



Group to host its first Highlands Festival at Waterloo Village in September

*By Ben Horowitz/The Star-Ledger
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BYRAM — The New Jersey Highlands Coalition, an environmental advocacy group, is organizing its first-ever Highlands Festival at Waterloo, to be held Sept. 21 and 22 at historic Waterloo Village in Byram.

New Jersey musicians will be performing on two stages at the festival that will also feature local food, art, history and crafts from the North Jersey region that provides more than half the state's water supply.

The coalition is looking for North Jersey-based craft, food and other “green” vendors for the festival that will have the theme, “Celebrating All Things Local,” said Julia Somers, the group’s executive director. Somers said the musicians have already been booked for the festival, but she declined to name them.

The festival will use admission fees as a fundraiser to benefit the coalition's 2014 small grants programs, which provides funding of up to \$5,000 for members' projects.

Coalition members include more than 80 nonprofit environmental activist groups and nonactivist organizations that educate the public about Highlands resources, including farm-to-table groups promoting “sustainable” food systems in the region.

Each coalition member is invited to set up a display offering “interactive, engaging activities that reinforce its work,” according to a statement distributed by the coalition.

Activities at the festival, which have not yet been finalized, may also include interpretive trail walks; educational activities at the Native American display site; an art show; an electric and hybrid cars show; canal rides and workshops on environmental and local topics

Somers said any vendors who wish to participate should e-mail lisa@njhighlandscoalition.org.

Tickets are not yet on sale. More information is available at the festival's website, www.highlandsfestivalatwaterloo.org.