

PRESS RELEASE:
Township of Denville

Denville Awarded Grant to Support Smart Growth Planning

By Kathleen Clark, Denville Environmental Commission

In our continued effort to protect the environment and the quality of life for the residents in our community, the Denville Environmental Commission is continuing its initiative toward “Smart Growth Planning” in alignment with the NJ State Department Office of Smart Growth (OSG).

The Office of Smart Growth “coordinates planning throughout New Jersey to protect the environment and guide future growth into compact, mixed-use development and redevelopment. The Office implements the goals of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan to achieve comprehensive, long-term planning; and integrates that planning with programmatic and regulatory land-use decisions at all levels of government and the private sector.”

In July, 2010, the Township of Denville Environmental Commission (DEC) was awarded a matching “Smart Growth Planning Grant” in the amount of \$3,000 from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) to update the township’s environmental ordinances and support our initiative of long-term planning and forest preservation.

ANJEC (www.anjec.org) is a statewide non-profit organization that supports environmental commissions and other local boards in protecting the environment and quality of life of all citizens. According to ANJEC, “the Smart Growth grant program funds municipal plans and studies that will conserve resources, create walkable, livable communities with sufficient open space, and protect rural and environmentally sensitive areas that perform critical ecological functions.”

The ANJEC grant enabled the Environmental Commission to hire a planner who is helping them develop recommendations to amend ordinances on tree removal, wellhead protection, and residential lot coverage/floor area ratio, for approval and adoption by the Town Council. As the ordinances are drafted, they will be posted on Denville’s website for review and comments by the public. Residents are welcome to attend meetings of the Commission, which occur on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the second floor conference room at the Denville Township Municipal Building except for November (No Meeting) and December (the first Thursday of the month).

Through this project, the Denville Environmental will continue along the path of “Smart Growth” for the Denville Community.