



Self-guided Mp3 bike/walking tour in Belmar

As one of the Sustainable Jersey partners, Belmar Borough is leading the way to foster a community partnership and outreach project to increase awareness of environmental and cultural resources to the diverse residents and tens of thousands of its' annual visitors.

The self-guided tour will be available this fall. This tour will highlight the borough's two rain gardens, the Magical Garden co-op irrigation efficiency demonstration site, E Street Playground Low Maintenance demonstration site, the low flow bath facilities at the beach, and the bathroom retrofit project at Belmar Elementary School. The Mp3 tour will reinforce the value of natural resources and help highlight the downtown redevelopment.

Belmar has fairly accessible sidewalks and streets, so the tour can easily be enjoyed by those with disabilities, seniors, and people with strollers. To help guide visitors, the Belmar Arts Council will design small markers that identify all the stops on the tour. The borough plans to take advantage of technology to make the tour fun, informative, and sustainable. This self-guided tour will be available through downloadable podcasts and Mp3 players sponsored by the New Jersey Water Savers Program for loan at no charge.

The tour will be cross-promoted at other Belmar Tourism events and outreach opportunities, information will be included in welcome packets for marina patrons and summer renters, and the Borough will be working with restaurants, retailers, and bed and breakfast owners. The tour narrative and valuable links will be available on the website along with a detailed map. This project will serve as a model for many other communities faced with the same challenges.