

# EARTH DAY NEWS

The Environmental Commission has some exciting news to share with you today, Earth Day 2026!

Working in conjunction with the Cape May Point Tree Committee, a trained group that advises the Borough about trees on public land, the EC has arranged for a flowering Fringe Tree to be planted this spring.

A Fringe Tree, *Chioanthus Virginicus*, which is native in various parts of New Jersey and States to the south (but not in Cape May County), will be planted at the south end of Lake Lily in a spot that had been overrun with invasive Autumn Clematis vines. This tree is being planted as an “experiment” to determine whether it will thrive in our local environment.

If we find that the tree does well, it will be considered as a potential new addition to the Cape May Point Approved Tree List. (Note: there is a Chinese variety of Fringe Tree that would be unsuitable for the Approved Tree List.). The Fringe tree grows to a mature height of 12-20 feet and has gorgeous white blooms in May-June.



The new Fringe Tree is a part of a long term plan to respond to the impact that climate change is having on vegetation. It is a tree that is now likely to thrive in more northern climates. As noted by the US Environmental Protection Agency, “Warming temperatures generally increase the length of the growing season. It also shifts the geographic ranges of some tree species. Habitats of some types of trees are likely to move north or to higher altitudes.”

The Environmental Commission is also planning to add additional trees to other public spaces in the coming months. As plans are finalized, we will be sharing specifics with all of you.