

# Bordentown City Environmental Commission NEWSLETTER

Issue #9

Spring 2006

## 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** 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

**Web:**  
www.bcec.us

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## SPRING IS HERE! GREEN IT UP!

*Some tips for "greening" up your spring...*

**Limit use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides:** natural alternatives (such as greensand and corn gluten meal) are widely available, and are safer for people and wildlife. See [www.planetnatural.com](http://www.planetnatural.com) or your local garden center.

**Compost:** start a compost pile or buy a compost bin. It's a great way to recycle kitchen scraps and yard waste, and enrich your garden at the same time. See [www.compostguide.com](http://www.compostguide.com) or call the Burlington County Office of Solid Waste to order one for \$40 (609-499-1001 x271)

**Plant natives:** plants and trees that are native to this region require minimal watering and feeding, are pest-resistant and contribute to wildlife habitat, and prevent invasive (non-native) species from taking over. See the *Native Plant Society of NJ* website ([www.npsnj.org](http://www.npsnj.org)) for tips and a directory of sources for purchasing native plants.

**Create a backyard wildlife habitat:** provide wildlife with the basic elements needed for survival: food, water, cover and places to raise young, along with sustainable gardening practices. Visit the National Wildlife Foundation website to learn more: [www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/](http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/)

**Join a CSA Farm:** community-supported agriculture farms offer "subscriptions" to an entire season's worth of locally grown, often organic produce. Honeybrook Organic Farm makes weekly deliveries to Bordentown City. See [www.honeybrookorganicfarm.com](http://www.honeybrookorganicfarm.com) for details.

## Spring Enviro Events!

### 4th Annual Earth Day Cleanup, Saturday, April 22

We will continue our efforts to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the **Thorntown Creek** stream corridor in Bordentown City. Invite your friends to come help clean up the City and learn about the local environment! **Meet at the baseball field at the corner of Spring and Ann Streets at 9am.** Bring sturdy shoes and work gloves. Garbage bags will be provided.

### Arbor Day Tree Planting, Saturday, April 29

The Shade Tree Committee needs volunteers to help plant shade trees in the City. **Meet at City Hall at 9am.** Bring a shovel if you have one.

### Oliver Street Open Space Tree Planting, Saturday, May 6

Come help us plant 150 tree seedlings as part of the reforestation of this new parkland in Bordentown City. **Meet at the corner of Oliver Street and Chestnut Street at 9am.** Bring a shovel or trowel.

### Storm Drain Labeling, Saturday, May 13

The BCEC needs **6 volunteers** to help affix new storm drain medallions across Bordentown City. **Please RSVP to bcec@mail.com if you wish to participate.**

### Bordentown City Street Fair, May 20 & 21

Stop by the BCEC table. **Win a FREE compost bin.** Find out about all of the projects currently going on in the City, and how you can help make them happen.

## LOCAL ECO-NEWS

### Stream Monitoring Project

The BCEC teamed up with the Watershed Area #20 Ambassador and members of the Bordentown Boy Scout Troop #13 to perform a stream monitoring project in Bordentown City. Visual and chemical assessments were performed on Blacks Creek, Thorntown Creek, and Love Bridge Run. Water was tested for nitrates and phosphates, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. Results will be published on the BCEC website later this year.



Testing the water in Blacks Creek

### Tree Planting at Gilder Field

The BCEC and the Bordentown Shade Tree Committee (BSTC) joined forces recently to secure \$27,000 worth of free trees and tree removal services from the NJ Department of Transportation. The BCEC approached the DOT Good Neighbor Landscaping program regarding its work along Rt. 206 and Rt. 130 in Bordentown Twp. An agreement was reached to provide additional services, at no cost, to the City. The BSTC then devised a maintenance and planting plan for Gilder Field, which included the removal of several diseased trees and the planting of thirty-six (36) new 3-inch caliper trees, including elms, sycamores, black locusts and red maples. DOT will provide a 1-year maintenance guarantee of their work. This project will dramatically enhance the area around Carlslake Community Center, the adjacent playground, and the Gilder Field bleachers and parking lot. Thanks very much to George Caruso at DOT for making this happen. Stop by this spring and see how green it is!

### Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

CD-ROMs containing the ERI in PDF format will be available at City Hall on May 15.

### Bicycle & Pedestrian Circulation Plan

The Bordentown City Bicycle & Pedestrian Circulation Plan was presented to the Planning Board and the public at the Planning Board meeting on March 1. Comments were generally favorable, with several residents praising the proposed new Bordentown City logo, and others noting the increased pedestrian safety that will result from sidewalk and intersection improvements. Concerns about the potential loss of some parking spaces and the ability of trucks to negotiate corners were also mentioned. The Study will incorporate these comments and be presented to the Planning Board for adoption in May.



Residents discuss Bike/Ped Plan with consultants

### Delaware & Raritan Canal Towpath links to Bordentown City

The section of the old Delaware & Raritan Canal towpath that extended from Lock#2 in Trenton (near Lambertson Road) to Lock # 1 (across Crosswicks Creek from the Bordentown Yacht Club) will soon be reconstructed. This project will create a 3+ mile off-road walking and biking path through the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, with additional segments eventually extending the trail from Waterfront Park in Trenton all the way to Bordentown City. Residents will be able to access the trail via the RiverLINE pedestrian bridge across Crosswicks Creek. Construction began in March, and should be completed by Fall.

## Environmental Calendar

Wednesday, April 12  
*Bordentown City*  
*Environmental Commission*  
Carlslake Comm. Center, 7pm

Saturday, April 22  
*Earth Day Cleanup*  
9am (see front page for details)

Saturday, April 29  
*Arbor Day Tree Planting*  
9am (see front page for details)

Wednesday, May 3  
*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7pm

Saturday, May 6  
*Oliver Street Open Space*  
*Tree Planting*  
9am, Oliver & Chestnut Streets  
(see front page for details)

Wednesday, May 10  
*Bordentown City*  
*Environmental Commission*  
Carlslake Comm. Center, 7pm

Saturday, May 13  
*Storm Drain Labeling*  
(see front page for details)

Sat./Sun., May 20 & 21  
*Bordentown Street Fair*  
(see front page for details)

Wednesday, June 7  
*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7pm

Wednesday, June 14  
*Bordentown City*  
*Environmental Commission*  
Carlslake Comm. Center, 7pm

Wednesday, July 12  
*Bordentown City*  
*Environmental Commission*  
Carlslake Comm. Center, 7pm

Wednesday, August 9  
*Bordentown City*  
*Environmental Commission*  
Carlslake Comm. Center, 7pm

### **FREE "BAGS ON BOARD": CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG!**

The BCEC has received 100 free "Bags on Board" pet waste bag dispensers through the generous donation of the manufacturer. These nifty little items clip to your dog's leash, and contain 20 biodegradable bags to be used for cleaning up after Rover. **To request one of these for your dog, email [bcec@mail.com](mailto:bcec@mail.com).** Minimizing pet waste in Bordentown City helps keep our streets and streams clean, and is part of the requirements of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's new Stormwater Management rules. For more information or to order, check out [www.bagsonboard.com](http://www.bagsonboard.com)

To receive the BCEC Newsletter by email, send a request to [bcec@mail.com](mailto:bcec@mail.com)