

**Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council
Annual Report to Borough Council, April 2023**

This report is made pursuant to Section 274.04 of the Borough Code, which provides in part: “The Chair of the EAC shall also make a written annual report to Borough Council on the second Monday in April.”

The contents of this report also are done pursuant to the authority granted in Section 274.05, which says that the EAC shall have the authority to

- (b) Recommend plans and programs to Borough Council for the promotion and conservation of natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment.
- (d) Make recommendations as to the possible use of open space, including undeveloped land and recreational areas, in Swarthmore.
- (f) Develop and maintain an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including, but not limited to, flood prone areas, swamps, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- (h) Advise Borough Council regarding the acquisition of property, or the interest in property.

I. Index of Open Areas

1. Public

a. Borough

- i. Little Crum Creek Park
- ii. Keystone Park
- iii. Gateway Park
- iv. Umoja Park

b. School District

- i. “Swarthmore Town Forest” Rutgers Fields (CADES Campus): 10 acres that is undevelopable because so much water
- ii. Henderson Fields
- iii. SRS Fields

2. Private

- a. Swarthmore College Campus
- b. 111 Dartmouth Avenue (Delaware Valley Medical Partners) (investigate creating a park: native plant demonstration; stormwater management garden)
- c. 32 Amherst Avenue (Charles Cresson’s Property: Hedgleigh Spring: investigate obtaining potential easement on property)
- d. 18 Amherst Property (rear portion which abuts Cresson property) owned by Lastowka.
- e. 411 Park Avenue (owned by Francia Marshall)

II. Index of Large Parking Lots (suitable for solar canopy arrays)

Myers Avenue

DuPont Parking Lot

SEPTA Parking Lot

Parking Lot for TrueMark Financial Bank (technically in Springfield Twp)

Parking Lot for Springfield Square

Parking Lot for Springfield Mall
Mills of Victoria Parking Lot

III. Accomplishments and Activities of the EAC I n 2022

Bird Town

- Prepared and submitted for Borough Application to the Audubon Society to have Swarthmore Recognized as a Bird Town.
- EAC coordinated input from the Tree Committee, the Horticultural Society, Friends on Little Crum Creek, Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association, the Scott Arboretum, and Swarthmore College.
- Established a Bird Town Committee.

Ready for 100

- Prepared recommendation to Borough Council to have Swarthmore Participate in Community Choice Aggregation Program (CCA) program
- Approached local businesses (Coop, Dartmouth House Apartments) regarding possible installation of solar parking canopy
- Ready for 100 Brainstorm with A Few Steps
- Discussed and applied for Borough Funds for Environmental Projects

Native Plants

- *Swarthmorean* book review + Native Plant themed book club event in partnership with the library (*Nature's Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy)
- Q&A with Doug Tallamy in partnership with the Swarthmore Horticultural Society and Library
- 14 Home Eco-Audits done in spring, 2022
- Presentation to the SSCA on Home Eco-Audit Program

Zero Waste

- Farmers Market went plastic bagless in October, 2022. In preparation, conducted survey, did publicity, collected hundreds of re-usable bags that were given out at the Farmers Market. Lined up volunteers at MS and HS with help of Rotary.
- Survey of businesses and residents regarding reducing plastic bags in borough. Publicity and survey done with the aid of Green Advisors at the College.

Tables at Community Events

Farmer's Market

- July 23 – Educating Public - Recycling sorting activity, Native Plant Finder and Solarize DelCo Links.
- August 20 with the Tree Committee

September Fun Fair

SRS

Other

- Submitted two possible projects for ARPA funding.
- Provided input on: PECO Tree Removal situation, Park Avenue Development, Housing Affordability Task Force
- Sponsored Speaker and Book Talk Surrounding Migrating Birds with Bird Town Committee

Research Code Updates

- Interview with Will Williams, Sustainability Director of Borough of West Chester

Transition to Electric Lawn Equipment

- Presentation by citizen group

Additional Ideas from 2022 Brainstorm

- "Free the Trees" - English Ivy management
- Pesticide free summer (Mosquitos)
- Leaf Blower Ban (for gasoline only) - partner with other EACs
- Composting Education
- Business Environment Toolkit
- No Mow May (decided not to promote, per Doug Tallamy's recommendation)
- EV Code Updates

EAC Timeline for 2023

January:

Finalize Bird Town Application (Done!)

Meeting b/w Phil & John and Co-Op Board re Solar Canopy Project (Ready for 100); January 23

Article Announcing Bird Town Designation

Work on Zero Waste and Plastic Bag Ban (throughout year – specific months/goals can be added, when known)

February:

Advocate for CCA with Borough Council

Book Review in The Swarthmorean of Scott Weidensaul book

Survey of Open Spaces for Annual Report (in April)

March:

Article re CCA and Ready for 100 for The Swarthmorean

Scott Weidensaul Book Club (March 1)

Scott Weidensaul (March 9)

April:

EAC Annual Report (provided for in Section 274.04 of the Borough Code)

June:

Eco-Audits

Survey of Eco-Friendly Yards (for next Annual Report and part of Bird Town)

July:

Eco-Audits

Survey of Eco-Friendly Yards (for next Annual Report and part of Bird Town)

August:

Eco-Audits

Survey of Eco-Friendly Yards (for next Annual Report and part of Bird Town)

EAC Table at the Farmers Market (August 12)

September:

Promote/Recruit EAC Members (through December)

To Be Explored:

Programs: Monarch Town and Bee City

Policies: Mature tree protection; review of code for pro-turf language to be made more flexible