

CERTIFIED
**WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP
SUSTAINABLE PROPERTY**



CONTACT: WHITPAINEAC@GMAIL.COM

Sustainable Property Program (SPP)

**Kick Off meeting
January 10, 2024**

Sustainable Property Program (SPP) Staff

- Sponsor: Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors
- Program Manager: Whitpain Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)
 - Zibi Bieniaszewski
 - Ruth Chang
 - Erin Crump
 - Paul Driscoll
 - Sue Royer
 - Ellie Stein

Sustainable Property Program Mission

Through its Sustainable Property Program (SPP), Whitpain Township hopes to **educate and inspire** local property owners to **voluntarily** engage in a **conservation-oriented** approach to yard care.

The goal of the program is to **preserve Whitpain's natural environment** by promoting native plants, stormwater management, composting, bird-friendly activities and other related practices.

The Township also intends to officially **recognize property owners** who actively practice a wide variety of environmental conservation techniques on their properties.

Sustainable Property Program (SPP) Components

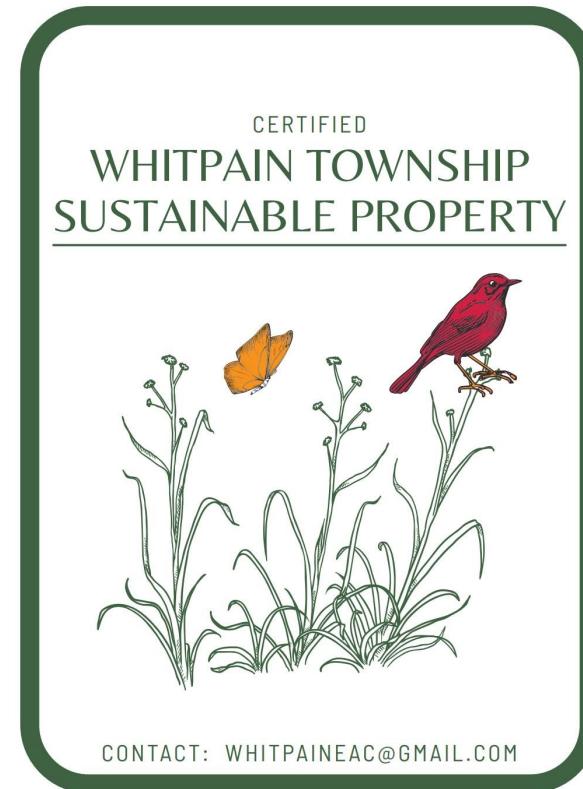
- Online application
- Metal yard signs
- Recognition
- Public workshops
- Web Page with access to application & informational materials

Sustainable Property Program - Online Application

- 39 questions - available for viewing on webpage
- 65% correct to qualify as a Sustainable Property
- EAC will notify each applicant by email
- Unlimited number of application attempts

Sustainable Property Program - Metal Yard Signs & Recognition

- Signs awarded to qualified applicants
- Presented by Board of Supervisors
- Recognition as desired
 - Whitpain Wire
 - Sustainable Property Program webpage



Sustainable Property Program - Public Workshops

COMING SOON

- Various conservation topics included in the survey
- Expert speakers and facilitators
- Fostering connections among residents focused on sustainability
- Announced on Wire, SPP webpage, electronic sign

Sustainable Property Program - Webpage

- **Accessible from Whitpain Township EAC page**
- **Webpage components**
 - Apply now
 - Survey questions
 - Information resources
 - List of Whitpain residents with sustainable properties
 - Upcoming Sustainable Property workshops
 - Sustainable Property Program kickoff recording
 - Sustainable Property Program kickoff slides

Focus areas:

Native plants & pollinators

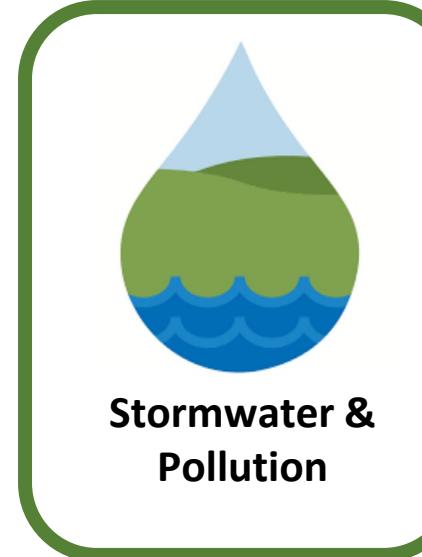
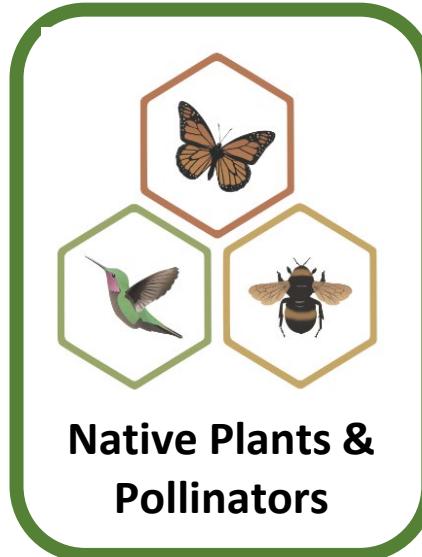
Stormwater & Pollution reduction

Composting

Water conservation

Clean air

Dark sky



Supporting Native Plants & Pollinators

What does it mean?

- Lawns are degrading the ecosystem
- Invasive/hybrid species do not support biodiversity
- Our properties become a food desert for all native species
- Native species have no place to live/populate



Why is it important?

- 75% of food crops depend on pollinators
- Pollinators population is in decline
- Local plants (natives) are food source for local pollinators

What actions can we take?

- Shrink the lawn & plant straight native species
- Remove invasive species
- Provide habitat: pollinator garden, bird feeder, water, bird/bee/bat house

Managing Stormwater & Reducing Water Pollution

What does it mean?

- Impervious surfaces (roofs, driveways, sport courts, parking lots) + more intense storms = runoff
- Stormwater runoff = largest pollutant in streams



Stormwater &
Pollution Reduction

Why is it important?

- Help minimize flooding and erosion
- Improve water quality

What actions can we take?

- SLOW THE FLOW (keep stormwater on property)
 - Riparian buffers, rain gardens, rain barrels, meadows, native plants, mulch
- Limit excess herbicide/fertilizer/salt use on our property
 - keep grass clippings on lawn, use salt sparingly
- Clean up pet waste, use car wash, hazardous waste events

Composting



What does it mean?

- Composting naturally recycles food scraps and yard waste to create an enriching soil additive

Why is it important?

- Composting keeps food and yard waste out of landfills, significantly reducing greenhouse gas (methane) emissions which contribute to climate change
- Gives you something back - a rich soil additive

What actions can we take?

- Use a backyard composting method or a compost service
- Leave grass clippings and leaves on the lawn
- Mulch or compost leaves and grass clippings

Conserving Water



What does it mean?

- Average residential use = 100/gal/person/day
- 70% is indoors and 30% is outdoors
- Indoor trend is down (more efficient appliances)
- Outdoor trend is not decreasing

Why is it important?

- Water is a finite resource
- Conserving water will save money on utility bills

What actions can we take?

- Native plants/xeriscaping/mulch
- Proper watering/sprinkling techniques
- Less power washing/less car washing at home
- Cover swim pools/maintain outdoor fixtures

Fostering Clean Air



What does it mean?

- Homeowners contribute to air pollution
- Simple techniques can reduce this contribution

Why is it important?

- Air pollution can harm people's health
- Most vulnerable people are children/seniors/people w/ respiratory ailments/pregnant women/people near major roadways

What actions can we take?

- Transition to electric/battery mowers & yard tools
- Limit outdoor burning
- Plant vegetation to absorb CO₂

Protecting the Dark Night Sky



Dark Sky

What does it mean?

- Light pollution: unnatural brightening of the sky due to man-made sources
- 2 types: skyglow and light trespass

Why is it important?

- Disrupts surrounding ecosystems
- Disturbs natural cycles and patterns
- Impairs the rate of photosynthesis in plants

What actions can we take?

- Reduce use of artificial light sources at night
- Eliminate unnecessary outdoor lighting
- Close blinds to keep light inside the house

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Q & A

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THANK YOU!

For more info, please contact EAC via email at:
whitpainEAC@gmail.com
or follow the program on the [EAC website](#):