

Sustainable Oakland Green Team
Impact Statement
For the Quarter ended June 30, 2019

On April 6, 2019, volunteers gathered to remove invasive species to improve the stream habitat as the first phase of the Roots for Rivers Reforestation and Technical Assistance Grant. This work not only would provide a clear area for the future planting but also prevent further seed distribution of invasive plants down stream. All work was done by hand and volunteers removed 102 Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and 2 Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) root balls. An estimated gross area of 4,000 sq ft was cleared that afternoon. Volunteers from Sustainable Oakland Green Team continued to clear the area by hand for weeks prior to the May planting.

On the weekend of May 4th & 5th, the team lead nearly 40 volunteers in planting, installing stakes and protective greenhouse tubes for 497 trees and underbrush. These tubes will help to speed the growth of the trees and deter birds and deer from grazing. It will also protect from various invasive vines known for strangling trees in the park. The protective tubes will stay as long as 5 years. The tubes have seams which allow trees to break through them if needed. All tubes are attached to the stakes so that no plastic pollution can enter the stream. This project was a complete success not only due to the dedication of Sustainable Oakland Green Team but all of our partnering organizations including DEP Watershed Ambassadors Program, Great Oak Park Committee, Shade Tree Commission, Oakland Environmental Commission, Restore Native Species, Ramapo One Step and dedicated area volunteers who gave over 400 hours of their time.

Two weeks after the Roots for Rivers planting completed, the Borough of Oakland received a donation of 100 Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) for Sustainable Oakland Green Team to enhance the established butterfly garden planted with the Oakland Environmental Commission in 2018, located at Great Oak Park and to also create a new garden located in the mini golf area of the park. Volunteers removed invasive species from both areas leaving all beneficial pollinator plants established in the area including Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Goldenrod (*Salidago*) and Motherwort (*Leonurus cardiaca*). Oakland Environmental Commission teamed up with Sustainable Oakland Green Team and members of the public for the plantings. The project was completed in 40 hours.

On April 28, 2019 Sustainable Oakland Green Team hosted a styrofoam and plastic film drive. Volunteers from Sustainable Jersey Bergen County Hub and Sustainable Oakland Green Team volunteered to educate the public on the type of materials that can be collected. In total, we collected 198lbs of plastic film and half of a 20ft box truck with styrofoam weighing 85lbs. Three additional vehicles were needed to help transport the plastic film. Plastic film collection continues at the library. The Borough of Oakland is working with the Team to create permanent locations for both materials that will be accessible to the public without time restraints such as for used clothing and fabric behind the Borough Hall. Sustainable Oakland Green Team has earned a park bench from Trex for their plastic film recycling efforts and will be placing an order for it in the upcoming weeks. Over 1,000 lbs of plastic film has been collected to date.

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A Crayon and Marker collection program has been hosted in schools and local businesses over the last few months. Our collection from this program has resulted in collecting 23 pounds of crayons (approx. 700 full sized crayons) and 10 pounds of markers (approx. 500 markers). Ongoing collection boxes for both crayons and markers continues at the Library on the shelf near the entrance.

During the last week of June, 2 recycling pilot programs were launched. Disposable razors and #6 plastic cups (Solo) are now both collected at Shop Rite for Sustainable Oakland Green Team. This is the first phase of working with an in state processor for otherwise non-recyclable materials and look forward to expanding the program in the future.

In February, Sustainable Oakland Green Team applied for a grant through Sustainable Jersey for \$2,000 funded by PSE&G. On May 7th, the Borough of Oakland was awarded the grant for Sustainable Oakland Green Team. This grant will help with items needed for events such as signage, a pop up tent and supplies and to fund projects such as for Crayon, Marker and Plastic Film recycling, Library Seed Bank and creating a Green Conference Room including a 55" smart monitor for paperless meetings. These items will be purchased in the upcoming months.

On June 11, 2019, Don Torino, President of Bergen County Audubon Society, presented a lecture on How to Plant a Butterfly Garden using Native Plants. The stunning slide show included information not only on different host and nectar plants but butterflies seen in our area.

On June 12, 2019, Mayor and Council passed a resolution in support of a community garden. At this time, properties are being evaluated for a location that would benefit all Oakland residents.

Sustainable Oakland Green Team also participated in Carnival and co-hosted a booth with Oakland Environmental Commission where we promoted various recycling programs, encouraged composter use, answered residents questions and promoted conservation efforts.

On June 12, 2019, Sustainable Oakland Green Team was represented by a member at the Sustainable Jersey Conference. In addition to all day lectures, the conference featured an Electric Car Show where you could test drive all the vehicles, indoor test drives of electric scooters and more than 100 vendor booths. Lectures attended included Spotlight DEP, Cleaning the recycling system and a grants workshop. A large portion of the convention was dedicated to renewable energy programs and products. The Borough of Oakland is researching the feasibility of replacing the Senior Center bus with an electric powered bus

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