

ISLAND HEIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
~RIVER-GRASSES~

In the 2007 the Environmental Committee started to consider the planting of the Riverfront. It is an area of great beauty, used by many, yet the areas of soil were little more than dirt and crabgrass. Our solution was to plant indigenous species of plant material, with the emphasis upon grasses.

In late 2007 the proposal went to Council for approval and a budget request of \$1500 (we pulled it off for \$1000). This was approved and scheduled for Spring 2008 planting (a list of the plant material follows).

~Intent:

There were many reasons for the planting. First, was to stabilize the soil. These grasses have extraordinary root systems. As well, the planting of the Riverfront, assists in the issue of storm water run off, which ALL of the River communities & Bay communities must address. Simply stated (because of our topography), the fertilizer which you use on your lawn (especially misuse) during rain storms rushes down our streets and enters the River/Bay. This excess fertilizer impacts –directly- the failing health of these bodies of water.

The plantings assist in some manner by:

- stabilizing the soil
- absorbing amounts of runoff
- all plant material at the River do not need fertilizer, since they are indigenous and that poor soil, they love.
- as the plantings mature, other seeds will self sow and slowly the area will revert to a more natural environment creating habitat and food for birds.
- aesthetically pleasing for public enjoyment
- consider how these plants can translate into your own garden. All of these plants will thrive in a more manicured or natural environment and need no additional fertilizer.
- maintenance: very little. Once a year, in very late winter or very early spring, the grasses need to be cut back. Each species ideally need different cuts. Approximately, every 3 years or so, the grasses should be divided, enabling additional plant material to be available.

~ TPL GRANT. In late May 2009 we finished the first planting of a series of new plantings, enabled by a generous grant (\$2900) from The Trust for Public Land's Barnegat Bay Environmental Grant Fund ("TPL was designated the administrator of the Bay Fund thru a donation from Ciba-Geigy Corp to the State of NJ DEP"). Again we planted in early June and our last planting was in October.

We ALL are volunteering our time and efforts. Please help our town by volunteering any amount of time.

Plant Material:

Original 2008 Planting:

- Ilex X Sparkleberry
- Pennisetum Hamlin
- Miscanthus Gracillimus
- Panicum V Dewey Blue
- Panicum V Northwind
- Rosa Rugosa (red)
- Solidago Crown of Rays

TPL May 2009 Planting with additional species:

- Panicum V Dewey Blue
- Panicum V Shenandoah
- Panicum V Northwind
- Panicum V Cloud Nine
- Rosa Rugosa (pink)
- Rosa Rugosa Alba (white)
- Sporobolis (Prarie Dropseed)
- Prunus (beachplum)
- Myrica (bayberry)

TPL June 2009 Planting with additional species:

- Panicum V Rotstrahlbusch
- Panicum V Cloud Nine
- Panicum V Shenandoah
- Rosa Rugosa (red & white)

- Myrica (bayberry)
- Sporobolis

TPL October 2009 Planting: The entire planting area (now approximately 550-600') was weeded and composted and planted, along with adding the following new species;

- Vaccinium Angustifolium (Lowbush blueberry)
- Viburnum cartesii
- Carex pensylvanica