



## **TURTLE HABITAT FINDINGS**

On October 26, 2019, volunteers working in harmony with the Sea Isle City Environmental Commission and The Wetlands Institute carefully excavated the two Turtle Gardens (nesting sanctuaries) located behind the Sea Isle City Library at 48<sup>th</sup> Street and the Bay. The Turtle Gardens, which were created four years ago, serve as nesting sites for Diamondback Terrapin Turtles – and they give turtles the opportunity to lay their eggs without crossing Sea Isle City’s roads during the busy summer months. The Turtle Gardens have continued to evolve during the past few years and now have net-covered boxes that make the spaces completely predator-proof.

Steve and Susan Ahern, the eco-minded pair who helped spearhead the construction of the Turtle Gardens, said this was “the best year yet” for the two sanctuaries. According to a report submitted to the City’s Administration, this year’s excavation uncovered a total of 48 live Diamondback Terrapin Hatchlings as well as evidence of approximately 600 turtle eggs that hatched (indicating that those baby turtles migrated to the bay). The 48 hatchlings that were discovered on October 26 were released into the marshes shortly after being unearthed from the Turtle Gardens.

“We are extremely pleased with the results and thankful for all the help we had during the excavation,” said Steve Ahern, who also stated that the Wetlands Institute is open all year if people want to learn more about Diamondback Terrapin Turtles.



To view more images of the Turtle Garden Excavation, please go to the “Recent Photos” section of Sea Isle City’s November 7, 2019 E-Newsletter.