze Point plant since 1950's. Groundwater contamination (wastewater salt plume) was detected by NJDEP in the 1980's and site remediation has gone on for decades. In 2020, NJDEP approved Luxfer's routine 5-year discharge renewal permit which allows the company to continue to truck wastewater to Trenton Water Treatment Plant for treatment and discharge. Luxfer's submitted their hazardous waste clean-up final report to NJDEP, which determined that the pumping is retaining the salt plume on the property and not contaminating the surrounding area. A Classification Exception Area has been approved. After covid restrictions are over, the Luxfer vice president invited the EC to schedule a tour of the facility.

Sustainable Kingwood

Ralph is working on a fleet inventory, which tracks township vehicles' mileage and major uses and determines fuel costs in a base year. Mara is working on a trail mapping application with Outerspatial, under a grant obtained by Township Committeeman Richard Dodds. When complete, residents will be able to look up trails in Kingwood Township. These actions will earn points towards maintaining Kingwood's Bronze Certification.



Horseshoe Bend Park

More wildflower seeds were planted in the meadow, but success has been limited by poor germination and/or the mowing. The mower avoids the established milkweed stands, so the milkweed is becoming nicely established and enjoyed by butterflies, but the other areas are not becoming established. Mara registered the pollinator meadow with <http://monarchwatch.org> and obtained a sign to post. We're on their map under the name, "Horseshoe Bend Park pollinator meadow." The

Monarch Waystations



CREATE, CONSERVE, & PROTECT
MONARCH HABITATS

meadow sign which was designed by Sandy and funded by a previous grant was installed.

The EC plans to initiate a Meadow Management Workgroup, to focus on slowly improving the meadow.

There continues to be a big problem with the invasive plants that need to be addressed, including a big patch of mugwort and a pawlonia tree. This was talked about it at the last Parks and Rec meeting. The idea is to designate paths, so they look tailored and deliberate. The 2013 Meadow Management Plan created by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) for HBP recommended each field should be mowed only every 3rd year, and these should be rotated, so 1/3 of the fields should be mowed in any given year. This schedule will be more effective in maintaining wildflowers and pollinators than frequent mowing.

Stop invasive Mile-a-Minute Vine with Weevils

Ralph met with a representative of the NJ State Department of Agriculture's Beneficial Insect program regarding the use of weevils in the eradication of the mile-a-minute weed at the Horseshoe Bend Park. The presence of green immature berries show they may be slowing down the weed's life cycle. More mile-a-minute weevils were distributed.

NJDOT Rockfall Mitigation

No updates in 2020.



MS4 Stormwater Permit Update

Rain washes pollutants into storm drains and directly into our lakes, rivers and the ocean.

What can you do to stop pollution?



NJDEP requires all municipalities to educate residents about keeping our water clean. Through the annual [stormwater brochure](#) mailing, planting trees, and other actions, the EC once again fulfilled Kingwood regulatory requirement for education points.

Visit <https://cleanwater.nj.org/>

Membership in ANJEC

The EC renewed annual membership in ANJEC, which provides resources such as a quarterly newsletter. Mara Tippettt attended the virtual ANJEC annual Environmental Congress.

Co-op Electric

In 2019, the EC supported the Township Committee's decision to participate in the Delaware River Area Renewable Energy Procurement Cooperative (DRAREPC). This is a cooperative energy purchasing group made up of surrounding municipalities for the purpose of purchasing electricity from alternate energy providers with lower rates and higher renewable energy. Until that program is set up, Kingwood has decided to join the Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative for 2020. This co-op offers a lower rate than current suppliers (\$0.0863/kWh) through December 2020, although it did not initially offer an option to choose a renewable energy option (but will in 2021). Bills are still coming from JCP&L and the lower rate is automatically applied except for residents who have already chosen an alternate energy supplier. Residents may opt out by contacting JCP&L.

Recycling 2020



This was the first full year in which residents used their trash hauler for recycling. All trash haulers serving the Township of Kingwood are required by New Jersey law to offer recycling to a household where they collect trash. Recyclables are placed curbside and collected through the service. Continue to follow their guidelines on what can and cannot be recycled. In addition, the Hunterdon County Transfer Station/Recycling Depot, 10 Petticoat Lane, Annandale, NJ, Phone: (908 236-9088) is open Monday through Friday for Hunterdon County residents with recyclables that cannot be managed curbside. Check the Hunterdon County website under "[Recycling](#)" for more details.

Tires were collected for some time through the township and recycled. Over 550 tires were recycled this year. Mosquitos use the water that sits in old tires to lay eggs which become adults spreading disease, so it is wise to get rid of them. Some local auto repair shops will take tires for a fee, and it is worth it to get them off your property.

The metal recycling dumpster located at the Township of Kingwood DPW, at 255 Union Road, continues to be available to residents to drop off used metal items.

A clothing recycling shed is located on County Route 519 at the church in Baptistown for drop off and another was added to the Kingwood Township Volunteer Fire Company site.

2020 Kingwood EC Members

New EC Secretary: The EC welcomed new secretary, Debbi Hutton os-ecsecretary@kingwoodtownship.com

Debbie Kratzer (Chair)
Gail M. Ashley
Timothy Cahalin
Ralph Celebre

Mara Tippettt (Vice-Chair)
Sandra McNicol
Lois Voronin

Secretary: Debbi Hutton
Governing Body Member: Maureen Syrnick
Alt. #1: Cynthia Niciecki
Alt. #2: Elizabeth Combs