

# Hopewell Valley

## NEIGHBORS

### Spotlight on Community

## Community Conservation

By Lisa Wolff | Executive Director, FoHVOS

**F**riends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS) is pleased to facilitate Community Conservation as a community partnership “Restoring Valley Lands Together.”

Current Hopewell Valley collaborators include environmentally conscious residents, landscapers, companies, schools, hospitals, municipalities, government and nonprofit organizations. Anyone can participate. We hope you will join too.

The concept is simple. Take any piece of land and help restore it to be earth-friendly. A restoration can be simply converting a small plot of your residential lawn to native meadow, clearing acres of invasive plants from a public preserve, or anything in between.



Since 1987, FoHVOS has made it our mission to preserve Hopewell Valley's character through land preservation and natural resource protection. We have made our greatest impacts through collaborating with others.

Our vision is that Community Conservation will go a step further. In addition to preserving the Valley's character, our partnerships expand our reach and effectiveness in improving land, water, and environmental resources for future generations.

Community Conservation provides quantifiable results to help Valley municipalities qualify for higher Sustainable Jersey™ certification. Community Conservation may be used as a model for group efforts across the state.

### THE IMPACT

Each project has an environmental benefit, and when combined with other projects, can have a tremendous impact. Consider the small project example stated above – converting a small plot of residential lawn to native meadow.

What with mowing, watering, and weeding, a lawn requires many resources. It also produces damaging environmental impacts. Rain can cause fertilizers and pesticides to run off into our water supply. Runoff is also caused by the lawn's shallow tight roots which don't allow water to penetrate its surface.

Simply replacing lawn with native wildflowers and grasses immediately reduces runoff and, when maintained properly, improves water absorption. Additionally, native plants attract beneficial insects, pollinators, butterflies, birds, and other animals.

Stop and think about that. A small patch of turf can merely hold lifeless sod, or, it can improve our water supply, reduce resource consumption, and be home to a life-initiating habitat!

Multiply that impact by an endless number of Hopewell Valley projects and we have Community Conservation!

### THE PROJECTS

Celebrate our current Community Conservation projects that feature recent, inspiring examples of great conservation partnerships.

Bear Tavern Elementary School's outdoor classroom includes monarch meadow sponsored by Janssen Pharmaceuticals. Other partners on the project include Nectars Landscape, the Bear Tavern PTO, the Hopewell Valley Education Foundation, and TCNJ. Working together allowed the project to expand to include a pond, classroom and more.

The Pennington School began their Community Conservation project with a pond restoration and are now implementing a five-year plan with land projects throughout their campus.

Bristol-Myers Squibb sponsored a FoHVOS initiative to totally eradicate a newly emerging invasive species, known as Japanese Aralia, throughout all of Hopewell Valley.

Brandon Farms Homeowners Association partnered with Stony Brook Elementary and Hopewell Township partnered with FoHVOS and The Watershed Institute on new meadows.

A new program at Capital Health hospital expands native planting in honor of individuals.

Hopewell Township residents Mark & Samantha Bean converted a community detention basin behind their home from lawn to meadow and restored beautiful habitat while reducing the homeowner association annual dues.

There are many more projects throughout the valley. For pictures and more Community Conservation examples, visit [www.fohvos.org](http://www.fohvos.org).

Your land conservation project can qualify as Community Conservation once FoHVOS verifies that it is in Hopewell Valley, focuses on adding native plants, and does not add invasive species to the landscape. It's that easy! We can help match you with partners and will include your project in Community Conservation measured results that document environmental impact throughout the Valley.

Join with FoHVOS in restoring Valley lands together and be part of Community Conservation to positively impact Hopewell Valley.



*FoHVOS is a non-profit land trust that is dedicated to preserving the Hopewell Valley's character through open space and farmland preservation, and natural resource protection. Since its inception in 1987, FoHVOS have partnered with landowners, government and other non-profit organizations to preserve over 7,500 acres of open space and farmland throughout Hopewell Valley.*

*To learn more about FoHVOS please visit [www.fohvos.org](http://www.fohvos.org) or call 609-730-1560 to speak with Executive Director, Lisa Wolff.*