

2024 TEAC Annual Report

Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council (TEAC):

- A volunteer, resident-led, nine-member Council
- Established by the Village in 1974 under NYS Law (Article 12-f)
- Advises the Village on environmental matters
- Works closely with officials and staff as needed
- Committed to working with the community through public education and outreach

Our Committees...

- Landscaping (native and pollinator gardens)
- Community Outreach
- Energy and Conservation
- Lakes
- Zero Waste
- + Liaise with the Tree Commission



Current Council Members

Rachel Tieger, *Co-Chair and Chair of Zero Waste Committee*

Dean Gallea, *Co-Chair and Chair of Energy and Conservation Committee*

Suzy Allman, *Photographer*

Barbara Goodman-Barnett, *Placemaking Committee Liaison*

David Gutschmidt, *Lakes Committee*

Kerstin Erdbrink, *Landscaping Committee*

Mai Mai Margules, *Chair of Landscaping Committee*

Jenny O'Connor, *Chair of Community Outreach Committee*

Catherine Ruhland, *Chair of Lakes Committee and Tree Commission Liaison*

Mason Lee, *Associate Member, Co-chair of Hackley Lake Keepers, Lakes Committee*

Effie Phillips-Staley, *TEAC Trustee Liaison*

We also thank the many volunteers that have helped us with events and projects in 2024.

Areas of Focus and Ongoing Efforts (What We DO)

- **Climate Smart and Clean Energy Community**
- **CAPI-A (Climate Adaptation Plan)**
- **Carbon emissions and GHG reduction**
- **Community Gardening and Pollinator Pathways**
- **Engage w/ Planning Committee, DPW and Parks Dept**
- **Healthy air, soil and water**
- **Sustainable landscaping**
- **Maintain green and open public spaces**
- **Website and Monthly Newsletter**
- **Focus on “Zero Waste” and plastics reduction**
- **Articles in local media outlets**
- **Energy conservation and building standards**
- **Sustainable development and climate resilience**





**Tarrytown
Environmental
Advisory Council**

www.TarrytownEnvironmental.org

Clothing & Housewares
SWAP 

2024 TEAC Highlights and Accomplishments (What We DID)

- Village Climate Action Plan
- Pollinator Gardens
- Earth Month Activities
- Annual Fall Eco Fair
- Educational tabling
- Clean-up projects
- Vine Squad
- Swap events
- Community Garden
- Repair Café
- Seed giveaways and education
- Mayors' Monarch Pledge
- Waste Warrior campaign



2025: Priorities and Initiatives (What We WILL DO)

- **Landscaping Initiatives**
 - Monarch Pledge outreach
 - Adopt-A-Spot promotion to expand Pollinator Gardens
 - Reassess local Leaf Blower Ordinance
- **Energy and Conservation**
 - Follow through on solarization of Library and Rec Center
 - Finish our Climate Adaptation Plan (CAPI-Adapt) and monitor action items
 - Work towards Silver-level Climate-Smart Community recognition
- **Zero Waste**
 - Host annual Eco Fair
 - Facilitate Repair Cafe events
 - Anti-Litter Campaign with SHEAC, Hackley and School District
- **Lakes**
 - Vine Squad outings
 - Cleanups with Lakekeepers
 - Annual lakes kayak cleanups
- **Outreach**
 - Host Earth Month activities (with Sleepy Hollow)
 - Promote “Leave Leaves Alone” in Fall

Vine Squad

The **TEAC Vine Squad** is an outdoor, volunteer-driven activity every other Saturday from late January to early April from 10am-12pm.



2025 dates remaining:

- February 8 and 22
- March 8 and 22
- April 5



TEAC Landscaping - Connecting with Our Community

2024 - Year in Review



TEAC Landscaping - Connecting with Our Community

Mayors Monarch Pledge – Tarrytown Leads in Protecting Monarchs

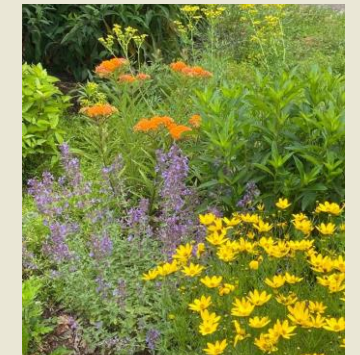
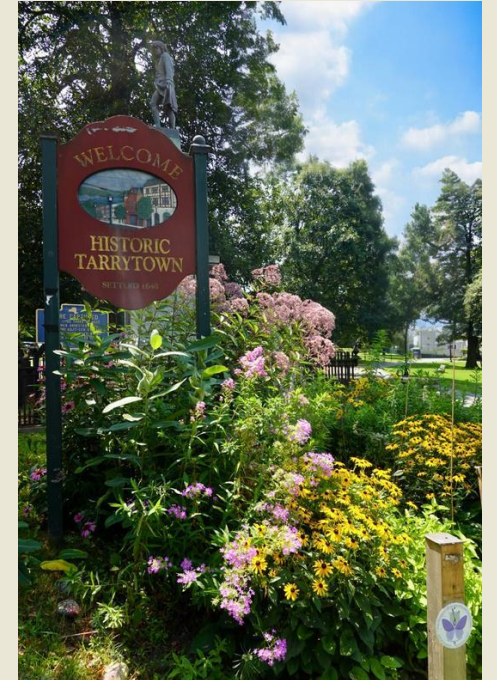


TEAC Landscaping - Connecting with Our Community

MNR Garden Signage — A Crucial Connection



TEAC Landscaping - Connecting with Our Community
Our Gardens -
Beauty and Biodiversity



TEAC Landscaping - Connecting with Our Community

Invasives Education -

Save Village Trees, Cut a Vine



Gardens are alive year around. As the summer blooms fade, fall is more subtle but no less important in the life cycle of our native plants. How we manage our fall gardens determines whether pollinators are present. Here are some tips for sustainable garden maintenance.

September-November

Remove (pull/dig) or

Remove shrubs and themselves. It is a plant and let them grow on us!

Remove the whole lawn a fertilizer you!

SAVE A TREE - CUT A VINE
Trees are valuable assets. They clean our air, sustain wildlife, reduce global warming and raise our property values. Invasive vines are killing our trees. Take action today to save your trees!

TARRYTOWN'S MOST WANTED

 English Ivy An ornamental groundcover that climbs trees. It smothers and weakens the tree which will topple from the weight of the vine.	 Porcelain Berry An aggressive vine that can grow 15' in a season. It is destroying everything in its path. It is a prohibited plant in NYS.	 Oriental Bittersweet A very aggressive vine that smothers and strangles trees with its bo-constrictor-like stem. Topples trees with its weight.
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HOW TO GET RID OF THEM

- 1 CUT** Cut vines at the base of the tree and then again about 3'-4' above it. Use pruning shears or a small saw. Remove and bag cut pieces.
- 2 PULL** Pull/dig smaller vines from the base of the tree and the surrounding area. Keep a clear perimeter of 18" around trees.
- 3 MAINTAIN** Check monthly for vine regrowth at the base of the tree. Remove new sprouts immediately.

CAUTION

NEVER PULL LARGE VINES FROM TREES AS YOU CAN HARM THE TREE AND INJURE YOURSELF! ONCE CUT VINES WILL DRY AND DIE.

This initiative is brought to you by TEAC and supported by the Village of Tarrytown. Thanks to Audubon Pollinator Pathway for sharing resources.



Invasive Vine Removal Cold Weather, Hot Opportunity!

Invasive vines are smothering homeowners' trees throughout Westchester County. Many home owners don't realize that these vines are killing their trees.

The Bad Guys!



Here is where your business comes in. As a trusted professional, you can advise your clients about vine removal. December through March is the best time to remove invasive vines and can provide a winter revenue source for you.

- #### Why should homeowners remove vines?
- Healthy trees increase property values - vines kill trees
 - Vine-covered trees make a property look unkempt landscaping
 - Vine spread can damage home foundations and
 - Saving trees is good for the environment

- #### As a trusted professional, you can:
- Make clients aware of the danger of invasive vines
 - Offer your services to remove vines
 - Provide a maintenance plan for your clients
 - Extend your season and secure winter income

Increase winter income and help the environment by removing vines!

This initiative is brought to you by TEAC and supported by the Village of Tarrytown.

TEAC Landscaping - Connecting with Our Community

Community Outreach Events - Seed Giveaways = Effective Engagement




TEAC Earth Month - April

April is

EARTH MONTH



All Ages
All Over
Town!



Say No! to Plastics

Join your neighbors for:
Repair Cafe · Village-wide Clean-up
Nature Walks · Kids' Programs
Garden Clean-ups · Compost Give-Back
...and more!

150
ANNIVERSARY
1874-2024



For More Information: www.earthmonth10591.org



TEAC ECO-Fair - October



Community Collaboration and Activities

Collaborated with over 30 local orgs, Village entities and community groups including Sustainable Westchester, Hudson Valley Regional Council, Sleepy Hollow/SHEAC, Rivertowns Repair Cafe, Riverkeeper and more. See the Endnotes for the complete list.



September HVRC Conference Building Bridges Award



July Table at Mermaid Parade



April Healthy Kids Day



April TarryHollow Repair Cafe

Engage with TEAC!

- Attend Monthly meetings, 7:30pm on 2nd Monday at Village Hall
- Visit our TEAC website: tarrytownenvironmental.org
- Engage with our Earth Month website: EarthMonth10591.org
- Email us: tarrytownenviro@gmail.com
- Follow us: facebook.com/tarrytownenviro
- Join TEAC events

Rachel Tieger and Dean Gallea, Co-Chairs

THANKS for joining us!



End Notes

Local Orgs. and Groups with whom TEAC Collaborates

- Community Coalition (C2 - Kids' Club)
- DEC (Dept of Environmental Conservation)
- Hudson Valley Resource Council (HVRC)
- EF School
- Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance (ELLA)
- Federated Conservationists of West. Cty. (FCWC)
- Friends of Neperan Park
- Friends of the Riverwalk
- Hackley School
- Hudson Compost Services
- Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC)
- Mothers Out Front
- NYSACC member
- NYSERDA (NY State Energy Agency)
- Riverkeeper
- Rivertowns Intervillage Sustainability Network (RISN)
- Scenic Hudson Trails Committee
- Shames JCC
- Sustainable Hudson Valley
- Sustainable Sleepy Hollow
- Sustainable Westchester
- The TaSH Farmers Market
- Tarrytown Board of Trustees, Planning Board, DPW, Parks Department
- Tarrytown Tree Commission
- Tarrytown Placemaking Committee
- Transportation and Mobility Council
- TUFSD school district
- Village Harbor Master
- Volunteer New York
- Warner Library
- Westchester Environmental Network
- YMCA at Tarrytown