



NEWS FROM SUSTAINABLE MAPLE SHADE

The Sustainable Maple Shade Green Team (SMSGT), a volunteer organization chartered by the Township of Maple Shade, initiated a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) under a program lead and managed by Sustainable Jersey. SMSGT applied for, and on May 14, 2020, was selected to receive a \$10,000 grant to complete the NRI from PSE&G, a major Sustainable Jersey sponsor. The NRI was completed by a township contractor, CME, in October 2020.

The NRI was adopted by resolution as a supplement to the Land Use Element of the township's Master Plan on September 28th, 2022 and serves as the first step to protecting and preserving the natural resources within Maple Shade. It can also provide the documented basis for the development of resource protection ordinances. An NRI is a dynamic document and will be revised and refined as additional information and updated data become available. The township will update the NRI within five years of the Master Plan Re-examination adoption and every five years thereafter. The update shall be conducted by the Township Engineer and Township staff.

The NRI serves as an index of natural resources and is a compilation of text and visual information about the natural resource characteristics and environmental features of the township. It provides baseline documentation for measuring and evaluating resource protection issues. The NRI is an important tool for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Master Plan and NRI can be viewed on the township's website at <https://mapleshade.com/planning-zoning/>.

The NRI is one of dozens of Actions that can be accomplished by New Jersey municipalities under the Sustainable Jersey Program under multiple sustainability categories including energy, food, green design, natural resources, trees and woodlands management, waste management and many others. Municipalities receive points for any/all of the actions they complete to achieve various certification levels.

Actions under the Sustainable Jersey Program can be viewed at <https://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions/>. If you are interested in helping out the SMSGT, you can look at our Facebook page and/or contact **Heather Talarico or Jenn Lucas** at **cleancommunities@mapleshade.com**