



**Smithfield Township Environmental Advisory Council**  
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**March 17, 2026**

## **Environmental Advisory Council 2025 Annual Report**

Pat Owens served as Chairperson and provided exceptional leadership and dedication to the EAC, with Dr. Alex Jackson serving as Recording Secretary. Later in the year, due to leadership transitions, Dr. Ken LeSure was selected as Chairperson, followed by Eric White assuming the role. The Township also added new members Todd Dailey and Dr. Michael Iovacchini in 2025.

In February 2025, the EAC decided to start meeting twice a month and to use subcommittees to address EAC issues in order to expedite conservation progress.

### **1. Completion of the Open Space Inventory**

The Council completed its Open Space Inventory project in 2025, establishing the process and criteria for selecting priority open space areas and clusters, which were presented publicly to the Supervisors. These included hypothetical clusters:

- Mount Nebo Park expansion
- Upper Marshalls Creek/Marshalls Falls expansion
- Godfrey's Ridge and the headwaters of Little Sambo Creek
- Shawnee Valley
- Waterfront Park expansion and Twin Falls
- Buttermilk Falls

### **2. The EAC's Priority List Was Finalized**

- Water quality concerns (sewage, stormwater, etc.)
- Conservation and ecosystem management
- Sustainable practices/public education
- EAC evaluation of Township matters through an environmental lens
- Preservation of peace, quiet, natural beauty, and scenic views

### **3. Initiated an Effort to Recommend Updates to the Official Map**

The EAC initiated an effort to recommend updates to the Official Map with proposed pedestrian walkways and open space areas, as presented to the Board of Supervisors.

#### **4. Newsletter and Community Outreach**

Mid-year, the EAC launched an environmental section in the monthly Smithfield Township e-newsletter as part of its broader community outreach efforts. The EAC also initiated the use of QR codes in event advertisements to encourage residents to sign up for Township information and expand the Township's email list.


#### **5. Educational Tours and Community Events**

- April 5, 2025 - Toured and reviewed the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority wastewater treatment facility and water facility in the Borough of Stroudsburg
- June 18, 2025 - River of the Year Festival at Minisink Park
- The EAC also attended and supported the River's Edge Bike Park survey as part of a Master Site Development Planning Grant
- August 3, 2025 - Supported Open Farm event
- Initiated the Pick Up the Poconos initiative with the October 10 Mt. Nebo event
- Initiated a plan for hosting four educational hikes per year, starting with the Godfrey Ridge hike on September 27

#### **6. Participation in Recommendations on Ordinances, Hearings, and Policies**

- Continued work on the homeowner stormwater management toolkit
- Incorporated a revised code of conduct to improve the efficiency of meetings
- The EAC worked with the Supervisors on recommending updates to the data center ordinance, which began in 2024 and culminated with adoption by the Supervisors in October 2025
- The EAC attended and testified at the public hearing for the East Stroudsburg WWTP. They subsequently submitted written testimony, which, among other suggestions, included adopting best available technology and upgrading to UV as a form of disinfection
- Made a recommendation to the Supervisors regarding dirty fill issues as a new ordinance
- Updated the EAC ordinance to confirm a seven-member Council and include two alternate members

On Behalf of the Environmental Advisory Council,



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Eric White, Chairman



Dr. Alex Jackson, Conservation & Recreation Director