



# Borough of Cape May Point

**Department of Public Works,  
Parks & Public Property  
Commissioner Catherine Busch**

## 2022 Annual Report

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The Public Works Department maintains all Borough buildings, facilities, equipment, roads, and 48 acres of parks and public lands. The department also operates and maintains the Water and Sewer Utility.

The work to keep our town functioning requires full-time year-round effort from a small staff. Much of what we do takes place out of public view. Although I am responsible as Commissioner to ensure the department delivers required and timely services, our high quality service delivery is due to the dedication of Public Works Supervisor Bill Gibson and Water and Sewer Utility Superintendent David Carrick and staff.

### Parks

**Lake Lily.** We contract with Clean-Flo to service the bubblers that oxygenate the lake. Clean-Flo applies biological, natural treatments to reduce algae growth and accumulated decayed vegetation. The treatments appear to be working. There was no *Harmful Algal Bloom* last summer despite low water levels during an extended drought.

**Lake Lily water quality has improved**

Assisted by Public Works staff, New Jersey Audubon continued to remove invasive plants in the wooded areas around the lake. The Friends of Lake Lily contributed to the Borough's Lake Lily Stewardship Trust Fund in support of the Borough's maintenance of the lake and the south-end garden.

Public Works staff planted three Sour Gum trees near benches and built a pergola to provide shade requested by residents. We planted native Beach Plum, Black Chokeberry, Eastern Baccharis, Fra-

grant Sumac, and Winterberry shrubs; and native perennials and grasses. We also installed bicycle hoop racks.

**Pavilion Circle.** Public Works assisted the Environmental Commission in removing invasive vines and shrubs from the horseshoe bed near the sewage pumping station. Volunteers planted native shrubs provided by Public Works. Public Works staff replaced many of the overgrown, invasive Bradford Pear trees with two Willow Oak and three Eastern Redbud trees.

**Triangle Park.** Assisted by Public Works staff, New Jersey Audubon continued to remove invasive plants in the wooded area. Volunteers maintain the butterfly garden with financial support from the Cape May Point Taxpayers Association.

**We installed new beach mats**

**Beach and Dunes.** As our dunes grow, the beach entrances become harder for some beachgoers to traverse through deep sand and steep slopes. Over several years, we've had mixed results with Mister Boardwalk and other wood-slat mats. Although they seem to work on level sand, they are unsafe on steep slopes and they tend to sink into our soft sand. Last year, we piloted a new beach mat product called Accessdeck™ on the entrances at Coral, Lehigh, and St. Peter's beaches. The Accessdeck™ mats have performed well. Feedback from beach-

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goers was very positive. We plan to purchase Accessdeck™ mats for other entrances this year.

### Community Trees

The Borough has many trees to manage on public land. Our tree care program has focused on safety issues by removing dead trees and pruning branches that impede traffic and sight lines. Many of the trees in Pavilion Circle and other public areas need skilled arborist-care to promote their health and longevity.

I obtained a grant from the New Jersey Forestry Service to hire a consulting forester to help us develop our first 5-year Community Forestry Management Plan. Once completed, adopted, and approved by the state, we will have a blueprint of expert recommended actions to preserve our urban forest as funding allows.

*The Borough established a new Community Tree Fund*

I initiated a new Community Tree Fund to support the planting, care, and maintenance of trees throughout the dunes, parks and open public space. Tax-deductible donations and bequests can be made to this fund as described on our website.

### Roads

The Yale Avenue reconstruction and paving project was completed including replacing and upgrading storm drains. We received Department of Transportation grants to help pay for repaving Harvard Avenue and a portion of Alexander Avenue. We were unable to proceed with the Harvard Avenue project last fall because we did not receive final state approval of the plans in time before the asphalt plant closed for the winter.

We will solicit bids for both projects together anticipating work in mid-to-late fall this year. The Borough will notify property owners directly affected by the projects about the construction schedule and relevant details after the contract is awarded. We will send email alerts to the community noting anticipated road work. As with the Yale Avenue project, Public Works will remove unnecessary concrete sidewalks and curbs in adherence with Master Plan recommendations.

### Buildings and Facilities

In consultation with our Borough Engineer, we reviewed the condition and adequacy of present buildings and facilities. We concluded that ongoing maintenance and repair is insufficient to meet our current requirements. As planned in previous budgets, capital funds are allocated for renovating and expanding our Public Works buildings.

The first construction project is a two-bay addition to the pole barn in the Public Works Yard. This will provide much needed protected storage space for seasonal and emergency management equipment. The construction will take place this year.

The second construction project is the renovation and expansion of the Public Works Maintenance Building. We will review these plans at public meetings this year.

### Water and Sewer Utility

Since transitioning to a quarterly allotment and rate structure, the Water and Sewer Utility began accumulating a surplus. This is required by the state for emergency repairs. The Borough has also instituted on-line payments through our website as an option for property owners.

*The 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is posted on the Water and Sewer Department page of our website.*

The 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is posted on the Water and Sewer Department page of our website: <https://capemaypoint.org/departments/water-sewer.html>. If you do not have access to the internet you may request a printed copy of the report by contacting the Borough Clerk at 609.884.8468 x12.

The report summarizes information about the source of our drinking water, contaminant testing results, and education for property owners about lead in drinking water from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. If you have any questions about the Drinking Water Quality Report, please contact David Carrick at 609.884.8468 x27.