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Toms River Receives \$209,273 Clean Communities Grant from NJDEP
Third Highest Grant in New Jersey

(Toms River, NJ) Toms River Township received a \$209,273 grant to pay for litter clean-ups as part of New Jersey’s Clean Communities program.

Toms River’s municipal grant is the third highest in the state, behind Jersey City and Newark.

In all, the state Department of Environmental Protection awarded \$17.2 million in Clean Communities grants to eligible municipalities and nearly \$2.2 million to the state’s 21 counties.

Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher stated, “This funding provides an additional resource for keeping our Township Clean Communities program sustainable. We are grateful for this grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and proud of the work we have done to remove litter from our streets and waterways, making Toms River a more beautiful place to live and work.”



Volunteers in Shelter Cove get ready to pick up beach debris during Clean Ocean Action’s annual Beach Sweep. (Photo Toms River Township)

Activities funded by the grants include cleanups of storm-water systems that can disperse trash into waterways; volunteer cleanups of public properties; beach cleanups; public information and education programs; and purchases of litter collection equipment, litter receptacles, recycling bins, anti-litter signs and supplies to remove graffiti.

In Toms River, the money will be used to pay the salaries of three Clean Communities employees (two full-time and one part-time) as well as equipment, educational programs and litter removal projects throughout the year.

This includes, among other things, coordinating group cleanups of public lands within the Township. The department will also use a portion of the grant to expand on its educational outreach and safety training programs. The Public Works Department conducts tours at the Township facility and provides educational programs with a focus on recycling. “Rocky” the Recycling Robot performs educational skits at Toms River Elementary schools.

“We are also excited to announce that this year the Toms River Clean Communities program will launch a brand-new water debris collection program employing the use of a vessel purchased with funds from last year’s grant,” said Mayor Kelaher.



Kids visit with “Rocky” the Recycling Robot at Toms River Food Fest. (Photo: Toms River Township)

“We have had a great relationship with the NJDEP over the years. Toms River Educational Specialist John Clark has developed a Clean Communities Excellence in education award winning program on non-point source pollution, which has been viewed by nearly 1,500 first and second grade children this year,” said Lou Amoruso, Public Works Director for the Township.

The Township promotes “Adopt-a-Highway” and “Adopt-a-Spot” programs, which encourage volunteers to register with the Department of Public Works to adopt a specific area to keep litter free, clean and beautiful. Volunteers cleaned up over 30 cubic yards of debris from the Township’s public lands, roadsides and beaches. Additionally, nearly 200 Adopt-a-Highway participants have received safety training in a joint effort involving Toms River Township and the New Jersey Clean Communities Council.

“By taking care of the environment around us, we encourage others to do the same in their own communities and build pride across the state,” said Mayor Kelaher.