

# Bordentown City Environmental Commission NEWSLETTER

Issue #7, Fall 2005



## **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 at 7:00pm.

**Check out the BCEC website at [www.bcec.us](http://www.bcec.us)**

Mail may be sent to BCEC at:

Bordentown City  
Environmental  
Commission  
  
City Hall  
324 Farnsworth Avenue  
Bordentown, NJ 08505

## RECENT BCEC EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

The BCEC newsletter took an extended hiatus in late 2004, but is back in print! Some notable events and initiatives thus far in 2005 have included:

### **BCEC Ramble & Cleanup**

On April 9 the Environmental Commission conducted a guided tour of a significant green space in the City. The Thorntown Creek Ramble, where rambblers learned about the ecology and history of the one mile stretch of the floodplain area extending from Route 206/Gilder Field to the mouth of the creek, was a great success.



*Thorntown Creek Ramblers*

BCEC also organized an Earth Day Cleanup of Thorntown Creek on April 30. Braving wet weather, volunteers extracted dozens of bags full of trash (and assorted large items like bicycles, 55-gallon drums, and a hot-water heater) from the creek and floodplain.



*Thorntown Creek Cleanup volunteers*

In April BCEC spoke to 40 students and their teachers at MacFarland Junior School about the local environment and the advisory role of the Environmental Commission in the municipal planning process.

### **Stream Assessment**

The BCEC invited members of the Delaware Riverkeeper to come to town to assess the Thorntown Creek Greenway. The Riverkeeper offers free stream assessment to communities along the Delaware. As the BCEC continues to attempt to understand out local natural areas better, we decided to invite these experts to assist us, at no cost to the City. The results of their survey, with included assessments of the stream banks (erosion), stream beds (siltation), vegetation (native species) and overall health of the stream corridor, are due in September. Their report will be made public on the BCEC website and included as an appendix to the new Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) that the BCEC has recently completed (*see back page*).

## **OPEN SPACE RAMBLE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2005**

**10AM-12:30PM**

**Join us for a guided tour of some of Bordentown City's green places, including properties that have recently been preserved as open space within the City. Meet at Hilltop Park (end of Farnsworth Avenue) at 10am. Rambblers are invited to convene at a local eatery for lunch and discussion afterwards.**

# ERI Update

Members of the BCEC have been working on the completion of an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) of Bordentown City. This document, consisting of text and maps, will be used as a planning tool by City officials. Once adopted by the Bordentown City Planning Board, the ERI will be used as the basis for the Conservation Element of the City's Master Plan, which is currently being updated.

Some of the elements that will be included in the ERI include:

- topography
- geology
- soils
- climate
- air quality
- groundwater
- surface water
- vegetation
- wildlife
- transportation
- existing and use
- open space
- water supply
- wastewater
- regional relations
- development pressures

A public meeting was held in June to alert residents as to the progress of the ERI thus far. The document is expected to be completed by October 15. It will be available to City residents in a variety of formats. A hardcopy will be available at the Bordentown Library and City Hall. Also, residents will be able to pick up a CD-RoM version at City Hall. A draft version of the ERI, including several large scale maps, will be available for the public to examine at the BCEC table at the Cranberry Festival the weekend of October 1 & 2.



*Blacks Creek, looking south from Lime Kiln Alley*

**Stop by the BCEC table at the Cranberry Festival, Oct. 1 & 2**

## ***Bordentown City Bicycle-Pedestrian Study***

Bordentown City is currently undertaking, with funding from NJ DOT and the technical assistance of the consulting firm Parsons-Brinckerhoff, a study of bicycle and pedestrian conditions in the City. This study will consist of assessments of sidewalk conditions, safe routes to school, traffic calming, pedestrian crossings, bicycle parking and lanes, wayfinding signage, and gateways into the City. The initial stages of the study have included a public survey and a sidewalk inventory. Public meetings will be held this Fall in order to gather further input from City residents, and also to display (in text, photos and diagrams) the current status of the Study.

## ***Local Environmental Calendar***

### **October 5**

*Bordentown City Planning Board Meeting, City Hall, 7pm*

### **October 12**

*BCEC Monthly Meeting, Carslake Center, 7pm*

### **October 21**

*Environmental Congress, Assn. of NJ Environmental Commissions, Mercer County Comm. College*

### **November 2**

*Bordentown City Planning Board Meeting, City Hall, 7pm*

### **November 4**

*BCEC Special Event: Open Space Ramble, meet at Hilltop Park, 10am-Noon*

### **November 8**

*Ways of Indian Life: the Lenape at the Marsh. Dr. William Guthrie, Rider University. 6:30-8:30pm. Roebbling Park Nature Center. See [www.marsh-friends.org](http://www.marsh-friends.org)*

**To receive the quarterly BCEC Newsletter by email, send an email to [mail@bcec.us](mailto:mail@bcec.us)**