

EAC ANNUAL REPORT 2025

West Vincent Environmental Advisory Council 2025 Activities Summary

Public Meetings Held

January 9

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

July 3

August 7

September 4

October 2

November 6

December 4

January –

1/9 – Drew Wallace and Donna Delany met with Cori Trice from the county. They visited and evaluated two sites for lawn-to-meadow conversion – Andrew Evans Park and the corner of 401 and Pinehurst. 2 hours

1/14 – Rachel McKay and Donna Delany filled out annual Birdtown report. 2 hours;
Township achieved Bird Town Gold Status for 2024

1/18 – Drove around and plotted GPS points for water collection for Stroud Salt Week project on the Pickering Creek. Participants included Donna Delany, Rachel McKay, Sean Clark, Fianna Clark, Tom McKluskey and Carl Manthey. 2 hours plus Donna paperwork .5 hours

1/22 – Salt watch water collection training video by zoom; Donna Delany participated. 1 hour

1/31 – Drove around, collected water samples, delivered to Montgomery School; Pickering Creek results tabulated; Donna Delany, Rachel McKay, Sean Clark, Fianna Clark, and Carl Manthey participated. 2 hours

February

2/6 – EAC meeting – presentation by Lansdale EAC on their lawn-to-meadow conversion program. They are willing to help us with advice.

March

3/8 – Live Stake Demonstration Andrew Evans Park led by Drew Wallace – 18 volunteers learned about live stake collection and planting. We planted about 120 live stakes on the south side of the township building pond and we gave out samples to volunteers.

3/11 – Wild Bergamot seed giveaway

3/11 Had to cancel scheduled garden talk because speaker's mother was ill; 17 people

3/14 – Woodcock Walk Oपालanie Park led by Rachel McKay; 41 people participated and some saw a couple fly and heard several woodcocks.

More Wild Bergamot seeds given out

April

4/3 – gave out seeds before monthly meeting

4/5 – tree tube maintenance and invasive removal Oपालanie Park; 10 volunteers including 1 OJR student participated.

4/4 – Healthy yard home visit to Ken and Nancy Warren (Donna Delany)

4/10 – Healthy yard home visit the Butlers (Donna Delany)

4/12 – Donna Delany hosted Northern Chester County EAC's and other EACs, Rachel Griffith and Ann Cummings from Chester County Planning Commission. Distributed Wild Bergamot seeds to the townships of Phoenixville, E. Vincent, West Pikeland, E. Pikeland, Willistown, Honeybrook, Berks Co, E. Nantmeal, Schuylkill, Wallace, E. Goshen, etc.

4/24 – Rain Garden/Stormwater Management talk by Paul Rosone; 13 people attended plus video posted to township webpage

4/26 Mt. Cuba Native Garden Tour; 4 people attended

May

May 10 – Native Plant Swap and Wild Bergamot and Tree Giveaway at Oपालanie Park hosted by Holly DeCovny; 25 participants. 3 hours

May 24 – Baby Bird Walk at Opalanie Park hosted by Rachel McKay; 18 participants

June

June 29 – firefly safari led by Carl Manthey at Opalanie park; 33 participants

July

July 10 - Barb Mako, Donna Delany, township road master Mike Hogga, and Matthew and Aidan Bonner met at the tree tube area of Opalanie park for 2 hours. Matthew and Aidan have volunteered to remove invasive plants and Donna and Barb are training them.

July 15 – Aidan and Matthew Bonner and Barb Mako removed invasive plants at Opalanie for 2 hours

July 18 – Aidan and Matthew Bonner and Donna Delany removed invasive plants at Opalanie. Donna for 1 hour and Aidan and Matthew 2 hours

August

Aug 4 and 7 – Additional invasive removal by Aidan and Matthew Bonner for 2 hours each day

Aug 9 – Bee Safari, Evans Park led by Carl Manthey; 11 participants

Aug 18 – Donna Delany and Carys Egan did a Healthy Yard visit to Holly DeCovny

September

No scheduled activities

October

October 4 EAC hosted native plant swap led by Holly DeCovny along with Uwchlan Township; over one hundred people attended. 3 hours

October 4 Nature Tenders at Opalanie; 12 to 15 people participated.

Oct 15 – EAC members participated in the WV Sustainability Summit

Oct 18 – Creatures of the Creek program led by Carl Manthey; 12 people attended

November

Nov 29 – Who's That Tree? program led by Martha Cownap; 12 people attended

December

Dec 2 – Nature Book Club led by Carys Egan. Selection was Serviceberry by Robin Wall Kimmerer; 8 participants

Dec 16 Bennett property site visit by Donna Delany, Barbara Mako and Rachel McKay

Also notable in 2025

- 8 new healthy yard recipients
- Upper Uwchlan and East Vincent had their Healthy Yard Programs go live
- Charlene Briggs managed the Botanical Sanctuary project in Opalanie Park, an educational garden of native and threatened medicinal plant species. Hope to plant in 2026
- Pesticide page on website
- Rachel McKay and Donna Delany maintained the West Vincent Bird Town Facebook page. 1 hour
- Rachel McKay monitored the Kestrel box. 3 hours

2025 Activities moved to the 2026 Calendar

Chester County Lawn to Meadow has now received a grant and will be scheduled in 2026 at Andrew Evans Park.

Botanical Sanctuary Program was suspended due to personal health reasons and is expected to be revived for 2026.

Chimney Swift tower is hopeful for 2026

Live stake planting at Griffith Pond is now scheduled for March 8, 2026.

2026 Goals

Administrative:

1. Advise the board of supervisors upon request.
2. Provide letters to board of supervisors with recommendations on how to minimize natural resources impacts of proposed land development including Toll Brothers development of Bennet Farm and Pulte Group development at Ludwig's Corner.

Strengthen and preserve our natural heritage on Township-owned lands through best practices and restoration.

1. Care for bird welfare in our township in a way to retain our Gold Level PA Bird Town Status
2. Build a riparian buffer using live stake planting at Griffith Farm Pond.
3. Guide Chester County sponsored lawn-to-meadow conversion at Evan's Park
4. Heritage tree program updating
5. Maintain tree-tube/stake plantings for existing woodland restoration project at Opalanie Park and behind the apartments
6. Nature Tenders – create events to care for West Vincent-owned lands and teach residents to care for their own property
7. Salt Watch – participate in the Stroud Research project monitoring road salt in our streams
8. Pollinator Pitstop – for the 5th year, choose a plant on display in a pollinator garden at Evans Park – 2026 Pollinator Plant of the Year is Wild Petunia (*Ruellia humilis*); distribute seeds for winter sowing; grow plants and distribute to residents
9. Create an overall plan to support natural heritage ecosystems at Opalanie Park
10. Review existing inventory of Township open spaces to identify sites in need of restoration
11. Assist with installation of Botanical Sanctuary
12. Engage students in all our projects

Public outreach and education

1. Purple martin house installation, maintenance, and (when occupied by martins) public education event
2. Sponsor woodcock, bird, firefly, tree id, and other nature activities to educate and connect residents with our natural resources
3. Host semiannually a native plant swap with Uwchlan Township and invite other townships to participate
4. Healthy yard and pollinator pitstop buckslip handouts
5. Meadow round table – invite people with meadows and people interested in planting one to a round table
6. Publicize Penndot’s permit to maintain your own roadside yourself and prevent pesticides from being sprayed
7. Publicize Pesticide Alert page on West Vincent’s website
8. Promote our Healthy Yard Program
9. Host a Healthy Yard Garden Tour
10. Possible Owl house community garden and chimney swift tower
11. Bird Song presentation for beginner birders
12. Investigate ways to provide employees and visitors to the township building with clean, pure drinking water
13. Nature book club – mid-summer – think up good books
 - A. Backyard Bird Chronicles, Amy Tang
 - B. A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold
 - C. Crow Planet, Lyanda Lynn Haupt
14. Educational talk or bulletin planned regarding the impact of lead ammunition causing lead poisoning to owls, eagles, hawks and other avian scavengers, coyotes, raccoons, etc. Also, lead in fishing tackle affecting other birds and waterfowl