

Educational Outreach and Communications Division Update

October 2024

Submitted by Tim Motz, Educational Outreach and Communications Coordinator

“A Day in the Life” Program

- The 14th annual “A Day in the Life” program, coordinated in conjunction with Brookhaven National Laboratory and the New York State DEC, is about halfway through its season, with events already held at Fire Island, Greens Creek, Gardiner County Park, Massapequa Preserve, Carmans River, Nissequogue River, Forge River and Carlls River, and events coming up all along Peconic Estuary, Connetquot River, Jones Beach and Mill River.
- As in past years, this year’s program joins thousands of students, dozens of school districts, teachers and environmental organizations to conduct meaningful student science on waterways all over Long Island. The students test a variety of chemical properties at each site, collect marine species for study, chart their sites and document their findings.
- This year, we’ve added a “A Day in the Life Jr.” workbook to make the day more meaningful for our elementary age participants.
- Also this year, we’re working on a new data collection system we hope will provide more robust data that can be compared year to year and utilized by school districts to engage in collaborative study efforts with other districts.
- We’ve also added new school districts to the program, such as Half Hollow Hills East, and brought back school districts that had not been involved since COVID, such as Westhampton.

Barrens to Bay Summer Camp

- The budget for the 2025 summer camp has been created. It contains two new priorities for the division—the addition of another paid counselor that will help us to retain another of our most promising young counselors and a small stipend to bring in a Stony Brook professor who did a wonderful job at last summer’s camp teaching the campers about the diverse plant life at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge.

- **These additional costs, funded by Friends of Wertheim, will be offset by adding two or three additional campers to each session, which in turn helps us by not having to turn down families who want to send their kids to the camp.**

Social Media

- **The implementation of a comprehensive blueprint for the commission's social media efforts is underway. The project includes creating a more efficient system of password/username access; establishing division-by-division protocols for social media content creation; creating a multi-month schedule of posts to ensure we have a constant presence on social media that covers all aspects of our work; and evaluating ways to boost our social media numbers.**

Misc.

- **The division is planning the creation of an engaging video to promote the commission's incredible wildfire and incident management academy. We're in the planning stages of the video right now, and will be filming at this year's fall academy, which begins soon. Our plan is to show you the video at the commission's December meeting.**
- **In an effort to make the commission's website more dynamic with images of families having fun at various recreational activities in the Central Pine Barrens, we're working on setting a photo shoot (using some of our Barrens to Bay families as models) to capture these images.**



Compliance and Enforcement Division Report August- September 2024

Prepared by CAED Chief Enforcement Officer Alena Lawston

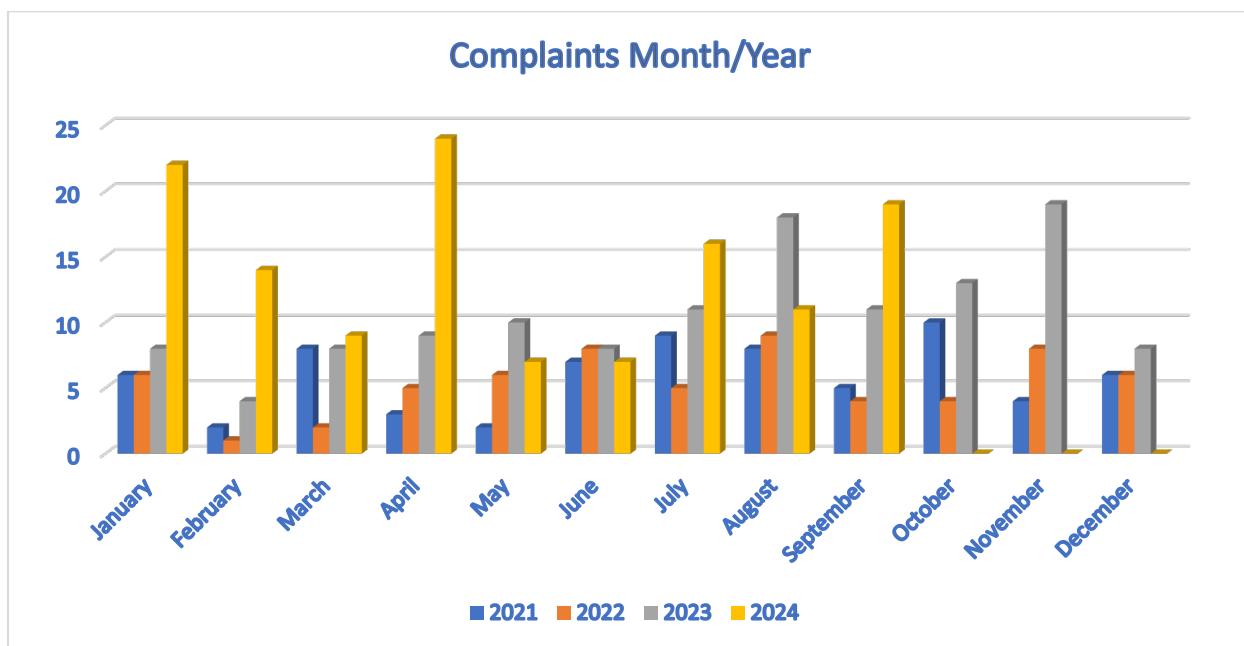
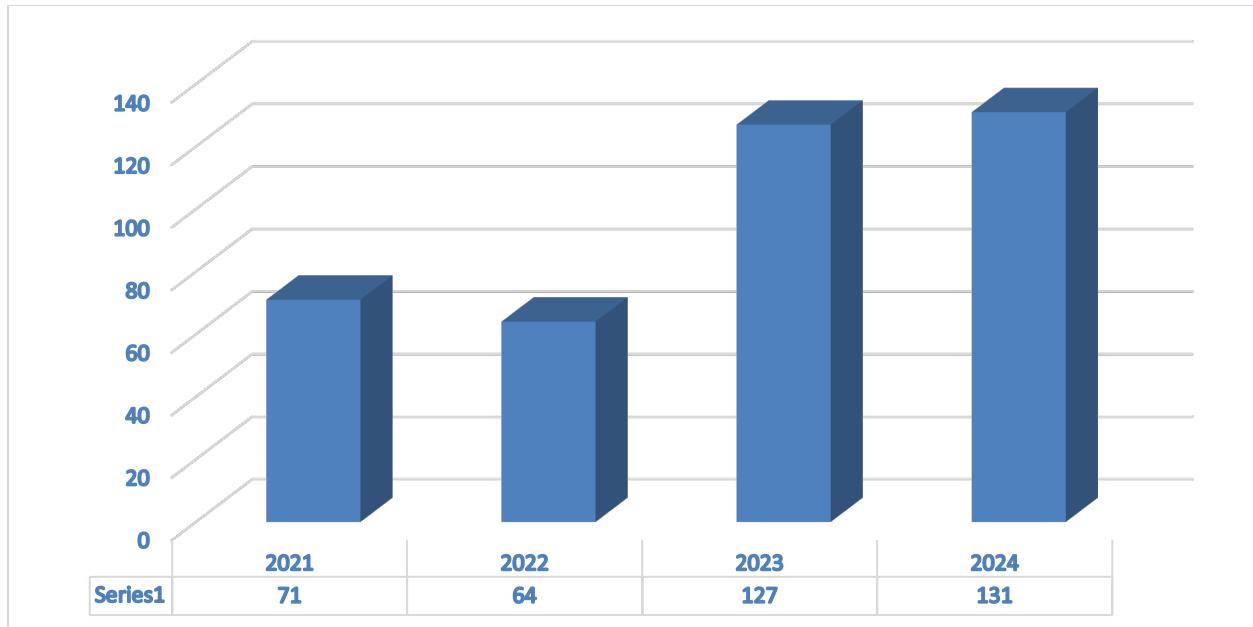
- We received twenty-nine complaints this period for dumping, encroachment, clearing and one burglary complaint which was referred to the NYS Police. The dumping was consistent being primarily furniture, household trash and landscaping debris.
- Ten of these incidents including two of particular concern which involved hydraulic oil containers, and an air conditioner were captured on surveillance cameras and referred to our law enforcement partner agencies. Four cases were resolved with a total of \$1050 paid in fines and clean up by violators. Multiple cases are still pending.
- Along with Julie Hargrave, we coordinated a site inspection of the 76 N. Summit Blvd/4 Old Country Rd. LLC restoration project with NYSDEC's Division of Material Management Engineers.
- We continue to utilize the Flock surveillance camera and all integrated shared cameras with the outside partner agencies. This surveillance has enabled us to provide multiple leads to law enforcement for dumping within the Pine Barrens.
- UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) training is continues with our new Enforcement Officer. Later in October we will both attend the two-day UAS Part 107 training provided by the NY Wildfire Academy (NYWIMA) and NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)



624 Old Riverhead Road
Westhampton Beach, NY
11978

Phone (631) 288-1079
Fax (631) 288-1367
www.pb.state.ny.us

Incident Statistics - Reporting Period 2021 - 2024				
Year	2021	2022	2023	2024
Intake				
Sent by Agency to Commission	11	14	17	4
Discovered by Commission Staff	48	41	104	118
Called in by Individual to Commission	12	8	6	9
Total Incidents Reported	71	63	127	131
Location of Incident				
Brookhaven	54	46	69	68
Southampton	10	17	50	58
Riverhead	6	0	8	5
Occurring on Public Land	26	21	79	111
Occurring on Private Land	35	22	23	18
Occurring on Public & Private Land	10	20	25	0
Core	35	38	78	100
Compatible Growth Area (CGA)	18	13	39	23
Core & CGA	0	1	1	0
Outside CPBA	18	12	9	6
Nature of Incident*				
Clearing/Encroachment	24	24	20	16
Structures	0	1	2	1
Dumping	35	35	103	108
Mining	1	0	0	1
Hunting	1	0	1	0
ATV	2	1	0	0
Other	8	4	1	2
<i>*Note-some incidents involve more than one land use issue</i>				
Referrals*				
Sent to Town	17	20	6	2
Sent to County	17	12	36	23
Sent to State	16	22	33	13
Commission	21	15	8	1
Sent to AG	0	1	0	0
Other	0	5	37	15
<i>*Note-some incidents are sent to multiple agencies</i>				
Status				
Founded	60	50	125	126
Unfounded	11	13	2	1
Open	39	18	52	70
Closed	32	45	75	61
Inspections				
Conservation Easement Inspections		1	0	0
Development project inspections		2	0	0



Item 3.b. Pine Barrens Credit Program Report for October 16, 2024:

Activities in the Credit Program for 2024 included review of applications for Letters of Interpretation, Conservation Easements, Credit Program and FOIL requests management. Some specific work items include:

- Letters of Interpretation: 41 LOIs were issued and seven parcels were inspected. Staff is following up on past LOIs for interest in the Program.
- Conservation Easements: Review and Monitoring
 - Five easements were recorded, which generated 2.82 credits.
 - Six easements are currently in progress.
 - 67 easement properties with road access were inspected.



- Pine Barrens Credits
 - Redeemed: 2.04 Credits have been used for commercial, industrial and residential projects in the Town of Brookhaven and Southampton.
 - Conveyed: 12.32 Credits have been sold in the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton.
 - The average price is \$107,833 per credit.
- Credit Clearinghouse Program Fund Account balance: \$3,296,992.

Pine Barrens Credit Program Statistics Table: represents figures for the total and annual summary of 2024.

Easement Protected Lands and Pine Barrens Credits As of October 2, 2024								
	Brookhaven	2024	Riverhead	2024	Southampton	2024	Total	2024
Parcels	531	4	37	-	471	1	1039	5
Acreage	833.44	1.75	516.78	-	889.51	3.59	2239.73	5.34
Average parcel size	1.57	0.44	13.97	-	1.89	3.59	2.16	1.07
Credits generated	550.26	2.24	173.39	-	340.26	0.58	1063.91	2.82
Credits redeemed	424.42	0.75	145.13	-	191.05	1.29	760.6	2.04
Credits not redeemed	125.84	1.49	28.26	-	149.21	-0.71	303.31	0.78
Credits sold		7.57		1.59		3.16		12.32
Total value of PBC transactions		\$903,997		\$100,000		\$324,500		\$1,328,497
Average Credits value		\$119,418		\$62,893		\$102,690		\$107,833
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	2.19		-		-		2.19	
# of Inspected CE Parcels	-	41	-	4	-	22	-	67
# of Installed CE Signs	139	3	15	-	91	-	245	3

Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
 Land Use Division Bi-Monthly Update for the Meeting of Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Action	Central Pine Barrens Location		
Municipality	Brookhaven Town	Riverhead Town	Southampton Town
Pending Applications, Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction, SEQRA Coordination, inquiries, proposals and other activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MTA Long Island Rail Road new Yaphank train station on 5.36 acres, CGA. Solar on building rooftops at Expressway Drive North, Yaphank, CGA. Suffolk Muslim Cemetery at former Spadaro Airport, Eastport, CGA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inquiry: 124 Hidden Pheasant Path, Wading River, CGA. Venezia Square Development of Regional Significance, Wading River, 37,000 square feet of commercial uses on 6.34 acres, CGA. Extend decision deadline to 4/16/25. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inquiry: subdivision with transfer of PBCs, Westhampton, CGA. Inquiry: Hampton Hills Golf Course restroom facility, Core.
Monitoring projects, revegetation and decisions			4 Old Country Road NYSDEC Consent Order and Restoration Plan, Westhampton, Core.
Division Activity, Regional Projects and Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental review of land use development projects including Core Preservation Area and Compatible Growth Area Hardship waivers, SEQRA Coordination, interagency referrals, information requests, inquiries, requests for determination of jurisdiction and conformance reviews. Applications include commercial and industrial uses, mixed uses and other site plans, residential and non-residential subdivisions, applications for Developments of Regional Significance, Assertions of Jurisdiction, zone changes and other development activities. Monitor prior hardships and other applications for compliance with conditions of approval. Site inspections and land use surveys for applications, monitoring and conformance with decisions. Technical support on FOIL requests, compliance and enforcement violations, consent orders, Credit Program items, communications on land use matters, unauthorized development and clearing activities and encroachments in protected areas and regulated habitats. Collaborate and coordinate with other Commission divisions. USGS two-year contract to monitor surface and groundwater resources, 2024 to 2026. Researching a study on coastal plain pond water resources monitoring. Website updates on land use and planning matters, natural, scenic, historic and cultural resources. Pine Barrens Nature Center Feasibility Study Request for Proposals, review to select a consultant. 		

