

## **OLIVER STREET PARK, BORDENTOWN CITY**

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.

**The D&R Greenway will begin the restoration process on Oliver Street Park in 2009.** The first step in the process will be to “brush-hog” the area that was previously clear-cut by the Real Property Development Group within the next couple weeks while the plants are still dormant. 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. Invasive plant species reduction efforts would follow the clearing, in conjunction with the establishment of a loop trail to allow for passive recreation. The parcel on the north side is conducive to creating a picnic area partly surrounded by natural areas that will provide a buffer from the neighboring properties.