



## **Long Branch Environmental Commission**

### **2013 Annual Report**

*(as of May 22, 2014)*

Under the New Jersey Statutes Annotated (NJSA), the environmental commission enabling statute (NJSA 40:56A) directs environmental commissions to prepare and submit an annual report to the municipal governing body. In addition, Long Branch Ordinance Section 35-4, states that the environmental commission "shall ... make an annual report to the governing body of the municipality". This memorandum is the Long Branch Environmental Commission (LBEC) Annual Report for 2013. The Commission planned and executed a variety of tasks and projects in this fourth full year of our organization. These efforts respond to our objective of better understanding and protecting the City's environment and increasing public awareness of the City's resources. Accomplishments for 2013 are described below:

**Community Education and Outreach:** Several events were attended by the LBEC to enhance public awareness including: National Neighborhood Night Out and the Clearwater Festival, which was hosted on the Long Branch beachfront in 2013 for the first time.

Several clean up events on Jackson Woods, Ross Island and Lake Takanassee were convened. These events included partnering with other stakeholders and environmental groups such as Waves of Action and townships within the Whalepond Brook watershed. One member attended the Regional Stormwater Management Meeting .

**Heritage Trees:** Draft Guidelines for identification, protection and care of heritage trees developed in 2012 were revisited. Tree surveys were conducted to identify heritage trees in the City.

**Beachscapes:** The direct and indirect effects of the Sandy Superstorm continue to delay the beachscapes effort. Little was accomplished in 2013. This effort will remain 'on hold' until the beach replenishment has been completed.

**Sustainable Jersey:** LBEC continues to support the City's efforts in Sustainable Jersey certification.

**Whale Pond Brook Watershed:** Numerous events and activities were convened in 2013 as part of the Watershed restoration as follows:

**Ross Island and Hut:** Ross Island is a City historic resource. Work continues with the Urban Coastal Institute, the Whalepond Brook Watershed Association and other groups to clean up and enhance this area.

**Elinore Avenue Project:** Several clean ups and weeding events occurred at this site along Whale Pond Brook. A draft planting plan was developed along with a schedule and logistical planning for a planting effort.

**Inlet/Outlet:** Meetings and site visits with interested stakeholders continued in an effort to assess the damage and develop a path forward for the outlet to the Atlantic Ocean.

**Dredge Project:** Portions of Lake Takanassee were dredged using monies provided by Monmouth County.

**Jackson Woods:** A reconnaissance of the Woods was convened to come up with a preliminary plan to enhance the tract in the wake of Sandy.

**Miscellaneous Activities/Information:**

- Quarterly joint meetings between the LBEC and the Green Team were convened.
- Review of NJDEP LURP Application for Manahasset Way home
- Authorization for purchase of Water Conservation Kits was received