



Dear Bordentown City Community Members,

D&R Greenway*, in coordination with the Bordentown City Environmental Commission, is in the process of creating Oliver Street Park. The park will have natural areas comprised of meadows and shrub-dominated plant communities as well as a picnic area. With the assistance of volunteers from the community, we've already established a trail for passive recreation. A large component of the development of the park is the ecological restoration of the site's natural areas. *Definition: Ecological restoration is bringing back the structure and function of a degraded ecosystem.* As a result of forest clearing followed by years of dumping, many invasive plant species have been introduced to the site. Problematic exotic species such as Japanese knotweed, mugwort, Japanese honeysuckle, and Chinese wisteria have proliferated, crowding out our native species. Our goal is to reduce the abundance of these invasive species and promote native species to re-establish a healthy ecosystem in which our pollinators, birds and other wildlife will benefit. We have initiated this effort through mowing, hand-pulling and targeted herbicide treatments conducted by applicators experienced in wildlife habitat restorations.

Please excuse the appearance of the park while we continue our efforts to reduce invasives with the ultimate goal of re-introducing natives in their place. Although it will take time to reverse the trend of degradation that has occurred over the years, we will seed and/or plant as areas become manageable and are anticipating a fall planting in a couple areas of the park. Native plantings include wildflowers and grasses such as bee balm, purple Joe-pyeweed, brown-eyed Susan, little bluestem and switchgrass and shrubs such as elderberry, sweet pepperbush, spicebush and red cedar.

The importance of community volunteers in this process cannot be underestimated and we look forward to the continued involvement of the community in the creation of the park. If you are interested in learning more about the restoration process and/or helping us create a park and natural area for the community, please contact Diana Raichel, *Conservation Biologist*, at 609-924-4646 or e-mail draichel@drgreenway.org.

*D&R Greenway is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of open space in central New Jersey. For more information about our organization, check out our website at www.drgreenway.org.