



**Township of Toms River
P.O. Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08753**

**Contact: Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher or
lvaleri@tomsrivertownship.com
(732) 341-1000, ext. 8255**

**Debbi Winogracki
Public Information Officer
732-575-5150 cell**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 16, 2011**

Volunteers Dig In for Dune Grass Planting

TOMS RIVER TOWNSHIP- True beach lovers aren't kept away by a little cold weather. Just ask Toms River resident Paula Mount and her friends who dub themselves, "The Ortley Circle Group." Mount and her friends join other volunteers bi-annually to help plant dune grass along the shores of Ortley Beach.

Toms River Township's Department of Recreation recently held its fall Dune Grass Planting at the Township's beach. Director of Recreation, Eric J. Schubiger says, "The purpose is to get the community involved with building up our dunes and protecting our beaches. With the recent storms of the past two winters these programs are even more important." Schubiger added. "I'm happy to see a good number of people come out on a cold fall day and help protect our beach. These sand dunes will provide much-needed protection against the damaging coastal storms and help guard the inland areas from flooding."

The natural dune grass reduces wind speeds across the surface, and can actually grow in the beach sand, if planted properly. Even better is that the dune grass doesn't require maintenance to thrive.

The Ortley Circle Group's Mount says, "I've been sitting on this beach forever. We dedicated a sign to a friend a few years ago and we feel like this is our dedicated area so we're here twice a year to contribute to protecting the dunes. A few years ago, a storm took our sign away, so we need to restore this area."

Groups or individuals meet at the Ortley Beach Lifeguard Headquarters and pick up a bundled supply of grass to carry over to any part of the dune that needs some planting. "Next spring," Schubiger says, "Groups are encouraged to participate as we gear up for the summer season."

To see more photos from the Dune Grass Planting, visit the township website at www.TomsRiverTownship.com and click on the photo gallery.

#####



(Photo courtesy of Debbi Winogracki)

Volunteers help plant dune grass along the shores of Ortley Beach in Toms River Township.



(Photo courtesy of Debbi Winogracki)

Volunteers pitch in during Toms River Township's fall Dune Grass Planting, in an effort to help protect the beach and inland areas from flooding.