

# Journey To Sustainability In South Plainfield

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With the population of South Plainfield increasing, pollution in our parks, waterways, and public spaces also increases. This makes the need to have a clean and sustainable community within South Plainfield even more urgent. In order for South Plainfield to become a more sustainable community, I believe it is necessary to have clean and pollution free waterways and public spaces. I have several ideas on how to accomplish this goal of sustainability. This will make South Plainfield a better place to call home for future generations.

I believe it is an absolute need for South Plainfield to clean up our community because all the pollution that goes into our community can affect wildlife and people. For example, animals such as cranes which are at Spring Lake Park could potentially swallow a piece of trash and choke along with many other animals like fish, ducks, and even dogs. Pollutants like motor oil and antifreeze can seep into the lake and kill the wonderful plants in and around Spring Lake Park. We have all seen the pollution that is visible in Spring Lake after a thunderstorm, even if we can not see it at normal water levels. Many children and even adults enjoy fishing at Spring Lake Park. Imagine if there were no more fish left to catch. Around town we also see deer, geese, squirrel, chipmunks, and also foxes. We want to see wildlife continue to live in this community.

In order to accomplish this goal, the citizens of South Plainfield will need to pitch in. One solution is to have filters installed in the storm drains so trash and even things like oil will not end up harming the environment. Another solution is to have the students of South Plainfield go out and clean up the waste in town and plant trees, which could be an opportunity for the students to learn more about our local environment. Students could volunteer from each of our schools to help fight this battle for sustainability. One more way to fight pollution in our town is to educate the community on how chemicals and trash end up in the storm drains and enter into Spring Lake Park and other waterways. If people know what is happening to our local ecosystem they may be willing to change their ways and join this cause. If people can be educated on how they may be harming South Plainfield, then they may make better choices in the future.

All of these solutions can help make South Plainfield a better community. I am sure these ideas would impact South Plainfield for future generations to enjoy. A cleaner community can be a place where people will not be afraid to call home. Children can make memories and wildlife can thrive. I believe in educating the public for them to realize that what they do can have a major effect on the wildlife in South Plainfield. If we can stop pollution and make our hometown more sustainable, the future will look brighter than ever.