

### **Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission**

# Minutes June 21, 2018

### **Opening**

NJ Open Public Meetings Act was read and the meeting came to order at 7:44 by Dave Schwartzberg acting chair for the evening.

### **Members Present**

Phyllis Sandrock, Sandy Redder, Dave Schwartzberg, Carol Walczuk, Kathy Mitchell (Borough Council Liaison)

### **Members Absent**

Gary Szelc, Kevin Boris (Planning Board Liaison), Eric Gaulin, Margaret Chowdhury, Teresa Keeler

### **Member Update**

No update

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

• Approved.

### **Nature Center Discussion**

- 1. Capitol Improvements / Expenditures
  - a. Video Cameras no news; message centers removed from Capitol Budget request, funding instead requested from Open Space fund (see attached resolution)
- 2. Other Nature Center Discussion
  - a. Phyllis reported that the new trees are doing well. Dave noticed that there was a tube in the river (Phyllis will recover). The rain has helped them along.
  - b. Sand was dumped on the trail near the church -20 ft. stretch. Not sure who is responsible.
- 3. Ongoing Maintenance
  - a. There is a limb hanging over near the boardwalk that Phyllis has requested be taken down.
- 4. Volunteer Projects
  - a. Watershed Education Project Troop 33, Justin Chaillet
    - i. Press release should be this week
  - b. Trail Signage and Education

- i. Michael Chiappi, corresponded on 4/9/2018 Eric, no update
- c. Renovation of the Main Nature Center Entrance
  - i. Project accepted by Alex Rodriguez 4/19/2018
  - ii. Open Space Funding obtained
- d. Renovation of three other Nature Center Entrances
  - i. Project offered to Steven Kozlowski 4/19/2018
  - ii. Open Space Funding obtained
- e. Cleanup of the Classroom Area and Signage
  - i. Terrill Middle School students started cleanup of the classroom on 5/12/18
  - ii. Students were going to do some signage; the designs were not suitable; got a design from the county sign shop; school year ended; should we still install the signs.
- f. ANJEC Grant / Boardwalk Extension
  - i. Antoinette Chango
  - ii. Grant was for 65 feet of boardwalk We need to discuss where the extension may go.

### **Old Business**

- 1. Finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory Gary to review one last time after his vacation.
- 2. Grants
  - a. Green Acres
    - i. T&M working on technical scope
  - b. Sustainable NJ Roots to Rivers
    - i. (Teresa Keeler)
  - c. American Water Grant (attached)
    - i. \$7,500 was awarded to Fanwood on 4/18/2018
    - ii. Dave Schwartzberg project lead
    - iii. Actual check is for \$6,750.
    - iv. T&M has done a rough estimate for \$55,000 (includes planting), does not include fencing (estimate draft attached).
- 3. Develop of bylaws for the Environmental Commission Kevin (No update).
- 4. Explore with PSE&G methods to mitigate storm runoff from Vinton Circle into the PSE&G and NC borough engineer has seen it.
  - a. Dave reported that it appears there is an existing pipe and that it may be able to be replaced it may be broken or full of roots. Flooding may be mitigated by replacing/repairing the pipe. Further inspection is needed.
- 5. 2018 Garden Workshop Reschedule date? Any new plantings? Recall there is a store credit at Ambergs. No update.

- 6. Budget No update.
- 7. Girl Scouts (6<sup>th</sup> Graders) Environmental Journey Margaret (No update).
- 8. Annual Report Eric, no news
- 9. Goddard School 1 hour presentation July 24 at 10 AM Teresa
- 10. Plainfield MUA Environmental Fair September 8<sup>th</sup>
- 11. Creation of a new poster / display for what we do. Who would like to take the lead?
- 12. Brunner School Boy Scouts leader John Andrew Allen reached out to me. Students would like to volunteer in summer / fall (May 8, 2018 email)
- 13. Insurance for volunteers (Phyllis) No update.
- 14. Pictures for new display board No update.
- 15. Instagram account / Facebook account No update.

### **New Business**

- 1. Volunteer to help with gardens Margaret (No update)
- 2. Dave reported that Essex County will have a bioblitz in June 22/23, 2019. 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of South Mountain's last blitz.
- 3. Phyllis reported that Princeton was having an environmental film festival potential idea for Fanwood?

### Review of Plans

1. 244 Belvidere – addition. No environmental issues.

### **Action Items**

- All Poster/display item.
- Kathy to check on Recycle cans at Train Station and Parks.

### Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 8:31.

### Attachments -

- 1. American Water Grant.
- 2. Below is estimate from T&M on plantings:

	FANWOOD NATURE CENTER MAY, 2018	}			
	SUMMARY OF LANDSCAPE ITE	MS			
NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
1	AMERICAN HORNBEAM, 2"-2.5" CAL., B&B	UNIT	\$650.00	6	\$3,900.00
2	BITTERNUT HICKORY, 2"-2.5" CAL., B&B	UNIT	\$550.00	3	\$1,650.00
3	COMMON HACKBERRY, 2"-2.5" CAL., B&B	UNIT	\$650.00	3	\$1,950.00
4	COCKSPUR HAWTHORN, 2"-2.5" CAL., B&B	UNIT	\$650.00	5	\$3,250.00
5	SOUR GUM 2" 2 5" CAL D&D	UNIT	\$550.00	8	\$4,400.00
6	AMERICAN SHOP WHAT'S NEW 1"-2.5" CAL., B&B	UNIT	\$650.00	9	\$5,850.00
7	AMERICAN LINDEN, 2"-2.5" CAL., B&B	UNIT	\$650.00	2 .	\$1,300.00
8	AMERICAN HOLLY, 6'-8' HT, B&B	UNIT	\$600.00	5	\$3,000.00
9	EASTERN RED CEDAR, 6'-8' HT, B&B	UNIT	\$550.00	3	\$1,650.00
	SHADBLOW SERVICEBERRY, 6'-8' HT, B&B	UNIT	\$500.00	4	\$2,000.00
	PAGODA DOGWOOD, 6'-8' HT, B&B	UNIT	\$500,00	4	\$2,000.00
12	EASTERN DOGWOOD, 6'-8' HT, B&B	UNIT	\$500.00	11	\$5,500.00
	BUTTONBUSH, 30"-36", CONT.	UNIT	\$100.00	4	\$400.00
14	SUMMERSWEET CLETHRA, 30"-36", CONT.	UNIT	\$100.00	30	\$3,000.00
15	SILKY DOGWOOD, 30"-36", CONT.	UNIT	\$100.00	7	\$700.00
	GRAY DOGWOOD, 30"-36", CONT.	UNIT	\$100.00	17	\$1,700.00
17	COMMON WITCH HAZEL, 3'-4', B&B	UNIT	\$250,00	8	\$2,000.00
18	WINTERBERRY, 30"-36", CONT.	UNIT	\$125.00	5	\$625.00
19	MOUNTAIN LAUREL, 3'-4', B&B	UNIT	\$275.00	10	\$2,750.00
20	SPICEBUSH, 30"-36", CONT.	UNIT	\$100.00	7	\$700.00
21	SWAMP AZALEA, 30"-36", CONT.	UNIT	\$175.00	6	\$1,050.00
22	LOWBUSH BLUEBERRY, 10"-12", CONT.	UNIT	\$0.00	35	\$0.00
23	HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY, 30"-36", CONT.	UNIT	\$125.00	11	\$1,375.00
24	MAPLELEAF VIBURNUM, 30"-36", CONT.	UNIT	\$125.00	7	\$875.00
25	AMERICAN CRANBERRYBUSH, 3'-4', B&B	UNIT	\$150.00	26	\$3,900.00
				TOTAL	\$55,525.00

From: Greer L Thacker < Greer. Thacker @ amwater.com >

To: Eric Gaulin <eric.gaulin@verizon.net>

Subject: New Jersey American Water 2018 Environmental Grant

Date: Wed, Apr 18, 2018 9:14 am

Dear Mr. Gaulin,

Congratulations on your grant approval!

Your Environmental Grant Program Application for the "Borough of Fanwood: Fanwood Nature Center Streamside Restoration and Watershed Education Project," has been reviewed by our Grant Evaluation Committee. I am pleased to report that your project was selected as one of our 2018 Environmental Grant Award Recipients approved for funding. A formal letter and W-9 form was mailed and should arrive shortly to the address provided on your application. Your completion of the W-9 form will indicate your acceptance of this grant award.

Our offer of this grant is subject to your agreement to:

Use the grant funds only as specified in the approved grant proposal.

Maintain your records to show and account for the uses of grant funds.

Provide acknowledgment of receipt of payments of grant funds.

Cooperate with any efforts of New Jersey American Water to publicize the grant award and event.

Comply with reasonable requests for information about program activities.

Provide explanation and revision to project application if project deviates from what was included in the proposal.

Provide a final report no later than 30 days after your project end date so that the remaining Grant balance will be provided to you.

Once again, congratulations and we look forward to working with you to ensure that your environmental project is successful.

Regards,

Mrs. Greer Thacker
Environmental Specialist
New Jersey American Water
Raritan-Millstone Water Treatment Plant
P.O. Box 102
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
(Office) 732-302-3144
(Mobile) 908-578-8685
(Fax) 732-627-0868
Greer.Thacker@amwater.com

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# **ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION COVER PAGE**

(Please attach to front of proposal)
Projects spanning time period May 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018

# **Project and Applicant Information**

Lead Organization Borough of Fa	anwood		
Organization type (check one):		Non-profit [501(c)(3)]	☐ School
Project Title (10 words or less)_	Fanwood Nature Center Str	reamside Restoration and	Watershed Education Project
Check appropriate category:	■ Watershed Protection	☐ Project Source Wat	er Protection Project
Project description: (Brief, two to	•		surable outcomes.)  mside retoration and watershed education initiative
at the Fanwood Nature Center. In this	s project, community volunteers w	ill replant and restore the banks	s of Robinson's Branch (a critical tributary of the
Rahway River), which will mitigate do	ownstream flood risk and naturally	diffuse water contaminants.Vo	lunteers will also coordinate and offer educational
public events in partnership with area	towns and the Rahway River Wat	ershed Association to promote 6	environmental awareness and stewardship.
Amount of Funding Requested: (Maximum grant amount: \$10,0)  Project Leader <u>Eric Gaulin</u>		should be made: The	
Address 75 North Martine A	Avenue		ironmental Commission  Watershed Association
City Fanwood 07023		The Ranway River	Watershed Association
State_NJ _Zip_07023			
Phone (908) 380-6880			
E-mail eric.gaulin@verizon.n Website http://www.fanwood			
Website_Ittp://www.iaiiwood			
Name of watershed/ stream/ ri	ver on which project focuses	Fanwood Nature Center	/ Robinson's Branch & Rahway River
Geographic location of waters (r	municipalities and counties)	Borough of Fanwood an	d City of Rahway in Union County, NJ
Population 34,664: Fanwood (7	7,318 residents) and Rahway	City (27,346 residents)	



# ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM BUDGET SUMMARY

(Please attach to front of proposal)
Projects spanning time period May 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018

# **Budget Summary**

Project Title Fanwood Nature Center Streamside Restoration and Watershed Education Project	
Project Leader Eric Gaulin	
Organization with fiscal responsibility Borough of Fanwood	
. , ,	

## **Expenditure Categories for Environmental Grant**

Spending Detail (Please be as complete and specific as possible.)	Grant Funds Requested	Other Funds* Funding from other sources for proposed project, if any.	In Kind Contributions	Total Budget (the sum of Columns 2 - 4)
Streamside plants, soil, soil amendments, and fertilizer	\$ 5,000.00	\$	\$	\$ 5,000.00
Outdoor seating for new educational space	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$	\$ 2,000.00
Advertisement materials (flyers)	\$ 500.00	\$	\$	\$ 500.00
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$ 7,500.00	\$	\$	\$ 7,500.00

*If there are other funds being used for this project, please list the agency or organization providing the funding.			

### I. Project Need and Objectives

The Fanwood Nature Center ("FNC") is a protected eight-acre, densely forested area in the Borough of Fanwood and southwest corner of Union County. Featuring various trees and shrubs, winding trails, a bird blind, a butterfly garden, and a tributary of the Rahway River known as Robinson's Branch, the FNC offers visitors a natural sanctuary from the surrounding urbanized and heavily developed landscapes. The FNC is also a primary site for the Fanwood Environmental Commission's public events, including its "Birdcount"—where nearly one-hundred visitors have come to learn about local birds, their habitats, and their migration patterns—as well as wild edible plant walks and garden tours. Additionally, the area is frequently used as an outdoor classroom by teachers and student groups. Thus, the FNC is widely visited and valued by its community as a main source of recreation, education, and local scientific discovery.

To build and improve upon the Nature Center's resources, the Borough of Fanwood and its Environmental Commission ("EC") propose a streamside restoration and watershed education initiative. First, the Borough and its EC seek to stabilize Robinson's Branch's eroded banks, which currently leave the FNC's tributary vulnerable to polluted stormwater runoff. Because pollutants flow from the tributary into the Rahway River, this erosion harms the humans, fish, and wildlife who rely on both the tributary and river. Further, this erosion creates a vicious cycle, weakening the banks and leading to additional erosion. To improve water quality and protect wildlife habitats, the proposed restoration initiative will plant native species along the stream banks of the FNC. These plants will protect source water by creating a streamside buffer whose root systems will naturally stabilize the banks and filter water contaminants and excess nutrients from stormwater runoff.

In addition to mitigating against polluted stormwater runoff, this streamside restoration project brings added benefits to the tributary and Rahway River. First, by absorbing water, the streamside plants will provide extra storage for flood waters, helping to reduce the risk of flooding during significant periods of rain. Second, these plants will provide canopy cover to cool the water and regulate in-stream temperatures for aquatic macroinvertebrate and fish species. Third, the reintroduction of native plant species will supply food and habitat for a variety of in-stream and riparian wildlife. These wildlife benefits are particularly important in the FNC, where, according to recent Bio Blitzes (a 24-hour biological inventory), there are nearly 700 species of plants and animals, including four anadromous fish species (fish that spawn in freshwater and live in saltwater) and one species of catadromous fish species (fish that spawn in salt water and live in freshwater). This initiative will better protect this wonderful array of wildlife, while also increasing biodiversity in the stream.

The second component of the Borough and EC's project seeks to use their restoration efforts as an opportunity to educate and promote environmental stewardship amongst the public. To achieve these goals, however, the volunteers from the EC require a venue inside the FNC that is suitable for public events. Currently, the FNC's outdoor classroom space is in a low-lying area that is susceptible to puddling during storms and tends to remain wet for long durations. These conditions make the educational space undesirable and even unsafe for public events, as the area is particularly prone to mosquitos, which lay their eggs in the area's moist soil. Further

compromising this space is the number of large trees that have fallen in the area. Because of these problems, the Borough and its EC seek to move the FNC's outdoor classroom to a drier area closer to one of the entrances to the FNC. To do so, the Borough and EC propose to clear and rake this area and purchase and install new outdoor seating that will better accommodate visitors.

Upon the completion of this new outdoor classroom, volunteers from the EC will coordinate and offer public events for watershed education with other local towns as well as the Rahway River Watershed Association (RRWA). The EC's public events will educate about watershed preservation and water protection and will build on the successful environmental programs of the RRWA, which have included workshops on "living shorelines" from a professor of Coastal Engineering; film festivals featuring movies with relevant environmentalist themes; insect, reptile, and bird expeditions led by zoologists; and kayak trips along the Rahway River. During the EC's educational events, visitors will be able to witness the EC's streamside stabilization efforts, understand the problem of streambank erosion, and reflect on the dangers of water pollution, as well as learn about the efforts to combat it. Together, these initiatives will enrich the community's understanding of their ecosystem and help to catalyze further preservationist initiatives.

The number of people benefiting from this project is no small sum: safeguarding Robinson's Branch and the Rahway River from flooding and from water pollution benefits the 27,346 residents of Rahway City, who use the Rahway River as a water source. This project will also protect communities along the Rahway River similarly vulnerable to flood events and contamination of water sources, including Carteret, Clark, Cranford, Edison, Fanwood, Garwood, Kenilworth, Linden, Maplewood, Metuchen, Millburn, Mountainside, Orange, Plainfield, Rahway, Scotch Plains, Springfield, South Orange, Westfield, West Orange, Winfield Park, Woodbridge, Union, and Summit. The cumulative population of these communities exceeds 500,000 people. Further, this project will benefit 7,300 Fanwood residents, in addition to the many residents from nearby communities, who will frequent the FNC and benefit from its new educational space and increased programming. The EC expects that the FNC will continue to see approximately three-hundred visitors during an average week, while FNC events could bring in as many as four-hundred visitors per event.

The objectives for this project are as follows: 1) by May 31, 2018, plant native species along both sides of the approximate 150 feet of the stream in the FNC; 2) by July 31, 2018, complete the relocation of the outdoor classroom in the FNC; and 3) by November 30, 2018, host two watershed education events in the new outdoor classroom.

The timeline for this project is from May 2018 through November 2018. The breakdown of specific activities is as follows:

- April: Notification of grant award by American Water
- May June: Chair of EC and volunteers perform outreach to recruit volunteers and alert public of restoration initiative
- **June:** Chair of EC purchases native plants, soil, soil amendments, and fertilizer; EC schedules planting date

- June: Volunteers from the EC and Borough plant native species along the streamside
- **June November:** Volunteers monitor new plants, adding soil and soil amendments as needed
- **July:** Volunteers from the EC and Borough clear and rake new outdoor classroom site; Chair of EC purchases new outdoor seating for classroom site
- **August:** Volunteers from the EC and Borough install new seating; volunteers from EC coordinate with RRWA and nearby towns to host two fall educational events
- **September:** Volunteers from the EC and Borough, in collaboration with the RRWA and its members, develop flyers and other advertisement materials to advertise planned educational events to local communities
- October: EC and partners host first watershed education event
- **November:** EC and partners host second watershed education event; Borough and EC collaborate to complete final report to American Water.

### II. Community Involvement

For assistance with the planting component of this project, the EC will conduct outreach to the Boy Scout Troop 33 (the Borough of Fanwood's local Boy Scout troop) as well as the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's Environmental Club. Both organizations have been active in the stewardship of the FNC and have expressed interest in volunteering during the designated planting day. In addition, the Borough and EC will advertise the event at various community locations, including the library and train station, to recruit additional volunteers and raise awareness of the Borough's and EC's preservationist efforts.

The EC will partner with the Rahway River Watershed Association (RRWA) to help spearhead its watershed education programming. The RRWA's mission is to protect and restore the Rahway River and its ecosystem, and, to fulfill this purpose, the RRWA facilitates interactions between communities and organizations in the Rahway Watershed, promotes cooperation and coordination to preserve and enhance the River's ecological functions and benefits, and provides opportunities for education, raised community awareness, and environmental stewardship relating to the Rahway River and its natural resources. The RRWA is thus a committed advocate for the River and will be an integral partner in the Borough and EC's watershed restoration and education initiatives.

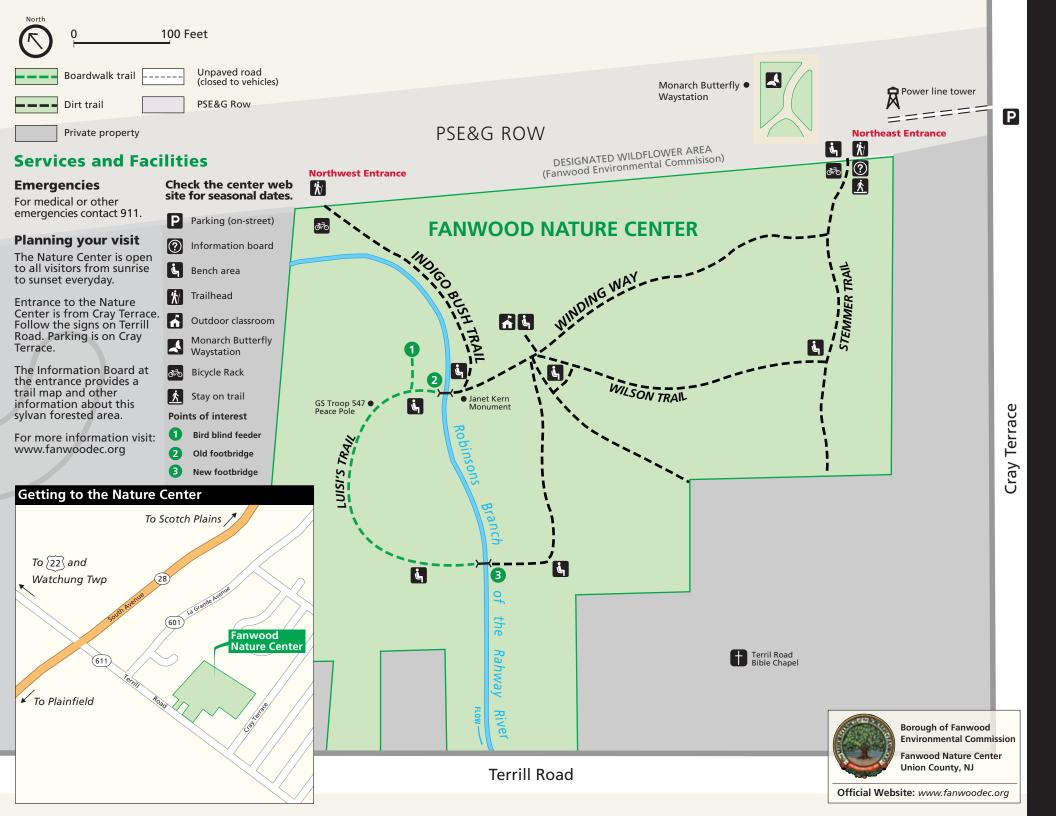
In particular, the RRWA will increase outreach and collaborate with the EC during its public events. To help engage the community, the RRWA will alert its members to the EC's efforts to improve its nearby waterbodies and increase water environmental awareness. The RRWA will also provide instrumental support in all facets of the EC's watershed education initiatives. This partnership therefore provides crucial support and outreach, galvanizing public interest in the re-accessible FNC.

The Borough of Fanwood also will advertise the EC's educational programming on its website and social media pages as well as encouraging residents to volunteer at the FNC. In doing so, the Borough will further raise interest in, and awareness of, the FNC, while helping the EC bolster its volunteer base. The Borough and EC have a close partnership that will persist during this project. The Borough works closely with the EC and is guided by its recommendations

concerning open space preservation, water resource management, air pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscape protection, environmental appearance, and protection of flora and fauna.

### III. Sustainability

The proposed expenses are one-time costs needed to restore the watersheds and educational space in the FNC. To maintain the FNC beyond the grant period, volunteers from the EC, Fanwood Green Team, local Scouts troops, and school clubs will continue to provide regular, seasonal labor. There are no additional costs anticipated for future operations and maintenance. Thus, proposed improvements to the FNC will be largely self-sustaining, cared for by volunteers and occasional donations from community members. The Borough and EC expect this project to inspire an ethos of environmental sustainability and stewardship within the Borough and neighboring communities.



The Fanwood Nature Center is much more than just a recreational destination. It is a sanctuary of natural resources—a living museum. The Fanwood Environmental Commission is committed to preserving our natural heritage and serves a critical role in maintaining Fanwood's sanctuary for the future.

# **Essentials for Seeing** the Nature Center



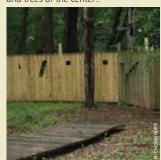
### **Butterfly Garden**

Observe many species of Butterflies Monarch Butterfly Waystation.



Bird Watching

Many varieties of birds can be seen in brush piles, the numerous birdhouses,



**Bird Blind Observation Center** 

Watch birds up close. Hide behind our bird blind to camouflage yourself so that the birds can't see you.



Get a glimpse of deer, insects, birds, among the native plants at our certified and other wild visitors in their natural



#### **Robinsons Branch Tributary**

Listen to the calming sounds of flowing water as you look out for frogs,



### **Trails and Footbridges**

Stay on our well groomed trails and respect the peace and quiet of our unique environment.

### "The Best Kept Secret in Town" - Fanwood Resident

This rare 8 acre site gem is tucked away on Terril Road between Cray Terrace and La Grande Avenue.

For regular visitors, the Fanwood Nature Center is a "breath of fresh air" in a highly urbanized area.

Visiting the center--the **Fanwood Nature Center is** open to all visitors from sunrise to sunset.



Do Not Feed the Animals. Not even once. It's bad for them, they can hurt you, and it's against the law. Don't touch, don't feed.



Photo by Nikolai Chowdhury

The Information Board at the entrance provides a trail map and other information about this sylvan forested area.

**Entrance** to the Nature Center is from Cray Terrace. Follow the signs on Terrill Road. Parking is on Cray Terrace.



Rorough of Fanwood

vood Nature Center Union County, NJ

Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions

This informative guide is published by the Fanwood **Environmental Commission for** the orientation and education of visitors to the Fanwood Nature Center.

### Contact Us:

The Fanwood Nature Center is always in need of volunteers from the community. If you would like to help, please check the website for more details and contact information.

We welcome your suggestions and comments.

Visit the Official FEC Website for new updates. features, and more: www.fanwoodec.org

**Brochure conception** & design -- v1.0 2008 Nikolai Chowdhury nikolai@nikolaiweb.com

# **Rules and Regulations**

Help us preserve this nature island--we take great pride in the Nature Center. Please enjoy your time here, we only ask that you follow some simple rules:

- Center hours are Sunrise to Sunset
- Please remain on the woodchip trails
- Do not light any fires
- No eating or drinking is permitted
- Littering or dumping is also prohibited please take your trash with you
- Wheeled vehicles including two and three wheelers are not allowed
- Keep pets on leash & please clean up after them
- All trees, plants, shrubs, flowers, and animals are protected.
- Center boundaries are indicated by red circles on trees. Straying beyond these boundaries puts visitors on private land

VIOLATORS OF THESE RULES ARE LIABLE TO PROSECU-TION AND PENALTIES AS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER 63 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD



