

The Village of Briarcliff Manor

Sustainability Advisory Committee

- and -

Environmental Advisory Council

April 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

April is **Earth Month!** The theme for Earth Month 2025, "Our Power, Our Planet", highlights the importance of renewable energy to combat climate change. Trying to meet the demands of global power consumption with fossil fuels is not sustainable not only because they are finite resources which will eventually run out, but also harmful to planetary and human health. This year's theme champions solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal energy to address today's environmental problems. There is a growing recognition that converting to clean energy brings greater energy efficiency, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and cost savings.



Based on 2024 sales, [NYSERDA reported](#) that air source heat pumps outsold gas furnaces by 37% nationally; NYS saw a 14.3% jump in EV adoption; and NY achieved its goal of having 6000 MW of distributed solar energy by October 2024. You can learn more about local sustainability initiatives, at our SAC and/or EAC monthly meetings!

Join us for an Earth Day celebration on Sunday, April 27th from 12-4pm at Law Park Pavilion

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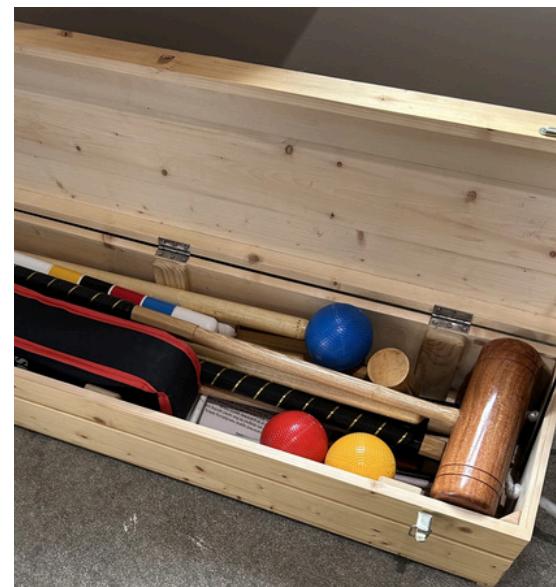
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SAC Activities Recap (Sports Swap)

SAC partnered with the **Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department**, **Briarcliff Youth Soccer**, **Briarcliff Manor Little League**, and **Briarcliff Manor Youth Lacrosse** to organize a spring sports swap on February 28th and March 1st.



More than 300 pieces of sports equipment found new homes. There were baseball bats, lacrosse gear, golf clubs, soccer balls, baseballs, and a ton of cleats and shoes. Swap events like these are a great way to bring community together, and to keep sports equipment out of the landfill. Thanks to everyone who participated in this fun event!



Sustainability Efforts in Briarcliff Manor Parks & Recreation

Dana Durso (Superintendent, Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department)



The Village of Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department is committed to making our parks and programs more sustainable every day! 🌱♻️ Through ongoing initiatives and collaborations with the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC), we're taking steps to reduce our environmental impact while continuing to provide top-notch recreational opportunities.

One major improvement has been our move to **100% online camp registration**, significantly reducing paper waste and streamlining the process for families. By eliminating unnecessary paperwork, we're keeping registration efficient while being kinder to the planet. ➡️📱🌐



Recycling is another key focus! We are excited to announce that the Village just purchased **new recycling containers** that will be installed in the parks as we head into spring, encouraging visitors to properly recycle or dispose of waste and keep our green spaces clean. 🗑️✓

Sustainability Efforts in Briarcliff Manor Parks & Recreation

Dana Durso (Superintendent, Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department)

Our partnership with SAC has been instrumental in supporting **green initiatives** such as Earth Day celebrations, Stash the Trash activities, Take It or Leave It events, and Sports Swap, all of which promote sustainability and community involvement.



On the maintenance side, we have started integrating **battery-operated equipment in our parks** to reduce emissions and noise pollution. Additionally, we're lucky to have access to the Village of Briarcliff Manor's new electric vehicle, which we used this winter to transport equipment and as an extra vehicle to transport youth on eco-friendly ski trips! 🚗⚡🎿

We're proud of these efforts and excited to continue working towards a greener, more sustainable future for Briarcliff Manor! 🌱🌟

Sustainable Landscaping Tips

(brought to you by SAC)

If you are able to do your landscaping yourself, choose electric mowers and blowers. If you must use a landscaping company, consider the following:

- Ask to reduce or eliminate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on your lawn between May-September.
- Ask for fewer fall cleanups (if they recommend 3, try just 1 or 2).
- Ask to have your fall leaves mulched into your yard rather than blown to the curb.
- If you are looking to switch landscapers this year, talk to your neighbors and use a service that's already working on your street. Consolidation of work by crews means less commuting, and fewer days of noise pollution during the summer weeks!

Sustainability in the CLIFF

Karla Constantinou (BHS Science Dept. Coordinator) and the Briarcliff TreeHuggers

Hello and happy spring from the Briarcliff High School Treehuggers! Students and staff at the high school are truly enjoying the welcoming and highly functional “**CLIFF**” (**Collaboration, Learning, Innovation, Faculty, Forum**), which serves as a central hub in our newly designed building. Construction began in June of 2023 and is finally complete! Recently, we caught up with Mr. Kenneth Baviello, Director of Facilities for Briarcliff Manor Union Free School District, who oversaw the massive overhaul. We asked about sustainability efforts during construction and what environmentally friendly initiatives were incorporated into the building design.



Mr. Baviello told us that **sustainability was an important aspect of the design and construction of the CLIFF from the outset of planning through the construction**. First, the HVAC units that were installed are far more efficient than the previous units, cutting down on fuel usage and keeping the area comfortable in all seasons. The lighting that brightens the area and makes it so inviting uses LED bulbs which are energy efficient, saving nonrenewable fuel resources and reducing electrical costs. The lighting controls are customized to occupant needs, dimmable, and use occupancy sensors to shut off lights when room is not in use, all of which reduce energy waste. Destratification fans also circulate air to reduce the need for additional energy to maintain a comfortable temperature. A central feature of the CLIFF is a huge skylight that allows ambient, natural lighting into the area below, reducing energy use and allowing a more pleasant, natural exposure to the sunshine.

Sustainability in the CLIFF

Karla Constantinou (BHS Science Dept. Coordinator) and the Briarcliff TreeHuggers

The Treehuggers realized that no endeavor is perfectly sustainable and wanted to know what challenges Mr. Baviello and his team might have encountered. He explained that contractors may try to substitute materials to save themselves money. For example, the contractor recommended a different skylight that would have been less environmentally friendly. Thankfully, our team in Briarcliff, including the architect who designed the CLIFF, and the project construction manager, remained insistent on sustainable features that include mitigation of solar heat gain, light diffusing capability, and insulative properties, therefore reducing energy use costs while achieving the same architectural vision.



Also, after the completion of such an attractive and sustainable space, Mrs. Blank wanted to ensure that there were receptacles that made recycling and trash disposal easy for students while maintaining the aesthetic of the welcoming area where students and faculty gather. To that end, she and Mr. James Trapani (head custodian) looked through various websites to find attractive and functional recycling systems that would add to the appeal and sustainability of the CLIFF and other areas such as the cafeteria.

The Briarcliff Treehuggers appreciated Mr. Baviello taking the time to share with us the many sustainable considerations that went into this seemingly insurmountable project so that we could learn about our school district's efforts to balance sustainability and construction costs.



Lomi is a Great Option for Those Who Want to Compost

Roger and Kathy Battacharia (Briarcliff Manor residents)

Composting is one of the best ways to reduce household waste, minimize landfill impact, and create nutrient-rich soil. In addition to **community food scrap drop-off sites**, there are a number of ways to divert food waste from the trash. **Traditional backyard composting** is an option, but can be time-consuming, require outdoor space, and demand a delicate balance of organic materials. For those looking for an easier and more efficient way to compost, **Lomi is an excellent option**. This innovative countertop composter transforms food scraps into nutrient-rich dirt in just a few hours, making composting accessible to more households.

One of the biggest barriers to traditional composting is space. Not everyone has a backyard or the time to manage an outdoor compost bin. **Lomi is small enough to fit on your kitchen counter**, making it ideal for apartments, condos, or homes with limited outdoor space. Its convenience makes it ideal even for homes with large outdoor space.

Fast and Efficient

Traditional composting can take weeks or even months for food scraps to break down. Lomi, on the other hand, can process waste in as little as four hours.

Odor and Pest-Free Solution

A common complaint with composting is the smell, especially if food scraps start to rot before breaking down. Lomi's built-in filtration system eliminates odors, making it a great option for indoor use.

Reduces Waste and Carbon Footprint

Food waste is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, especially when sent to landfills. By using Lomi, you help divert food waste from landfills and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Creates Usable Nutrient-Rich Soil

Lomi's end product is a nutrient-rich dirt that can be used to enrich garden soil, nourish houseplants, or support local green spaces.



Lomi is a Great Option for Those Who Want to Compost

Roger and Kathy Battacharia (Briarcliff Manor residents)

So..what are the cons of having a Lomi?

While Lomi is a convenient and innovative composting solution, it does come with some drawbacks. Here are a few potential downsides to consider before investing in one:

Upfront Cost

Lomi is significantly more expensive than traditional composting methods. With a price tag of around \$300-\$500, it may not be an affordable option for everyone.



Energy Consumption

Unlike traditional composting, which relies on natural decomposition, Lomi requires electricity to operate.



Not a True Composting Process

Lomi does not produce traditional compost but rather a pre-compost material that still needs to be mixed into soil to fully break down.

Limited Capacity

Lomi is designed for small-scale food waste disposal, meaning it can't handle large amounts of waste at once.

Not Ideal for All Food Waste

Although Lomi can break down many types of food scraps, certain items like large bones, excessive citrus peels, and greasy foods are not recommended.

Requires Regular Maintenance

Lomi's filters need to be replaced every few months, which adds to the ongoing cost. The bucket also needs to be cleaned regularly to prevent buildup and ensure optimal performance.

Native Plant Spotlight

Woody Plant

Cercis canadensis (Eastern redbud)



Image credit: Native Plant Trust

Eastern redbud is a small tree native to our region. Easily grown in sun to part shade, this tree blooms beautifully in the early spring with its unique rose-purple flowers that grow in clusters on bare branches. Growing 20-30' tall, it is often multi-trunked and makes a beautiful addition to the home landscape. Redbud attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Interestingly, this tree is in the bean family!

Herbaceous Plant

Mertensia virginica (Virginia bluebells)

A sure sign of spring is Virginia bluebells. This wildflower is known as a spring ephemeral, which means that it blooms before overhead trees leaf out. Virginia bluebells are an excellent addition to a perennial shade garden, and when planted in clusters it puts on quite an early spring show. Nodding clusters of lavender-blue bell-shaped flowers open from pink buds. It grows only 1-2' tall and requires moist soils. Due to its ephemeral nature, this plant dies back completely by mid-summer when it goes dormant.



Image credit: Gardenia.net



Upcoming Events: Join Us for Earth Day!

SAC in collaboration with the Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department and the Briarcliff PTA bring you Earth Day 2025 on **Sunday, April 27th (12-4pm)** at the Law Park Pavilion.

The event will feature green vendors, food trucks, demos, games for kids and “Stash the Trash”

The **14th Annual Riverkeeper Sweep**, a day of service for the Hudson River is on **May 3rd 2025**. You have the chance to join this incredible effort – stretching from NYC all the way to the Adirondacks – along OUR shoreline, park, or street. Interested?! The Sweep is happening at Sparta Brook, a historic tributary of the Hudson! Click [HERE](#) to join this effort close to our town!

Join us at our meetings to learn what we are working on, and to see how you can contribute to making Briarcliff cleaner and greener!

SAC meetings: First Thursday of every month. 7:00 pm, Village Hall Court Room

EAC meetings: Fourth Thursday of every month. 7:00 pm, Village Hall Court Room

For more information, email us at
SAC@briarcliffmanor.gov or EAC@briarcliffmanor.gov
Visit us at
[Sustainability-advisory-committee](#) and
[Environmental-advisory-council](#)

SAC

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