

2005 Annual Report

V-Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

- Finished the process of creating an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) for Bordentown City. Conducted a public meeting in June 2005. Presented final draft to Planning Board at December 2005 meeting. ERI is expected to be submitted for adoption in January 2006, and be used as the basis for the Conservation Element of the Master Plan later in the year.

VI-Infrastructure

- Installed five DogiPot pet waste disposal units throughout the City (Bordentown Beach, Hilltop Park, Second Street Park, Farnsworth Avenue, Post Office), plus four pet waste advisory signs, as part of NJDEP Stormwater Management requirements.



ERI Public Meeting at the Carlslake Center

- Purchased water quality testing equipment (pH, nitrates/nitrites, phosphates, electrical conductance, dissolved oxygen), with the goal of establishing regular assessments of the water quality in local waterways.
- Purchased a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, to be used to accurately map existing environmental features within the City.
- Purchased 52 additional "How to Keep Bordentown City Green" T-shirts in assorted sizes.
- Purchased 60 aluminum storm drain markers.

VII-Grants

- Expended 2004 NJDEP grant money on printing of ERI and Special Places brochure, and purchase of GPS unit.
- Assisted Delaware Riverkeeper Network with grant application to NJ Fish & Wildlife Landowner Incentive Program for funding of endangered plant and animal habitat restoration along lower reach of Thorntown Creek. Funding in the amount of \$2000-5000 is expected. No City matching are funds required. BCEC will assist in coordination of volunteer and outreach efforts.

VIII-Proposed 2006 Projects

- 1- Earth Day Stream Cleanup
- 2- Street Fair and Cranberry Festival tables
- 3- Eco-Tours of proposed open space and trails (Blacks Creek and Thorntown Creek)
- 4- Installation of benches and additional pet waste stations.

Appendix

- 1- Press clippings
- 2- 2005 BCEC newsletters
- 3- *Special Places of Bordentown City* brochure

Many thanks to the Public Works Department, Mayor Collom, Commissioner Wehrman, Commissioner Lynch, Sam Surtees and Jennifer Ficarota for their support and assistance. Thanks also to all of the residents who came out and visited our exhibits, hiked around town on our rambles, got wet and dirty on the cleanup, and helped make Bordentown City a "greener" place in 2005!



Industry, the RiverLINE eagle, visited in summer/fall of 2005

BORDENTOWN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



Open Space Ramblers checking out Oliver Street property

I-Administrative

- Continued membership in the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).
- Conducted eleven regular monthly meetings at Carlslake Community Center (one canceled).

II-Outreach & Education

- Received input from, and addressed concerns of, Bordentown City residents at regular monthly meetings.
- Communicated with residents via regular monthly BCEC meetings; email inquiries to BCEC; email alerts to BCEC resident database; and articles

and letters to the editor in the Register-News regarding pertinent local issues and public meetings. (*see Appendix*)

- Created/published two editions of 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, posted on City Hall bulletin board, and distributed to several local businesses. Newsletters were also distributed via e-mail to BCEC mailing list. (*See Appendix*)
- Staffed table at the Bordentown Street Fair & Cranberry Festival. Distributed environmental education

material. Created and presented educational exhibit regarding local environmental issues, including the Bordentown City Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, Bordentown City Open Space Plan, Bordentown City Stormwater Management Plan, and other local issues. Gathered names/addresses for database of volunteers. Conducted free raffle of two Compost Bins and distributed composting information at both events.

- Maintained BCEC website (www.bcec.us). Linked 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.

- Participated in ongoing Crosswicks Creek/Doctor's Creek Greenway regional study. This project includes five municipalities in our region, including Hamilton, Allentown, North Hanover, Plumsted and Chesterfield. Provided information and evidence as to importance of inclusion of Bordentown City in this process.

- Produced a *Special Places of Bordentown City* brochure. Funding for 400 copies provided by NJDEP matching grant. Distributed to residents at various events and business locations. (*see Appendix*)

2005 Annual Report

- Responded to residents' inquiries regarding road noise from I-295. Initiated letter of inquiry to NJ DOT.
- Distributed BCEC "Top Ten Ways to Keep Bordentown City Green" T-shirts to 45 people.
- Attended ongoing Burlington County Route 206 Corridor Study meetings.



BCEC table at 2005 Street Fair

- Participated in ongoing State Plan Cross-Acceptance process via Burlington County oversight.
- Encouraged participation of residents in Stony Brook Watershed Association's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, a subscription-supported organic farm which has a drop-off site in Bordentown City. BCEC member Joe Horvath is hosting the drop-off site.
- Attended Friends of the Marsh meetings to promote interests of Bordentown City in efforts to promote and protect the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. Also, liaised with Delaware & Raritan Greenway and Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission regarding upcoming project to construct multi-use canal path extending from Bordentown City to Trenton.
- Conducted a presentation to Bordentown Boy Scout Troop #13. Outlined role of the BCEC and discussed local environmental issues to Scouts and parents at their annual Court of Honor meeting.
- Conducted a presentation to 7th grade classes at McFarland Junior School. Outlined role of BCEC and discussed local environmental issues.

- Invited Delaware Riverkeeper Network staff to perform a free assessment of Thorntown Creek, including plant and animal communities, stream conditions, potential trail locations, and homeowner stewardship recommendations. This site visit generated a *Thorntown Creek Riparian Open Space Assessment and Recommendation Report*.

- Organized "Eagle has Landed" presentation by Burlington County Office of Historic and Cultural Resources. Coordinated effort to place eagle statue at RiverLINE station, highlighting light rail, bald eagle habitat, and downtown business district.

- Submitted resolution opposing Fast Track permit legislation, which would negatively impact municipalities such as Bordentown City that are classified "Planning Area 1" designation.

- Conducted Stormwater Management Educational Forum (March), as required by NJDEP regulations. Presented a powerpoint presentation and distributed educational information.

- Conducted an Earth Day Stream Cleanup of Thorntown Creek (April), between Elizabeth Street and railroad tracks. Approximately 20 volunteers participated. Collected dozens of bags of garbage and miscellaneous refuse, which was removed by Public Works Department.

- Conducted Thorntown Creek Greenway Ramble (April). Approximately 20 people were provided with an ecological and historical overview of the 1 mile stretch of creek in Bordentown City, from Rt. 206 to Crosswicks Creek.



Delaware Riverkeeper staff assessing Thorntown Creek stream corridor

- Liaised with Burlington County Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling regarding increasing local recycling efforts.

2005 Annual Report

- Conducted an Open Space Ramble (October), highlighting several recent and proposed open space acquisitions, including Oliver Street/Real Property, Lime Kiln Alley, as well as Railroad Avenue Promenade. Distributed *Special Places of Bordentown City* brochure/map and BCEC t-shirts to attendees.

- Supported ongoing efforts of Bordentown City Cats, Inc.

- Assisted Bordentown Boy Scout Troop #13 with Environmental Science merit badge requirements and oversight.

- BCEC member Celeste Tracy attended the Annual Association of NJ Environmental Commission Congress.

- Conducted an Historic/Environmental Bicycle tour of Bordentown City for winners of ANJEC silent auction fundraiser.



Earth Day Stream Cleanup of Thorntown Creek

- Distributed "Pesticide Free" lawn signs to residents.
- 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 City Cats, Bordentown Township Open Space Committee, Bordentown Township Environmental Commission, Burlington County Rt. 206 Corridor Study, Burlington County Office of Land Use Planning, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Delaware & Raritan Greenway, NJ-DEP (Green Acres and Land Use Planning Divisions), NJ Department of Transportation, Burlington County Soil Conservation District, Divine Word Missionaries, and various regional Environmental Commissions.



Thorntown Creek Ramble

III-Site Plan Review

- Conducted site walks on several properties relating to development applications.
- Reviewed numerous development proposals and offered comments to Planning Board at regular meetings.
- Submitted requests to NJDEP to revisit wetlands buffer requirements for Third Street (Singer) and Oliver Street (Otavi and Illuminate) properties. Assisted NJDEP with on-site inspection of Thorntown Creek wetlands adjacent to proposed sub-division.

IV-Land Use Planning

- Participated in ongoing Bordentown City Master Plan review process. Offered input regarding environmental issues. Researched environmental zoning ordinances.
- Participated in Open Space Plan subcommittee.
- Participated in Bordentown City Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan subcommittee.
- Participated in Master Plan Utilities Element subcommittee.
- Participated in Blacks Creek Greenway efforts, including liaising with Bordentown Township Open Space Committee, Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Delaware River Greenway Partnership, and participated in various planning meetings and site walks.
- Assisted Delaware & Raritan Greenway with open space acquisitions on Oliver Street and Lime Kiln Alley areas.
- Participated in Zoning Ordinance Review subcommittee.