



FEBRUARY 2017 TIP-OF-THE MONTH

!!! Express Yourself !!!

Want to participate in the decision making process when it comes to the use of open space in the Barnegat Bay? There is a lot to be said for doing it the old-fashioned way. Here are a few tips to help you get started.

- 1). A personal letter to your local, county, or State elected official(s) is very effective.
- 2). Be specific about why the use of this open space matters to you.
- 3). Your observations about the potential uses of this space matter. Your perspective might inform and educate a local official.
- 4). Be civil, use a respectful tone, keep it short and sweet.
- 5). End your letter with a request. It can be general i.e. requesting support for open space or specific to a project you care deeply about.

Each congressional office has a dedicated staffer responsible for reading constituents' letters and to relay your concerns to their boss, your elected official.

Maintaining and increasing eco-friendly use of open space along the coast of Barnegat Bay is vitally important. Low impact open space such as parks, nature trails, and bird sanctuaries improve the overall health of the bay by reducing harmful runoff, promoting new wildlife habitat, and increasing the natural buffer of the coastline to help the Bay recover and thrive.

So if this something that interests you, take a minute and write a letter. Your opinion matters.