

Bordentown City Environmental Commission NEWSLETTER

Issue #14

www.bcec.us

Summer 2007

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 **Carlslake 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

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NEW PLANNING INITIATIVES WILL HELP PROTECT ENVIRONMENT IN BORDENTOWN CITY

Members of the Environmental Commission and Planning Board have been working over the last nine months on two planning documents that will help protect environmental resources in Bordentown City.



RiverLINE across Crosswicks Creek

The first initiative is the re-writing of the **Zoning Ordinances**, a process which has been ongoing for more than a year now. In addition to re-examining land use ordinances that have not changed since the 1980s, the new ordinances are being updated to reflect current “Smart Growth” planning practices, with an emphasis on environmental protection. They will help foster a mixed-use, pedestrian & transit-friendly center that can sustainably grow and prosper in the 21st century. Specific environmental components that have been added include steep slope protections, stream buffers, and limits on the removal of trees. Additional elements will encourage more density and diversity within the downtown core, capitalizing on the close proximity of the RiverLINE station to the downtown business district to create a vibrant live/work/shop & dine center. These ordinances will help shape future development within the City in a sustainable manner.

The second initiative is the creation of a **Conservation Element** for the Bordentown City Master Plan. This document sets out an overall vision for the community in terms of creating a community that is sustainable from an environmental and social perspective. Nine key goals for achieving a sustainable community are outlined, with recommendations for achieving these goals included. The issues covered thus far are far-ranging, from basic ideas such as creating trails and parks within the City and promoting the use of the RiverLINE, to more progressive concepts like encouraging “green” energy and building practices (like solar panels); using hybrid vehicles and bio-fuels in the municipal fleet; creating community gardens and fostering local food production; promoting eco/cultural tourism; and encouraging shared parking arrangements.

Public hearings on both of these initiatives will be held in the Fall. The consultants (who are funded by grants from the non-profit sector) that are working with the City on these initiatives will be on hand to lead presentations, explain concepts, and answer questions. Residents are strongly encouraged to attend, provide input, and play a role in this process!



Backyard vegetable garden on 1/8 acre lot

Upcoming Events

Earth Talk, June 26, 7:00 p.m.

The Pine Barrens: Up Close and Natural: A short natural history film about the New Jersey Pine Barrens, a 1-million acre wilderness, will be screened, followed by a discussion about the unique ecology of this area, including issues such as fire, water, endangered plants and animals, and habitat. The history of efforts to preserve the Pine Barrens, including current conservation efforts, will also be highlighted.

Free door prizes!. *Carlslake Community Center, 209 Crosswicks Street.*

LOCAL ECO-NEWS

Purchase of Crystal Lake Property in Mansfield will Benefit City Residents

Bordentown City residents will soon have the newest addition to the Burlington County Park System right next door! The County paid \$14.8 million for 380 acres of fields, upland forest, rolling hills, and 10-acre Crystal Lake. The property, once slated for 500+ homes and now the jewel of the County Park System, extends from Rt. 130 just south of the Mansfield/Bordentown Twp. border to Axe Factory Road in Mansfield. The property already contains miles of existing trails (which will be expanded) and will be an incredible recreational resource for walkers, hikers, bird-watchers and mountain-bike riders. The new park is the most significant addition of passive open space in the northern part of the county, and will eventually tie in with two other regional trail networks that are currently being planned: The County's Kinkora Rail Trail and the Delaware River Heritage Trail.



Fields and woods at new Burlington County parkland adjacent to Crystal Lake in Mansfield

Blacks Creek Greenway Update

Assembling the pieces of Lime Kiln Alley Park has been ongoing for a few years, and the key pieces are falling into place. This Spring, two of the lots with buildings on them were finally transferred to the City and the structures will be demolished. The PSE&G property has finally been transferred to the City, and the fence surrounding it will be removed this summer. The Delaware & Raritan Greenway is continuing negotiations with property owners

regarding the final lots between Lime Kiln Alley and the rail line. D&R have also committed funds from the William Penn Foundation for both acquisition as well as a landscape plan for the park. All acquisition funds will be obtained through a combination of matching grants from non-profit and government agencies.

Oliver Street Update

The 3.6 acre open space at the end of Oliver and West Chestnut Street that was purchased by the Delaware & Raritan Greenway is finally moving forward. The property will be transferred from the Greenway to the City this summer. A sign will be erected designating the property as preserved open space, and a chain will prevent vehicle access and deter dumping. The next step will be to create a landscape plan, which will outline where improvements will occur and design and location of interpretive signage, benches and a trail. This plan will be funded through a grant received by the D&R Greenway from the William Penn Foundation. In the meantime, BCEC planted another 40 white pine seedlings on the site, greening it up for Arbor Day.

Bordentown City Signs on to US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

Bordentown City became one of 500+ cities and towns across the United States to pledge to combat global warming through its planning and policy initiatives. The City acknowledges the threat posed by climate change to the health of people and the natural environment, and pledges to reduce the "carbon footprint" of municipal operations and encourage and assist residents to do the same. Read the resolution on the BCEC website homepage (www.bcec.us)

FEATURED WEBSITE

Crafts Creek Spring Hill Brook Watershed Association

Check out this new watershed group in Mansfield Township.

www.cc-shb.org

Environmental Calendar

Tuesday, June 26

Earth Talk Speaker Series

The Pine Barrens: Up Close and Natural Half-hour documentary about ecology of the NJ Pine Barrens, plus a short discussion of this treasure. 7pm, Carlslake Center.

Wednesday, July 4

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7pm

Wednesday, July 11

Bordentown City Environmental Commission
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7pm

Wednesday, August 1

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7pm

Wednesday, August 8

Bordentown City Environmental Commission
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7pm

Wednesday, September 5

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7pm

Wednesday, September 12

Bordentown City Environmental Commission
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7pm

Saturday/Sunday, October 6 & 7

Bordentown Cranberry Festival
Visit BCEC table for enviro updates; free drawing for a compost bin.

Wednesday, October 10

Bordentown City Environmental Commission
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7pm

Tuesday, October 23

Earth Talk Speaker Series

Film: Turning the Tide Half-hour documentary showcases the hidden beauty of the tidal areas in the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh and NJ Meadowlands, plus discussion. Carlslake Center, 7 pm.