## 2003 Annual Report

differed comments to Planning Board at regular meet - VI-Infrastructure

### IV-Land Use Planning

- Participated in ongoing Bordentown City Master Plan review process. Offered input regarding environmental issues. Researched environmental zoning ordi - VII-Grants nances for potential future adoption.
- W orkshop sponsored by NJDOT. Received information



Trash removed from Thorntown Creek

regarding land use and transportation planning for nonmotorized transit as well as NUDOT Office of Bicycle & Pedestrian Program planning and technical assistance.

Participated in Blacks Creek Greenway efforts including liaising with Delaware & Raritan Greenway, PSE&G, and Delaware River Greenway and participating in planning meetings and site walks.

## V-Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

- Continued the process of Environmental Resource Inventory Bordentown City. Developed list of criteria for ERI, and completed several sections. (See attached for ERI Draft).
- Obtained Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software from NJDEP, to be employed as a planning tool for Environmental Resource Inventory and assistance with Master Plan review process.

Purchased two bicycle racks (one hitch for 2 bicycles and rolling rack for 4 bicycles). Racks will be placed in the downtown business district, to encourage environmentally-friendly bicycle/pedestrian activity in the City.

- Submitted proposal for a matching grant of Attended Bicycle Friendly Communities \$1000 to NJDEP Environmental Services Program for planning assistance with BCEC Environmental Resource Inventory.
  - Submitted (via BCEC member Celeste Tracy-Delaware River Greenway) and received grant from Delaware Estuary Program for \$15,000, for study of Blacks Creek Greenway. The study will include scoping of trail along Blacks Creek in Bordentown City and Township, including trail layout, signage, engineering and flora/fauna evaluation.

## VIII-Proposed 2004 Projects

- Stream Cleanups
- Installation of Bicycle Parking Racks
- Completion of Environmental Inventory
- Inauguration of Speaker's Series
- Stomwater Education and Outreach project
- Promotion of River Line light rail system and Delaware & Raritan Canal multi-use trail.

## **IX-Appendices**

1-BCEC 2003 Newsletters

2-Draft Environmental Resource Inventory



Members of the Environmental Commission and Planning Board look out from Bordentown Bluffs on Divine Word Field Trip.

## **Bordentown City Environmental Commission**

# **Annual Report 2003**





Volunteers after Cleanup of Thorntown Creek

#### **I-Administrative**

- 12 regular monthly public meetings Carslake Community Center.
- Continued membership in the Association of New Jersey Commissions Environmental (ANJEC).

### **II-Outreach & Education**

- Received input from, and concerns Bordentown City residents at regular monthly meetings and in phone/email correspondence.
- Organized a BCEC field trip the Bordentown Sewerage Authority. Received a four hour

informational tour, with presentations by BSA staff, including Executive Director Frank Hartmann.

- Participated in Divine Word Walk, which included a quided tour of grounds and environs.
- Attended three meetings Villa Victoria (February, Academy, Trenton; June, Trenton W ar Memorial; September, Stony Millstone Association) relating to impending NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Stormwater regulations.
  - Created/published

editions of quarterly 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 and posted on City Hall bulletin board. Newsletters were also distributed via e-mail to the BCEC database mailing list. (See attached for copies of newsletters)

Staffed Bordentown Cranberry Festival. Distributed environmental education material Created and presented educational exhibit regarding local environmental issues, including Light Rail, Delaware River Heritage Trail, and potential Greenways. Gathered names/addresses for database of volunteers. Conducted free raffle of Compost Bin at Street Fair and Cranberry Festival and distributed composting information at both events. Conducted free raffle of Rain Barrel at Street Fair and distributed water conservation information at Street Fair.

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BCEC member Harold Phillips greets passersby at the annual Cranberry Festival

- Participated in ongoing Delaware River Heritage Trail process. Offered input regarding environmental Ambassador regarding efforts in the local watershed. impact in Bordentown City segment of the Trail.
- Continued (www.bcec.us). Linked the web site to other environmental organizations. The web site contains BCEC newsletters, links to local organizations, and photos of BCEC events and topics of local interest.
- Organized first annual Earth Day Grocery Bags project in Bordentown area. Local elementary school students decorated ShopRite paper grocery bags with environmental slogans and artwork, which were then distributed at ShopRite to area parents and residents
- Participated in regional Crosswicks Creek/Doctor's Creek Greenway study. This project includes five municipalities in our region, including Hamilton, Allentown, North Hanover, Plumsted and Chesterfield. Provided information and evidence as to the importance of inclusion of Bordentown City (and Township) in this planning process.
- Communicated with residents through Letters to the Editor in the Register-News.
- Organized Crosswicks Creek Canoe Trip, highlighting importance of Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. The tour was led by Dr. Mary Leck of Rider University. Attendees included local municipal officials, BCEC members, members of Friends of the Marsh, and

interested residents

- Organized Storm Drain Stenciling project. BCEC members and volunteers stenciled (including Boy Scout Troop #13) approximately 40 storm drains in the City, and distributed approximately 300 door hangers outlining sources of nonpoint source pollution and methods for prevention. This project satisfies requirements for education component of upcoming DEP Stormwater Regulations. Coordinated publicity of the project in Register-News.
- Organized a presentation by Bob Erickson (Bordentown City DPW) on recycling policies for the City. Also, liaised with Burlington County Office of Recycling regarding efforts to increase local recycling rates, especially among local businesses.
- Attended ongoing Burlington County-sponsored Route 130/Route 206 Corridor visioning meetings.
- Liaised with local AmeriCorps Watershed
- Attended annual NJ Department of to update BCEC website Environmental Protection Historic Preservation confer-
  - Encouraged the participation of Bordentown City residents in the Stony Brook Watershed Association s Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, a subscription supported organic farm. This sustainable, locally grown produce program, with a weekly pick-up point in Bordentown City, is expected to expandits local membership in 2004.
  - Liaised with NU Transit regarding light rail service



"No Dumping, Drains to Waterway" Storm Drain Stencil

## 2003 Annual Report

on the River Line. Participated in creation of a safety video, with BCEC member portraying a commuter bicy-

- Organized a Stream Cleanup of Thorntown Creek. Approximately 30 volunteers participated, including Mayor Bill Collom, Public Works Director Bob Erickson and members of Boy Scout Troop #13. Removed several dozen bags of garbage, 40 discarded car tires, and miscellaneous refuse, all of which was removed by the Public Works Department. Outlined to participants local efforts to establish greenways in Bordentown City. Further Cleanups to be held in 2004.
- Attended Friends of the Marsh meetings to promote interests of Bordentown City in efforts to preserve and protect Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. Also, liaised with Delaware & Raritan Greenway and Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission regarding upcaming (2004) project to construct multiuse path along spur of Delaware & Raritan Canal extending from Bordentown City to the City of Trenton.
- Explored concept of Environmental Issues Speakers Series in Bordentown City. Series is expected to debut in 2004 (Topics: NJ Pinelands, Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, Bicycle/Pedestrian-Friendly
- Conducted Soils Survey Field trip, led by Rich



Removing tires from Thorntown Creek floodplain



Members of Scout Troop #13 clean up Thorntown Creek Shaw (BCEC member and Soil Science Ph.D.) Visited several sites in Bordentown City, identifying and examining various soil types.

- Supported the creation of Bordentown City Cats Inc., a non-profit organization employing the Trap-Neuter-Release strategy to deal with the issue of feral cats in Bordentown City.
- Purchased table-top display board for education/outreach efforts at local events
- 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 Township Open Space Committee, Bordentown Township Environmental Commission, Burlington County Rt. 130 Redevelopment Committee, Burlington County Office of Land Use Planning, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Delaware & Raritan Greenway, NJDEP (Green Acres and Land Use Planning divisions), NU Department of Transportation (NUDOT), NU Transit, Burlington County Soil Conservation District, various regional Environmental Commissions, and Public Service Electric & Gas.

#### **III-Site Plan Review**

- Conducted research and reviewed plans regarding proposed development by Real Property Development Corporation of 3 acre parcel of land on Oliver Street. Submitted two reports regarding environmental impact and liaised with NUDEP regarding permitting process.
- Reviewed numerous development proposals and