

Environmental Commission 2025 Accomplishments & 2026 Priorities






In 2023, a volunteer Sustainability Task Force developed a plan with 18 proposed projects for Upper Providence Township covering a variety of environmental topics including waste, green spaces, education, and more.



- Single Use Plastics Ordinance
- Hard-to-Recycle/Hazardous Waste
- Composting
- Implementation of Rain Gardens and Bioretention
- More Public Green Space/Community Gardens
- Making Parks & Waterways More Accessible
- Homegrown National Park Program
- Installation of Charging Stations for EVs
- Electrification of Road Vehicles (Police, Busses)
- Workshops on Education on Sustainability
- Improve Sidewalk Infrastructure
- Low Impact Development
- Zoning Review/Survey of Township Land
- Retrofitting Lights (LED)
- Kudzu Vine Control
- Stormwater Management
- Generating Inventory of Existing Dam/Hydro
- Implementing Vision Zero Initiatives & Strategic Transportation Planning



In 2025, the Environmental Commission (EC) along with Township Council and staff made progress on several initiatives from this plan.



**1.
Single-Use
Plastics
Ordinance**



**2.
Green Spaces &
Community
Gardens**



**3.
Waste &
Recycling**



**4.
Workshops &
Education**



Single-Use Plastics Ban

In 2025, the Environmental Commission (EC) drafted a Single-Use Plastics Ordinance that was subsequently passed by Township Council. The ordinance includes bans on:

- Single-use plastic bags
- Non-recycled paper bags (less than 40% post-consumer recycled material)
- Single-use plastic utensils (straws allowed for disabilities)
- Expanded polystyrene food service products (e.g. styrofoam)

The ordinance was drafted based on research on similar initiatives in surrounding municipalities and discussion with local environmental groups. The EC held an information session with the public in May, and used several public events (Delaware County Environmental Expo, UPT Community Day) to share information with residents.

Enforcement of the ordinance began on January 1, 2026.





Green Spaces & Community Gardens

Throughout 2025, the EC supported various initiatives designed to expand, preserve, and improve access to UPT's green spaces and community gardens. These included:

- Securing over 160+ native trees and plants from Delaware County Conservation District (BCCD) and CRC Watershed Association
- Organizing tree planting activities in Louis W. Scott Memorial Park, Thompson Park, and Ray Roche Park
- Supporting UPT township staff in clearing invasive species, planting a pollinator/rain garden with 80 native plants, and preparing the newly acquired Upper Providence Preserve for the public
- Holding a native plant raffle at Community Day
- Securing \$500 grants from BCCD for birdhouses in Louis Scott Park





Green Spaces & Community Gardens

Last year, Upper Providence Township secured a parcel of land donated by Andy and Ginger Lewis to be turned into a new public park. Public Works led clean-up and prep of the area, with volunteer support from the Environmental Commission and local community members.

The new Upper Providence Preserve opened to the public on November 8, 2025.





Waste & Recycling

In the spring, members of the EC toured our local recycling facility where they learned about the recycling process and what commonly-disposed products compromise both the recycling waste stream and center safety. They subsequently shared information to educate residents in the township's e-newsletter.

The EC is currently exploring various other ways to divert trash from landfills, including hazardous and hard-to-recycle materials. These include:

- A partnership with Delaware County & surrounding municipalities to implement a residential composting program
- A new textile recycling option in partnership with Helpsy
- Ongoing promotion of local hazardous and e-waste collection and other recycling events
- Ongoing education of township residents on reducing waste and recycling





Workshops & Education

The Environmental Commission works to educate residents on environmental topics via the township's print and e-newsletter and at local events. Highlights in 2025 included:

- Tables with educational materials at the Delaware County Environmental Expo and Upper Providence Township Community Day
- Educational tips on recycling, invasive species, gas-powered leaf blowers, leaves & lawns, and more in the monthly newsletter
- Free bluebird birdhouse building educational program led by PA Game Commission with 40 residents. 20 bluebird houses build and installed throughout the township including in UPP



PROPOSED 2026 PRIORITIES

For discussion with UP Township Council



1. Draft Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban

- Q1: Circulate survey to residents
- Q2: Hold Public town hall
- Q4: Share draft with Council



2. Preserve & expand tree canopy

- Q1: Educate public via newsletter
- Q2: Promote native tree giveaway with yard signs
- Q3: Provide saplings to residents and/or assist with planting



3. Install EV charging station

Find a site to install an EV charging station to support electric vehicle use in the township



4. Reduce waste to landfill

- Continue to explore composting partnership
- Implement new textile-recycling program



5. Develop metrics & measurement tools

Develop a set of environmental metrics in order to understand UPT's current baseline and set targets for improvement



6. Ongoing: Community Outreach

Information & education on environmental topics via live events, website, newsletter, etc.



7. Collaboration with Township Council: Improve Sidewalk Infrastructure

Improve sidewalk infrastructure to support pedestrians and reduce traffic, building on improvements already underway

PROPOSED 2026 PRIORITIES

Activity Underway

1. Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban

Ongoing research and discussion with other PA townships on similar initiatives

2. Preserve & expand tree canopy

EC and CRC planting 45-55 larger trees along riparian buffer in Thompson Park in spring 2026. Public Works will remove invasives prior to planting

6. Community Outreach

Article on tree canopies in next township newsletter.

Boy Scout troop & EC to host free bluebird birdhouse building event at Ray Roche Park in spring/summer.

Supportive Grants

"Protect Your Water Quality" grant application submitted to PA Environmental Council January 2026. Grant would support removing invasive plants and planting 80 large native shrubs along the riparian buffer in UPP.