



***The Borough of Highland Park***  
**Sustainable Highland Park**  
*County of Middlesex, New Jersey*  
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## **WRAP-UP OF SHP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022**

Established framework for sustainability work using Everyone's Farm (currently inactive) philosophy

- Reestablishing healthy ecosystems everywhere
- Native planting, working with STAC, Native Plant Society, Rutgers Coop Ext
- Composting, more education
- Rewilding lawns and municipal grounds
- Rain garden education and signage throughout the Borough
- Green stormwater infrastructure (Adopt-a-Drain seen as gateway to discussing)
- Working with Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership
  - Soak Up the Rain newsletter
- Leaf blower pollution education

2022 Film Showings:

- Jan: "Sacrifice Zone" -- with Ironbound Community Corp speaker, educating about struggle to stop PVSC and sludge facility in Newark/Ironbound, environmental justice
- Mar: "Aiden's Butterflies" + 2 additional shorts, family centered – with Aiden speaking
- Dec: "Wild in the Garden State" – with director Sarah Galloway

Earth Day in-person and in collaboration with HP Street Fair

- May 1, 2022, first time on Raritan Ave.
  - Excellent planning and participation of exhibitors and very good street traffic
  - Began the Adopt-a-Drain outreach
  - Roll out of NJ Plastic Bag Ban, gave away free reusable bags

Tabled at the Farmers Market in spring and fall

- Increased our email lists
- Gave away 100's seedlings of butterfly weed for monarchs
- Gave away reusable bags
- Public presence
- Collaborated with HP Public Library, exhibiting seed catalogue

Developed and Implemented Adopt-a-Drain Program, Ongoing

- Worked with City of Newark, Office of Sustainability
- Began on Earth Day, publicizing and outreach
- Worked with HPHS students to do video for program
- Developed online/website application

Began enlisting volunteers and delivered equipment, currently 45 volunteers maintaining 100+ drains

Clean-Ups, scheduled throughout year

- SHP member designated to oversee

- Work with Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership, when possible

- SHP member got Park Partners grant so able to buy more equipment

- Experimenting with scheduling

Expanded Participation

- Added 2 SHP members

- Post-Covid reconnection with HPHS Environmental Club and students

- Met with school district Green Team, reestablished connections and created supportive links

- Expanded email network, sending monthly emails with meetings and event reminders

Upgraded website, designated member to maintain

- Website now gets more visits, especially because of Adopt-a-Drain being online

- Ongoing development

- Have a designated SHP member to keep website current

Worked on issue of leaf blower pollution

- Collaborated with Board of Health members and Environmental Committee member

- Met with Borough officials to develop a plan going forward to electrify borough lawn equipment

- Outreached to New Brunswick and Edison Environmental Commissions to educate