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In early 2002, the West Cape May Environmental Commission received a grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Environmental Services Program to partially fund an environmental resource inventory (ERI) for the Borough. This particular grant program provides matching grants to municipal environmental commissions in order to inventory the municipality's natural and cultural resources.

This report provides an overview of the natural and cultural resources of the Borough West Cape May. Natural resources are the raw materials of nature, including soil, minerals, water, vegetation and wildlife. When people shape these materials into a new form, such as a building or a cooked meal, they become cultural resources. That term also applies to human creations that are non-material, such as customs and beliefs.

West Cape May's quality of life and economy are based on its distinctive natural and cultural resources. Beautiful scenery, abundant wildlife, and charming older buildings are among the features that give the Borough its special character and identity, and make it interesting and attractive to visitors. The purpose of this report is to deepen public awareness and appreciation of the rich natural and cultural heritage of West Cape May. In addition, the information contained in this document can help provide an informed basis for effective planning and action to protect these valuable community assets and to restore those that have been damaged or lost.