

## FAIR LAWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – VISION STATEMENT

Fair Lawn's Environmental Commission was created in 1982 by Municipal Ordinance. (Part I, Chapter 2, Article XVIII, Section 2-102). It is charged with protection, development and use of natural resources located within the Borough. Our Commission belongs to the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, an organization that provides us with resources, workshops, and information that enable us to perform our function. We also consult with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for guidance and resources.

The volunteer members of our Commission have diverse backgrounds, such as the health professions, environmental sciences, computer science and life science. All have an arch interest in protecting our natural and physical environment.

Over the course of more than 20 years as a functioning Commission, we have seen our role evolve into these main areas of activity:

**Representing** the long-term environmental interests of the public

**Advocating** environmental protection and preservation of open space, especially within Fair Lawn

**Advising** the Municipal Council, and the Planning and Zoning Boards about the impact of proposed development on open space, water and air quality, and plant and animal habitat, while assisting them in understanding the environmental consequences, both positive and negative, of their decisions

**Educating** citizens, including children, on ways that individuals can protect the environment

**Informing** local officials and citizens about private, state and federal programs, regulations and/or funding opportunities intended to combat environmental problems or enhance resources

**Providing** opportunities for citizen participation in local environmental projects such as riparian clean ups and tree planting

**Proposing** environmentally friendly, low cost projects such as the Berdan Bike Route and the town-wide bike rack initiative to enhance Fair Lawn's quality of life

**Partnering** with other town organizations such as the Board of Education, the Garden and Property Maintenance Committees, and the League of Women Voters to promote environmental projects and information

**Maintaining** the Environmental Resource Inventory to assist in the preservation of both the natural and historic resource components of the Fair Lawn Master Plan

**Participating** in environmental training sessions to increase our expertise

**Forging** relationships with other environmental groups such as the Passaic River Coalition, the Passaic Valley Sewage Commission, AmeriCore, and other Environmental Commissions to increase our effectiveness

**Working** with Municipal departments such as Shade Tree (D.P.W.), Recycling and Parks on environmental initiatives such as the Arbor Day Celebration

**Monitoring** information provided by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection on sites undergoing remediation, such as the Topps, Hayward and Clariant Tracts

We actively seek the input and participation of the public and cordially invite them to our public meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm at the Municipal Building in Room B5.

Revised 1/20/06