

# Bordentown City Environmental Commission

## NEWSLETTER

Issue #21

www.bcec.us

Late Summer/Fall 2009

### **BCEC Contact Information**



BCEC meetings are held on the **2nd Wednesday** of every month and are open to the public.

Meetings are held at the **Carslake Community Center, 209 Crosswicks Street, at 7:00pm.**

**Mail may be sent to BCEC at:**  
Bordentown City  
Environmental  
Commission,  
City Hall,  
324 Farnsworth Ave.,  
Bordentown, NJ 08505

**Email:**  
bcec@mail.com  
(Send an email to join the BCEC email list)

**Website:**  
www.bcec.us

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## OLIVER STREET PARK: MEADOW COMING SOON!

In 2005, D&R Greenway Land Trust facilitated the acquisition of the property once referred to as the "Real Property Development" site for Bordentown City. The purpose of this acquisition was to preserve open space in a highly urbanized area for passive recreation, fish and wildlife habitats, and water quality protection.

This property, as well as other properties the D&R Greenway has helped Bordentown City acquire, has undergone human-induced disturbances over the years. The next phase in the process is the ecological restoration (i.e., bringing back the structure and function of a degraded ecosystem) of these properties while creating community access and recreation opportunities. D&R Greenway has secured a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in the amount of \$30,000 to help the City achieve these goals and has garnered the support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that can provide further funding in the form of plantings and technical assistance.



*New message board at Oliver Street parkland*

The D&R Greenway has begun the restoration process at Oliver Street Park. The first step in the process has been to "brush-hog" the area that was previously cleared by the Real Property Development Group. The best use of this area from an ecological perspective is to establish scrub-shrub habitat, a disappearing habitat type on the east coast, for declining shrubland bird species. This habitat type is also compatible with the periodic clearing for the powerline right-of-way and the maintenance of the sewer line right-of-way. Activities this spring/summer have included invasive plant species reduction efforts by D&R staff and grant-funded consultants; the establishment of a loop trail by volunteers to allow for passive recreation; and the installation by City Public Works of a message board and pet waste bag dispenser at the entrance to the park, both funded through an NJDEP Trails grant. The parcel on the north side of the newly wood-chip surfaced right of way is conducive to creating a picnic area partly surrounded by natural areas that will provide a buffer from the neighboring properties.

Volunteers will be needed in October/November to help plant a meadow consisting of native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs on the property and do basic trail maintenance. Volunteer days will be scheduled this fall...

### **Upcoming Events/Programs**

#### **"Save the Planet, Save Some Cash!" - Thursday, September 24, 7:00 p.m.**

Improving the health of the planet doesn't HAVE to hurt your budget! Learn basic actions to lower your monthly bills & reduce your stress on the environment. Get info on programs, products and practices.  
Speaker: BCEC member Pat Skelly, who has worked on environmental policy, education, regulation, research and development for 35 years. FREE. *Bordentown Public Library.*

#### **Bonaparte's Retreat - Point Breeze Archaeology Walk - Sunday, Sept. 20, 1-3pm**

Leader: Richard Veit. Meet at Divine Word Missionaries, Park Street, Bordentown City. Call 732-821-8310 to register. Reception afterward. Co-sponsored by Friends for the Marsh, D&R Greenway, and BCEC.

#### **Special Land Use Ordinance Public Meeting - Monday, October 5, 7:00 p.m.**

A special joint meeting of the City Commissioners and Planning Board will include a presentation on the current draft of the Land Use Ordinance and offer opportunity for public input. *Carslake Community Ctr.*

#### **BCEC Earth Talk – Film: *A Sense of Wonder* - Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m.**

A documentary-style film about Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*, the 1962 book that is widely credited with starting the American environmental movement. FREE. *Carslake Community Center.*

# LOCAL ECO-NEWS

## Bordentown City Joins Sustainable Jersey Initiative

Bordentown City has signed on to **Sustainable Jersey**, a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, control costs and save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term.

For more information check out:

[www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com)

Sustainable Jersey encompasses issues such as global warming, pollution, biodiversity, land use air and water quality, equity, buying local, local living economies, and sustainable agriculture. It is an initiative of the following organizations:

*NJ League of Municipalities, Mayors' Committee for a Green Future, Municipal Land Use Center at the College of NJ, NJ Sustainable State Institute at Rutgers University, NJ DEP, Rutgers Center for Green Building, NJ Board of Public Utilities, and a coalition of NJ non-profits and experts in the field.*

Sustainable Jersey is a three part program:

- Identify actions** that define what communities must achieve;
- Provide tools and guidance** to enable communities to make progress; and
- Link or create incentives for municipalities** that are making progress toward the actions.

Actions are the concrete steps municipalities can take to become more green and sustainable.

Actions can include the following:

- **Ordinances**
- **Programs**
- **Policies and procedures**
- **Facilities**

**Each Action is assigned 10-30 points, with a minimum of 100 points currently required for certification. Once certified, a municipality is eligible for technical assistance and grant funding for projects that will make their community more sustainable in the future.**

A required "Green Team" of local stakeholders is being assembled, and the following Actions have been undertaken and submitted to the Sustainable Jersey program as of August 1, 2009...

### Community Education and Outreach Actions

- Project Porchlight/Free CFLs (10 pts)
- BCEC website (10 pts)

### Local Food Production & Gardens Actions

- Farmers' Market established (10 pts)

### Natural Resources Actions

- Natural Resource Inventory  
BCEC completed an NRI (20 pts)
- Environmental Commission  
BCEC created in 2002 (10 pts)

### Innovative Demonstration Project Actions

- Native Plant Garden at Library (10 pts)

Some Actions that might be completed and submitted for certification in the future include: Green Challenges, Green Fairs, Energy Audit of municipal facilities, Mayors Wellness Campaign, Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement, Green Purchasing program, Buy Local program, and Rain Garden project.

### Recycling Used Medical Equipment

**Your ReSource**, a not-for-profit organization in Ewing, NJ, offers a practical way to re-circulate used durable medical equipment (DME) to people in the community who are uninsured or simply can't afford new equipment. Your ReSource evaluates, cleans and rehabilitates donated equipment for reuse and recycling.

-A significant amount of DME is issued to insured patients and used in healthcare settings.

-Once these items are no longer needed or become outdated, there is no system to manage the excess equipment that has accumulated. Much of it is thrown in the trash.

-There are increasing numbers of individuals who need equipment, have no access to it and can benefit from the abundance of gently used equipment currently being stored or discarded in landfills.

If you have any medical equipment (for example, Wheelchairs...Hospital Beds...Walkers...Canes...Crutches...Scooters... Shower Chairs...Commodes, etc.), check Your ReSource's website, [www.yourresourcenj.org](http://www.yourresourcenj.org) for directions and drop-off times, or call them at (609) 530-1513.

### Featured Website

#### We Love Liberty Lake

Information on a proposal to build a warehouse complex on sensitive lands next to Liberty Lake Day Camp in Mansfield Twp.

[www.welovelibertylake.com](http://www.welovelibertylake.com)

## Environmental Calendar

Wednesday, September 2

*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7p.m. CANCELLED

Wednesday, September 9

*Bordentown City Environmental Commission*

Carslake Community Ctr., 7p.m

Sunday, September 20

*Pointe Breeze Archaeology Walk*  
Divine Word Missionaries, Park St.  
732 821-8310 to register. 1-3pm

Thursday, September 24

*"Save the Planet, Save Some Cash!"*  
Bordentown Library, 7p.m.

Monday, October 5

*Land Use Ordinance public meeting*  
Carslake Comm. Center, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7

*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7p.m.

Wednesday, October 14

*Bordentown City Environmental Commission*

Carslake Community Ctr., 7p.m

Tuesday, October 27

*BCEC Earth Talk -- Film: "A Sense of Wonder"*  
City Hall, 7p.m.

Wednesday, November 4

*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7p.m.

Wednesday, November 18

*Bordentown City Environmental Commission*

Carslake Community Ctr., 7p.m  
(re-scheduled to 3rd Wed. due to Veterans Day holiday on Nov. 11)

Tuesday, November 24

*BCEC Earth Talk: Topic TBA*  
City Hall, 7p.m.

Wednesday, December 2

*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7p.m.

Wednesday, December 9

*BC Environmental Commission*  
Carslake Community Ctr., 7p.m