

2006 Annual Report

V-Infrastructure

- Purchased 60 storm drain markers (installation 2007)
- Purchased 20 boxes of dog waste dispenser refill bags
- Purchased 3 hoop-style bicycle parking racks, for installation in locations recommended by Bicycle/Pedestrian Circulation Study.



"Visioning Process" helped focus BCEC efforts and set long-term goals

VI-Grants

- Assisted Delaware Riverkeeper Network with application for \$5,000.00 grant from NJ Fish & Wildlife Landowner Incentive Program for endangered plant and animal habitat restoration along lower reach of Thorntown Creek in 2007. Grant received in August 2006. No City matching are funds required. BCEC will assist in coordination of volunteer and outreach efforts.
- Applied for \$12,000 NJ Recreational Trails grant for trail development along Thorntown Creek between Gilder Field and Elizabeth Street. Grant will fund trail building, interpretive signage, benches, and security fencing. City match is in-kind services. Grant work may be completed in 3 years.

VII-Proposed 2007 Projects

- 1- Earth Day Stream Cleanup
- 2- Street Fair and Cranberry Festival tables
- 3- Eco-Tours of proposed open space and trails (Blacks Creek, Thorntown Creek, D&R Canal Towpath)
- 4- Installation of storm drain markers and bicycle racks
- 5- Thorntown Trail development
- 6- *Earth Talk* Speakers Series
- 7- Water Treatment facility tour

Appendix

- 1- Press clippings
- 2- 2006 BCEC newsletters
- 3- Photo gallery

Many thanks to the Public Works Department, Mayor Collom, Commissioner Wehrman, Commissioner Lynch, Sam Surtees and Jennifer Ficarrota 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 2006!



Water quality testing on Blacks Creek

BORDENTOWN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

www.bcec.us

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



Volunteers planted tree seedlings on newly acquired Oliver Street parkland

I-Administrative

- Continued membership in the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).
- Conducted eleven regular monthly meetings at Carslake Community Center (August 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 4 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 exhibit 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 Conservation Element, 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. 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. The website receives approximately 100 hits/month.
- 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.
- Conducted a "visioning process", which produced a long-range plan for BCEC projects and activities. Top, Medium and Low tier priorities were identified, and subcommittees were created for high priority issues, including Outreach, Parks/Trails and Recycling.

- Responded to residents' inquiries regarding various issues and concerns.
- Distributed 25 BCEC "Top Ten Ways to Keep Bordentown City Green" T-shirts.
- Distributed 100 copies of "Special Places of Bordentown City" brochure.
- Distributed 100 dog waste bag leash dispensers



Removing purple loosestrife at Bordentown Beach

- Attended ongoing Burlington County Route 206 Corridor Study meetings.
- Participated in ongoing State Plan Cross-Acceptance process via Burlington County oversight.
- 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.
- Initiated request to NJDOT for landscaping enhancement for Bordentown City. Coordinated request with Bordentown City Shade Tree Committee for approximately \$27,000 worth of diseased tree removal and new plantings at Gilder Field, including the planting of 36 three-inch caliper trees in Spring 2006.
- Maintained 5 pet waste bag dispensers at various City locations. Ordered additional bags for 2007.

Public Events

- Conducted an **Earth Day Stream Cleanup** (April) of Thorntown Creek, between Elizabeth Street and railroad tracks. Collected dozens of bags of garbage and over 1000

pounds of miscellaneous refuse, which was removed by Public Works Department.

- Conducted an **Open Space Tree Planting** (May) of 150 tree seedlings as part of the reforestation of newly acquired open space on Oliver Street. Trees were obtained at no cost through grant from NJ Tree Foundation.
- Conducted a **Storm Drain Labeling** (May) project, affixing 50 storm drain medallions ("No Dumping, Drains to Creek"). Another 60 medallions will be installed in 2007.
- Conducted an **Invasive Plant Species Removal** (June) project, with volunteers removing non-native vegetation (purple loosestrife) from area along Blacks Creek at Bordentown Beach. Also, coordinated similar effort in Bordentown Township with Twp. Environmental Commission on same day.
- Conducted a **Native Plant Restoration** (September) project, planting over 60 native wetlands plants (alders, dogwoods) along Blacks Creek at Bordentown Beach.
- 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 to attendees.
- Held inaugural **Earth Talk** (November), a periodic speakers series on environmental issues. The first *Earth Talk* topic was "Get to Know Your Local Environment", a photographic tour of Bordentown City's natural areas, plants and wildlife.
- Held a public meeting on residential and commercial recycling in Bordentown City (November). Liaised with Burlington County Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling Office regarding increasing local recycling efforts.



Volunteers clean up Thorntown Creek

- Supported ongoing efforts of Bordentown City Cats.
- Assisted Bordentown Boy Scout Troop #13 with Environmental Science merit badge requirements.
- Organized tour of Bordentown Sewerage Treatment facility.
- Coordinated within Friends of the Marsh to conduct an historic/nature tour of Point Breeze property (December).
- BCEC Chair made presentation on "Environmental Commissions Speaking Out" seminar at annual ANJEC Environmental Congress.
- BCEC member attended 2-day Leadership Training by Association of NJ Environmental Commission Congress.
- Conducted stream monitoring of local waterways, including Blacks Creek, Thorntown Creek and Love Bridge Run. Testing included pH, electrical conductance, dissolved oxygen, phosphates, and nitrates/nitrites. This is expected to be an ongoing monitoring effort, with results shared with regional environmental agencies. (see Appendix)



Tour of the Bordentown Sewerage Treatment facility

- Conducted an Historic/Environmental Bicycle tour of Bordentown City for winners of ANJEC silent auction fundraiser.
- Liaised with the following local and regional organizations on behalf of issues relating to Bordentown City: Bordentown Historical Society, Bordentown City Shade Tree Committee, Downtown Bordentown Association, Bordentown City Cats, Bordentown Township Environmental Commission, Burlington County Rt. 206 Corridor Study, Burlington County Office of Land Use Planning, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission,



Volunteers installed 60 storm drain markers

Delaware & Raritan Greenway, NJ DEP, NJ DOT, Burlington County Soil Conservation District, Divine Word Missionaries, and various Environmental Commissions.

III-Site Plan Review

- Reviewed numerous development proposals and offered comments to Planning Board at regular meetings.
- Requested review of Storage Depot's soil erosion control measures and retention basin construction by Burlington County Soil Conservation District and Remington & Vernick.

IV-Land Use Planning

- Participated in ongoing Bordentown City Master Plan review process. Offered input regarding environmental issues. Researched environmental zoning ordinances.
- Participated in conclusion of Bicycle/Pedestrian Circulation Study process.
- Participated in Conservation Element subcommittee. Created Residents Survey for public input process.
- Participated in Zoning Ordinance Review subcommittee. Proposed "Visual Design Code" and took 200 digital photos of Bordentown City streetscape for this purpose.
- 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.