

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

NEWSLETTER

Issue #18

www.bcec.us

Summer 2008

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, 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

Email:
bcec@mail.com
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D&R CANAL TOWPATH BACK ON TRACK!

Work by NJDEP on the D&R Canal towpath is back on track! This trail, part of the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park, will extend approximately 3.5 miles from Lambertson Road in Trenton to Bordentown City (via the RiverLINE pedestrian bridge). The towpath will be part of the 50-mile Delaware River Heritage Trail, extending from Trenton to the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge, across the Delaware River, and back up to Morrisville, PA. (For more information on the Delaware River Heritage Trail, please see "Local Info" section on the BCEC website www.bcec.us)

After the original contractor pulled out of the project in 2006 (citing high gas prices!), the job was re-bid by the State in early 2007, and work finally resumed in the spring of 2008. Regular RiverLINE riders can observe the current progress of work (including lots of heavy equipment on the towpath) across the canal from the rail line. The towpath itself is being cleared of vegetation, graded, and surfaced this summer. It will be publicly accessible via the RiverLINE pedestrian bridge across Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown City, and another bridge to be constructed across the canal by the remains of Lock #1 to the towpath trailhead. The towpath will also be accessible via the I-295 scenic overlook parking area.

Improvements to the towpath will include interpretive signage, benches, and a picnic area.

It is hoped that work on this project will be completed by Fall 2008. The towpath will allow City residents easy access to walking, running, bicycling, birdwatching, cross-country skiing, environmental education programs and other outdoor activities within the 1,200-acre Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, the largest, northernmost freshwater tidal marsh (which also includes nontidal marshland, forested swamp and upland and second-growth forest) along the Delaware River. The Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh is home to an astonishing 550 species of plants, more than 230 species of birds, and many mammals, amphibians and reptiles, including many rare and endangered species.



Construction of towpath, with D&R Canal to the right, near remains of Lock #1



RiverLINE train passes new towpath near Lambertson Road, Duck Island, Hamilton Township

Upcoming Events/Ongoing Programs

Lime Kiln Trail Building - Saturday, July 26, 9:30 a.m.

Join us as we extend the trail network with a new loop trail along Blacks Creek. Bring a shovel or rake, pruning shears and gloves. Dress for the weather. Meet at the corner of Willow and Walnut Streets.

Cranberry Festival - Saturday/Sunday, October 4 & 5, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Stop by the BCEC table for up to date information about local environmental issues and events. Also, enter our free raffle for a compost bin and other green prizes.

Change A Light Pledge and NJ Clean Power Choice Program - see BCEC homepage for details

LOCAL ECO-NEWS

Land Development Ordinance Update

The Planning Board will be holding a special meeting on July 15 to discuss the proposed waterfront commercial district with the Citizen's Advisory Committee. Another special meeting on July 28 will cover proposed environmental sections. Meetings are at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. Future meeting dates/locations/topics will be announced. Meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

Home Depot Will Recycle CFLs Bulbs

From Consumer Reports:

Home Depot has started a national program to help people recycle compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) at all of its 1,973 U.S. stores. The new program in the United States is the first one made widely available by a retailer.

Customers can bring in any expired, unbroken compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, and give them to a store associate at the returns desk. The bulbs will be turned over to an environmental management company for recycling.

Home Depot has done something other major retailers and government at many levels throughout the country have not been able to implement. The home-improvement retailing behemoth has started a free collecting/recycling program for compact fluorescent light-bulbs, or CFLs, at its 1,973 U.S. stores; a similar program at Canadian stores started last fall.

The move by Home Depot comes at a time when more Americans are installing these bulbs that use about 75 percent less energy to produce the same amount of light as standard incandescent lightbulbs. In 2007, Home Depot stores in this country sold 75 million CFLs; Wal-Mart, 137 million.

Those energy savings don't come without a cost: CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury. The presence of mercury raises several issues, including the recycling and the handling of broken bulbs.

To recycle CFLs at a Home Depot, you bring spent, unbroken bulbs to the store's returns desk. (Starting in September the stores will have special receptacles on-site for the bulbs.) There's no fee, and the stores will accept any CFLs, even those you didn't buy from a Home Depot. The CFLs will be shipped to a recycling company, which will break down and recycle the bulbs and properly deal with the mercury. **To receive**

a **FREE CFL** from BCEC, just sign the **Change A Light Pledge** at www.njcleanenergy.com or www.bcec.us homepage.

Lime Kiln Trail Building Project

More than 30 residents came out this Spring to help create a trail along Blacks Creek in Bordentown City. The Lime Kiln Alley Trail wanders through down Federal Street to Blacks Creek, and then meanders along the Creek (with a side trail), back uphill to the gravel driveway from Walnut Street. Walkers will note various things along the way: songbirds and waterfowl; various native wildflowers, shrubs and trees; several bird boxes contributed by the Bordentown City Shade Tree Committee; and the tidal movements of Blacks Creek.



Volunteers spread wood chips along new Lime Kiln Trail in May

Future improvements will include signage, benches, more bird boxes, and invasive species removal/native plantings. Look for more trailbuilding programs later this year, including July 26 program (*see Upcoming Events on cover*).

GreenWave Paddling Association Launches in Bordentown

Bordentown-based GreenWave Paddling Association is a unique membership club aimed at providing new, beginner, and experienced kayakers with professional instruction and guidance in an environmentally-oriented fashion. GreenWave's mission is to provide safe, fun, and professional paddling experiences in an environmentally-conscious manner. See www.greenwavepaddling.com for more information.

The regular August BCEC meeting (Aug. 13) has been cancelled. Have a great summer, and get outdoors!

Environmental Calendar

Tuesday, July 15

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7p.m. Land Development Ordinance discussion

Saturday, July 26

Lime Kiln Trail Building

Volunteers needed to help extend the trail network. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at corner of Willow and Walnut Streets. Bring a shovel or rake, pruning shears and gloves.

Monday, July 28

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7p.m. Land Development Ordinance discussion

Wednesday, August 6

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7p.m. Regular meeting.

Wednesday, August 13

Bordentown City Environmental Commission CANCELLED

Wednesday, September 3

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7p.m. Regular meeting.

Wednesday, September 10

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

Carslake Community Ctr., 7p.m

Wednesday, October 1

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7p.m. regular meeting.

Saturday/Sunday, October 4 & 5
Cranberry Festival

Check out the BCEC table for local environmental information and free raffle.

Wednesday, October 8

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

Carslake Community Ctr., 7p.m

Tuesday, October 28

Earth Talk

Topic: To be announced. Carslake Community Center, 7 p.m.

Sign up for green energy from the NJ Clean Power Choice program at www.njcleanenergy.com