

Welcome to the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee environmental newsletter. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.



# Environmentally Yours

Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee

Volume 7

Wreck Pond Nature Preserve

<http://wallnj.com/323/Environmental-Advisory-Committee>



The Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee would like to share with our "Wall Township Living" residents another gem in Wall Township that is healthy recreation for the whole family. It is also educational, and best of all, it is free. We invite you to tour the Wreck Pond Nature Preserve on Rt. 71 in Wall Township. In 2013, our environmental committee was awarded a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey grant to install a two sided "Welcome to Wreck Pond Nature Preserve Sign. This sign pinpoints the exact location of the Preserve on Rt. 71 making it easy for residents to locate the Nature Preserve.

The Preserve is open sunrise to sunset.

This 5.48 acres property has been acquired by a prior Wall Township Committee and has been dedicated as an open space preservation project for future generations. The Wreck Pond Nature Preserve is near and dear to the heart of the Environmental Committee who has contributed suggested enrichments to the site. We view this open space parcel of land to be preserved for its natural habitat, wildlife, and pond.

Many of you from past years fondly remember the former Jimmy Byrne's Sea Girt Inn, which was housed on the Wreck Pond site. The Sea Girt Inn held a capacity of 1,200 patrons in their dining ballroom. This dance club/bar was a local favorite to many in its hay day. The Inn was razed in 1977. Thus, we now have the Wreck Pond Nature Preserve on this site in its place.

The WTEAC/Green Team submitted a grant proposal to Sustainable Jersey for a \$2000 Wal-Mart grant. Wall Township was the recipient of the award to be used toward the restoration of the Wreck Pond Native Preserve. This undeveloped environmentally sensitive site serves as a balance between residents' enjoyment, while at the same time maintaining the preservation of wildlife and the natural environment. Much of this documentation can be found in our brochure at <http://wallnj.com/DocumentCenter/View/697/Wreck-Pond-Nature-Preserve>

The Osprey Tower Nesting Platform at the site was made possible with a grant from Verizon and awarded to the WTEAC. The Environmental Committee is grateful to the volunteers who made this possible. The volunteers included: JCP&L, Public Works, Glendola Fire Department, and Atlantic Kritch Crane.



According to Wikipedia, "Wreck Pond is a tidal pond located on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, surrounded by Wall Township and the boroughs of Spring Lake, Spring Lake Heights, and Sea Girt. The Wreck Pond watershed covers about 12 square miles (31 km<sup>2</sup>) in eastern Monmouth County."



Wikipedia also states that the “Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), sometimes known as the sea hawk, fish eagle, or fish hawk, is a diurnal, fish-eating bird of prey. It is a large raptor, reaching more than 60 cm (24 in) in length and 180 cm (71 in) (5-6 feet) across the wings with a weight 3-4 pounds. It is brown on the upper parts and predominantly greyish on the head and under parts. The Osprey tolerates a wide variety of habitats, nesting in any location near a body of water providing an adequate food supply. The Osprey's diet consists almost exclusively of fish.”

Restoration of our natural resources is the key to preserving our open space nature preserve for generations to come. It is the WTEAC's desire to provide passive outdoor recreational and educational experiences for our residents.

We invite you to enjoy the Rain Garden installed by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Bird watching can be fun and observed from a couple of our park benches. Residents can do a little fishing, enjoy viewing Wreck Pond itself, and walk the trails. If the ospreys cooperate, you may observe one on the Osprey Tower Nesting Platform depending on the time of year.

Enjoy the peace, sounds of nature, and solitude of this wonderful environmentally sensitive area. Should you have any ideas, for this nature preserve regarding additional enhancements, please share them with our environmental committee.

Environmentally Yours,  
Wilma Morrissey, WTEAC Chair