

Egg Harbor Township

Situation



Egg Harbor Township is situated in the southeast portion of Atlantic County, approximately 7 miles from Atlantic City. With a land area of approximately 68 square miles, it is the second largest municipality in the county. The township is bounded by Hamilton Township and Galloway Township to the west and north, respectively; the cities of Absecon, Pleasantville, Northfield, Linwood, and Somers Point are to the east; across the bay is Longport and Ocean City to the southeast, and the southern border is Great

Egg Harbor River, a federally designated scenic and wild river. Across the river is the city of Estell Manor to the south. According to the United States Census Bureau, the township has a total area of 75.0 square miles, of which, 67.3 square miles is land and 7.6 square miles is water.

Historically Egg Harbor Township has been agricultural and a rural residential community that turned into a high density mixed-use community over a short amount of time. The township is in the Pinelands Regional Growth Area, and it is the largest of all of the Growth Areas, with the greatest number of mandated single family homes (26,000). The population is approximately 40,000 with an expected increase of 10,000 in the next ten years. As a result, there has been an explosion in development.

Egg Harbor Township draws its water from the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer, the same that the Pinelands Legislation was developed to protect. Many new residents are uneducated about this aquifer and the effects of stressing it. The Environmental Commission has attempted to inform residents of the dangers of such waste, but lawns continue to be watered day and night. The township is committed to preserving the Pine Barrens, while supplying water to new residents.

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Action

New Jersey Water Savers implemented the following efforts in Egg Harbor Township over the last three years:

Demonstration projects

- Naturalized Landscaping for Stormwater Management Facilities at Veterans Park
- Home Built to EPA's WaterSense® New Home Specifications
- Turf Demonstration Projects at Residential Homes
- Rainwater Harvesting and Irrigation at the Samuel J. Mickle Elementary School Wild Site

Outreach efforts

- Project WET and Water Festival
- Fix a Leak Week
- Smart Irrigation Month
- Build Your Own Rain Barrel Program
- Turf Management for a Healthier Lawn
- National Night Out
- Eagle Academy Alternative High School Public Service Announcement Project

Impact

Over the last three years, New Jersey Water Savers successfully developed and implemented programs that have been designed to encourage local stakeholders to change their behavior, ultimately saving water. Over the next two years, the project partners will expand this effort and use the information and knowledge that was gained from the first project and develop tools that can be used by municipalities throughout the state to conserve drinking water.

New Jersey Water Savers Partnership

New Jersey Water Savers is a partnership between the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This partnership was created to provide leadership to promote water conservation throughout New Jersey. For more information on our partnership efforts, visit us at www.water.rutgers.edu.

