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A year after near-closure, Rancocas Nature Center lives



Written by
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Center's 'Friends'

Volunteers, community leaders, nature lovers, [families](#), scouts and birders formed the “Friends” after a community meeting last January to save the center.

The group’s steering committee met every Sunday from January through April to find ways to save the Nature Center.

Mary Pat Robbie, county [resource](#) conservation director, said Burlington County has provided necessary maintenance as well as programming support.

“Last year was a tough one for the center, but I think the future is extraordinarily bright as a result of all the efforts of the partners,” she added.

Westampton Township agreed to handle payroll for center employees and hired two of its staffers in its recreation department.

The center reimburses the township for the salaries.

Shared programs

Township Administrator Donna Ryan said those staffers incorporate nature center activities into township recreation programs.

“We are very happy to do programming with them and have every hope it will continue to be successful,” she added.

The Rancocas Conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to buying and preserving lands along the creek that runs through Burlington County, has been the conduit for accepting donations for the nature center until the Friends group receives nonprofit accreditation.

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