

Bordentown City Environmental Commission NEWSLETTER

Issue #15

www.bcec.us

Fall 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

Email:
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LIME KILN ALLEY PARK TAKES SHAPE

Bordentown City has been aggressively pursuing open space preservation along Blacks Creek for a few years now, and the key pieces of Lime Kiln Alley Park are finally falling into place. This passive recreation area will provide City residents access to a beautiful natural setting along Blacks Creek, an excellent place for birdwatching, launching a canoe, or reading a book. Planned improvements include benches, a walking trail, and interpretive signage.



Looking upstream on Blacks Creek from
Lime Kiln Alley Park

This summer two of the lots with buildings on them were officially transferred to the City, and the structures (a 2-story house and a unweatherized cabin) will be demolished in the Fall. The adjacent PSE&G property was also transferred to the City this summer. The fence that currently divides the two sections of this property will be removed in November, allowing greater access to the meadow area.

The Delaware & Raritan Greenway is continuing negotiations with property owners regarding the final parcels between Lime Kiln Alley and the RiverLINE bridge. 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 have been obtained through a combination of matching grants from non-profit and government agencies.

For an overview and detailed map on this and other open space acquisitions and trails development efforts in Bordentown City, check out the “Bordentown City Open Space and Trails Update” at the bottom of the BCEC homepage (www.bcec.us)

Upcoming Events

Annual Open Space Ramble, Saturday, October 20, 10:00 a.m.

Join us as we ramble around the City’s various parks and proposed open spaces. Get updates on recent exciting news! Cool air and fall foliage make this a yearly favorite. *Meet at City Hall, 324 Farnsworth Avenue.*

Earth Talk: Turning the Tide, Tuesday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.

Half-hour documentary showcases the hidden beauty of the tidal areas in the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh and NJ Meadowlands, plus discussion. Guest speaker: Dr. Mary Leck, Friends for the Marsh.
Free door prizes!. Carlslake Community Center, 209 Crosswicks St.

Thorntown Creek Trail Building Day, Saturday, November 3, 9:00 a.m.

Help create the first nature trail in Bordentown City! Bring gloves, rake, pruning shears or hedge clipper.
Meet at trailhead on Elizabeth Street (between Ocean Spray driveway and Lafayette Street)

Earth Talk: The End of Suburbia, Tuesday, November 27, 7:00 p.m.

Powerful, provocative and humorous 75-minute film about the history of suburban sprawl, ways to fix it, and the challenges ahead as we reach “peak oil”. Discussion follows. *Free door prizes. Carlslake Center, 209 Crosswicks St.*

Walk at Point Breeze, Saturday, December 1, 10:00 a.m.

Site of Joseph Bonaparte’s home. Divine Word Missionaries, 101 Park Street – with Richard Veit, the Monmouth University archaeologist who supervised the recent dig exploring for the foundations of Bonaparte’s first mansion. (Co-sponsors: BCEC, Washington Crossing Audubon, D & R Greenway Land Trust)

LOCAL ECO-NEWS

CFLs Get the “Green” Light at the Clare Estates

The Clare Estates on Crosswicks Street has recently embarked on a “greening” project that will make their facility more environmentally and economically sustainable in the future. The project seeks to replace their standard fluorescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) wherever possible, an easy way to reduce energy and save money:

*ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs use about **75 percent less energy** than standard incandescent bulbs and **last up to 10 times longer**.

* **Save about \$30** or more in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime.

* Produce about **75 percent less heat**, so they're safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

CFLs are available in different sizes and shapes to fit in almost any fixture, for indoors and outdoors, and are now widely available. Well done to the Clare Estates for working to reduce their carbon footprint!

Air Quality: What's That Smell?

City residents encountered an acrid smell during several days in early May and early August. It seemed as though everyone had decided to light their charcoal BBQs at the same time, and folks were concerned about the origin and the health impact. In reality, the smoky air was caused by forest fires in the Pine Barrens, combined with a southerly wind coming from off-shore. The fire in May lasted a week, burning more than 18,000 acres. The August fire lasted only a day, charring about 3,000 acres. While the haze was irritating and confusing, the health impacts for residents were negligible.

Air Quality: (Not) Blowin' in the Wind

Local air quality in Bordentown City is greatly impacted by its location in the urban expanse of the Northeastern corridor of the United States, resulting in elevated asthma rates, bronchial infections and emergency room visits. Local contributing factors include proximity to several major roads (automobile exhaust), pollutants

from midwestern coal-fired power plants, and diesel exhaust from idling trucks at the Petro Truck Stop. However, the recent installation of 92 IdleAire electrification systems at the Petro facility will enable truck drivers to enjoy amenities that are otherwise available only by continuously operating a vehicle's engine and releasing harmful diesel fumes. The system delivers heating, ventilation, and air conditioning to the truck cab and sleeper compartment via a console that is mounted on the cab's passenger window, eliminating the need for harmful and wasteful idling. The program, funded by federal grants, is expected to reduce the amount of dangerous soot in the local air by 20 tons per week, enabling City residents to breathe a bit easier.



New bicycle parking rack at corner of Farnsworth Avenue and Walnut Street

New Bicycle Parking Racks Installed

New bicycle parking racks are being installed in Bordentown City: at the corner of Farnsworth Avenue and Walnut Street; at Gilder Field; and at a local park. Increased bicycle parking is recommended in the recently completed Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. Residents and visitors alike are encouraged to leave their cars in the driveway and walk or ride a bicycle to destinations within the City.

FEATURED WEBSITE

**Crosswicks Creek/Doctors
Creek Greenway Group**
www.ccdgreenway.org

Environmental Calendar

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 Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh and NJ Meadowlands. Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Leck, Friends for the Marsh. Carlslake Center, 7 pm.

Saturday, November 3
Thorntown Creek Trail Day

Help build a new nature trail in Bordentown City! 9:00 am/ meet at Elizabeth Street (between Ocean Spray and Lafayette St.)

Wednesday, November 7
Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7pm

Wednesday, November 14
Bordentown City Environmental Commission

Carlslake Community Ctr., 7pm

Tuesday, November 27
Earth Talk Speaker Series

Film: *The End of Suburbia* Provocative 75-minute film about the history of suburban sprawl and challenges ahead as we reach “peak oil”. Discussion follows. Carlslake Center, 7 pm.

Saturday, December 1
Point Breeze Walk Site of Joseph Bonaparte's home. Divine Word Missionaries, 101 Park St., 10 am.

Wednesday, December 12
Bordentown City Environmental Commission

Carlslake Community Ctr., 7pm