

BORDENTOWN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Bordentown City Deputy Mayor Heather Cheesman (center, left) and Green Team Co-Chair Pat Skelly (center, right) accept Bordentown City's 2010 Sustainable Jersey Bronze certification award from Fred Profeta, Chair of the NJ League of Municipalities Mayors' Committee for a Green Future (left) and Randall Solomon (right), co-founder of Sustainable Jersey

In accordance with the provisions establishing an Environmental Commission for the City of Bordentown, the Bordentown City Environmental Commission is pleased to submit this annual report for calendar year 2010 to the City Commissioners. The organization, responsibilities, powers and activities of the Commission adhere to the State legislation (NJSA 40:56A) passed in 1968, governing the establishment of environmental commissions.

I - Administrative

- 2010 BCEC Regular members: Joel Dowshen, Mike Hunninghake (Chair), Dan Kennedy, Mak Kieffer, Leona Lee (not re-appointed), Mike Neuhaus, Andy Richardson, Pat Skelly (not re-appointed), Ralph Tolomeo (Vice-

Chair) and Michael Lahr (appointed 2010).

- Continued BCEC membership in the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).

- Conducted twelve regular monthly meetings at Carslake Community Center.

II - Outreach & Education

- Received input from, and addressed concerns of, Bordentown City residents at regular monthly meetings.

- Communicated with residents via regular monthly BCEC meetings; email inquiries to BCEC; email alerts to BCEC resident database; and arti-

cles and letters to the editor in the *Register-News* regarding pertinent local issues and public meetings. (*see Appendix*)

- Published two editions of BCEC newsletter, containing articles and information designed to inform and educate City and area residents about local environmental issues. Distributed newsletters at annual Street Fair and Cranberry Festival, posted on City Hall bulletin board, and distributed to local businesses. Newsletters were also distributed via e-mail to BCEC mailing list. (*See Appendix*)

- Staffed exhibit table at the Bordentown Street Fair & Cranberry Festival and Bordentown Farmers' Market. Distributed environmental education material. Created and presented educational exhibit regarding local environmental issues, including the Land Development Ordinance, Conservation Element of the Master Plan, Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, Open Space Plan, and other local issues. Gathered names/email addresses for database of volunteers. Conducted free raffle of eco-friendly gift bags and distributed information at both events.

- Maintained BCEC website. The web site contains BCEC newsletters, calendar of local events, links to local organizations, and photos of BCEC events and topics of local interest. Website helps inform residents and reduce printing and mailing costs.

BCEC 2010 Annual Report

- Responded to residents' inquiries regarding various issues and concerns.
- Distributed "Top Ten Ways to Keep Bordentown City Green" T-shirts and copies of "Special Places of Bordentown City" and native plant garden brochures.
- Maintained six pet waste bag dispensers at various locations throughout the City.
- Publicized new D&R Canal Towpath that will extend from Bordentown City to Trenton (*new bridge over canal scheduled due date: Spring 2011*)



Bordentown City Police Department officers conducted bicycle safety checks at the 2010 Green Fair

Public Events and Programs

The Environmental Commission organized, promoted and/or conducted the following programs in 2010:

- **Earth Day Hike along the D&R Canal Towpath (April):** Led a ramble along the newly created section of the towpath. Attendees learned about the history and ecology of this new green corridor at the doorstep of Bordentown City.
- **Earth Day - Oliver Street Trailbuilding Day (April):** organized and directed volunteers to lay down wood chips, remove invasive plant species, and plant native species.
- **Arbor Day Tree Planting (April):** assisted Shade Tree Committee with promotion of event and recruitment of volunteers.
- **Oliver Street Park Native Planting and Trailbuilding (October):** with D&R Greenway, organized and directed volunteers who helped plant native plants, improved the loop trail with wood chips, and planted a vegetated buffer along the parkland's edge.
- **Open Space Ramble (October):** Organized a tour of

some of the new parks and trails in the City, including updates on Railroad Avenue Promenade and the Delaware River Heritage Trail.

- **Sponsored five Earth Talks**, held the fourth Tuesday of the month, with over 200 people attending. The 2010 *Earth Talks* schedule featured:
Burlington County Parks: Featuring Crystal Lake Park talk (March)
Bats in the Garden State talk (April)
Local Food, Healthy Food talk (May)
Paddling the Garden State talk (October)
Greening Your Older Home, Historic or Not talk (November)

Additional outreach:

- Staffed outreach table at Bordentown City Farmers' Market;
- Hosted Native Plant Garden on the annual Bordentown City Garden Tour.
- Organized two field trips with St. Mary's School Explorers Club. Conducted stream monitoring of Thorntown Creek and Love Bridge Run.
- Sponsored a BCEC an Adopt a Planter on Farnsworth Ave.

Initiatives

- **Sustainable Jersey:** Led the Bordentown City Green Team to Bronze Level certification and Sustainability Champion Award. Documented existing Action items and coordinated and implemented new Action items, including:
 - Creation of vegetable garden at Clara Barton School
 - Creation of Community Asset Mapping project
 - Creation and implementation of Green Fair eventHeld regular monthly Green Team meetings. Attended training sessions and seminars. Liaised with Sustainable Jersey staff.
- **Green Fair:** Organized the first annual Bordentown City Green Fair, including over 40 exhibitors and several guest speakers. Over 600 attendees learned about local and regional environmental organizations and issues, and how to adopt sustainable practices in your home, workplace and community. Highlights included exhibitors, vendors, presentations, outdoor activities, a bicycle safety check by the Bordentown City Police Department, local food and more.
- **Farmers' Market:** Helped to publicize and staff second annual Bordentown City Farmers' Market.

- **Economic Development & Main Street Revitalization:** Lobbied the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission over last two years, successfully yielding 2011 inclusion of Bordentown City in its prestigious “Classic Towns of the Greater Philadelphia” marketing program (www.classictowns.org)

- **Recycling:**

- Created, printed and distributed to all City residents a new Bordentown City Recycling Resource guide, a tri-fold brochure outlining both municipal recycling options, as well as recycling options for many materials the City and/or County does not collect.
- Assisted with coordination of County recycling bins for Street Fair.
- Conducted research for, and helped organize installation of, Goodwill Computer Recycling container at Public Works yard. Publicized electronics recycling to City residents.
- Investigated City's participation in Recycle Bank program. Reported to Commissioners.

- **Native Plant Garden:** Installed additional plants and maintained brochure box at native plant garden at Bordentown Library. Coordinated volunteer creation of attractive cedar garden signage.

- **Bus Shelters:** Continued liaison with State and County regarding installation of bus shelters on Park and Burlington Streets. Two bus shelters installed in April 2009.

- **Anti-Idling:** Researched and presented a proposal for an anti-idling program to Commissioners for review.

- **Parking:** Submitted a parking analysis of existing City parking infrastructure, including potential for shared-use parking arrangements at RiverLINE lot and other public and quasi-

public sites, to Economic Development Advisory Committee.

- **Open Space:**

- Advised Burlington County Office of Natural Resources on trailhead improvements in the City for the Delaware River Heritage Trail.
- Coordinated volunteer labor and materials for split rail fencing of stormwater outfall at Oliver Street Park.
- Coordinated volunteer installation of two benches at Oliver Street Park.
- Coordinated public works' installation of picnic table/trash can at Lime Kiln Alley.
- Coordinated with D&R to mow Ottavi and Lime kiln areas.

Additional training undertaken by BCEC members:

- Attendance at ANJEC Congress and training sessions;
- Attendance at Recycling Coordinators meetings and conference;
- Attendance at League of Municipalities Conference, including training networking, exhibits.

- **Liaised with the following local and regional organizations on behalf of issues relating to Bordentown City:**

Bordentown Historical Society, Bordentown City Shade Tree Committee, Bordentown City Economic Development Advisory Committee, Downtown Bordentown Association, Bordentown City Cats, Bordentown Regional School District, Bordentown Township Environmental Commission, Bordentown Public Library, Burlington County Rt. 206 Corridor Study, Burlington County Office of Land Use Planning, Burlington County Recycling Office, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, D&R Greenway, NJDEP, NJDOT, and the NJ Keep It Green Coalition.

III - Site Plan Review

- Reviewed development proposals and offered comments to Planning Board at regular meetings, including Patience Lovell house (Farnsworth Ave.), Singer setback (3rd Street), Goldman subdivision (Chestnut Street), UU Church (Park Street).

IV - Land Use Planning

- Participated in ongoing Bordentown City Master Plan Reexamination process. Presented overview to Planning Board regarding planning and environmental protection efforts in the City 2002-2009. Offered input to Planning Board regarding environmental issues. Researched environmental zoning ordinances.
- Provided input on Planning Board's Community Facilities Element (in process with Burlington County staff).
- Assisted Delaware & Raritan Greenway with open space acquisitions on Lime Kiln Alley and Oliver Street.



Solar energy was one of many exhibits at the 2010 Green Fair

BCEC 2010 Annual Report

V - Infrastructure

Coordinated siting and public works' installation of two bicycle parking racks in the Business District.

Coordinated with City Engineer regarding mitigation of sewer project on Oliver Street Park. Contacted adjacent non-resident homeowner for permission to utilize front yard for access area

Infrastructure purchases include:

- DOGIPOT Pet Waste Bags
- Cloth reusable shopping bags
- BCEC "Top 10 Ways to Keep Bordentown City Green" T-shirts
- Assorted landscaping materials for Lime Kiln Trail
- Native Plant Garden brochures

VI - Grants/Funding

- Investigated financial and planning assistance for potential Sustainability Element for Bordentown City Master Plan.
- Received \$300 from NJ Clean Energy for Green Fair public outreach program.

VII - Proposed 2011 Projects

- 1 - Annual *Earth Talk* Speaker/Film Series (six programs)
- 2 - Tables at Street Fair, Cranberry Festival, Farmers' Market
- 3 - Eco-Tours of proposed open space and trails (Blacks Creek, Thorntown Creek, D&R Canal Towpath)
- 4 - Blacks Creek Greenway/Lime Kiln Alley parks and trails development
- 5 - Annual Earth Day project
- 6 - Additional plantings at Native Plant Garden at Bordentown Library
- 7 - Purchase of recycling containers for business district
- 8 - Promote electronics recycling
- 9 - Coordination of ongoing Sustainable Jersey/Green Team initiative
- 10 - Coordination of annual Bordentown City Green Fair
- 11- Promote *Bike to Work Month/Day*

Appendices

- 1- Press Clippings/Correspondence
- 2- 2010 BCEC Newsletters
- 3- 2010 Photo Gallery

Many thanks to Mayor James Lynch, Deputy Mayor Heather Cheesman, Commissioner Zigmont Targonski, Planning Board Chair Nick Casey, Bob Erickson and the Public Works Department, Bordentown City Police Department, Pat McGowan, Jennifer Ficarrotta and Pat Ryan for their support and assistance. Special thanks to Diana Raichel, Conservation Biologist with the D&R Greenway and City resident/volunteer Christine Wilson for their tremendous efforts on the Oliver Street and Lime Kiln Alley open space projects. Thanks to Don Stein for the donations of wood chips throughout the year. And many thanks to the hundreds of residents and visitors who came out to our exhibits, attended our *Earth Talks*, hiked around town on our rambles, and helped plant natives and improve trails in 2010!

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper



BCEC helped the Saint Mary School's Explorers Club investigate our local environment and conduct water monitoring of local waterways