



# Environmental Happenings

A newsletter of the Cherry Hill Environmental Advisory Committee

Spring 2009

The **Cherry Hill Environmental Advisory Committee** is dedicated to protecting the environment and improving the quality of life for all Cherry Hill residents.

## Meeting Schedule

All monthly meetings, generally held on the third Monday, are open to the public. The meetings are at the Cherry Hill Library on Kings Highway. Meetings start at 7 p.m. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

### 2009

May 18  
June 15  
July 20  
August 17  
September 21  
October 19  
November 16  
December 21

If you would like further information, please contact Earle Seneres, the Township Liaison, at 856-424-3203 or [eseneres@chtownship.com](mailto:eseneres@chtownship.com)

Or, call Jen Kelley, CHEAC liaison from the Mayor's Office, at 856-910-9685 [JKelley@CHTownship.com](mailto:JKelley@CHTownship.com)

## Project Being Launched to Rehabilitate DeCou Run

Cherry Hill's DeCou Run, a tributary to the North Branch of the Cooper River that flows through the area's parkland, has been a victim of significant erosion in recent years. The stream's destabilization has attracted the attention of the Cherry Hill Environmental Advisory Committee (CHEAC), the Township's Department of Public Works, and, most recently, the Camden County Soil Conservation District (CCSCD), which is now launching a project aimed at rehabilitating the waterway before the increased sediment racing through the gully further damages stream beds and creates new flood plains.

With traumatic ecological, aesthetic, and recreational impacts to the region's wetlands, wildlife habitats, and parks looming, the CCSCD's current restoration initiative will reduce downstream sediment loading, allowing the tributary to recover and, hopefully, thrive, with the help of ongoing observation and maintenance.

The CCSCD contends that sediment reductions of approximately 280,000 kg per year will be realized as a result of the proposed work, which includes the restoration of DeCou Run's severely eroding gully into an ecologically functioning and aesthetically pleasing headwater stream, the connection of the restored stream to an adjacent floodplain forest, and the stabilization of erosive patches of soil encroaching upstream toward DeCou.

Together, the integrated endeavors – guided by CHEAC, the Department of Environmental Protection, and engineering consultant AKRF, Inc. – should improve the aesthetic and ecological quality of DeCou Run, enhancing the recreational and conservational values of the parkland while preventing future flooding. And, because the project is in line with the county's Cooper River Regional Stormwater Management Plan, the project as well as the plan for ongoing preventative monitoring, comes at no cost to the Township

# CHEAC Provides Mayor with Open Space Priority List

The Cherry Hill Environmental Advisory Committee (CHEAC) has presented Mayor Bernie Platt with a list of nine key sites for designation as open space. While CHEAC acknowledges that the Township currently has no funds available to purchase these properties, the Committee prepared and presented the list should funds later become available or if the Township would be able to obtain some of the spaces through donation.

## Proposed Open Space Parcels

1. Rear of D&Q, off Rockhill Road and Route 70
2. Rear of Society Hill, off Springdale Road
3. Lakeside, near Woodcrest Speedline Station
4. Woodland, near Birch/Beechwood
5. Rear of Ignarri-Lummi Bldg., Chapel Ave./Route 295
6. Old Cuthbert, adjacent to Cherry Hill Racquet Club
7. Carnegie Plaza, near Springdale Road
8. Astoria, at intersection of Astoria/Perina
9. Near intersection of Kings Highway/Ramble Road

CHEAC had conducted workshops at its monthly meetings to identify these parcels, and has also made site visits. The parcels have been ranked by such factors as criteria as size, and proximity to existing open space and wetlands.

In addition to leaving open space remain in its natural state, CHEAC has undertaken projects to develop nature and hiking trails at a few existing open space parcels. CHEAC actively partners with youth organizations, including Boy Scouts, and is eager to partner with other groups such as Girl Scouts, schools, and religious youth groups, to help in the completion and maintenance of open space management projects. These projects help accomplish larger environmental goals, while offering students an opportunity to obtain community service credits and improve our environment.

## Brothers Spearhead Construction of Barclay Farms Nature Walkways

Through the efforts of twin brothers, two elevated walkways were built as part of the nature trail at Cherry Hill's Barclay Farmstead, at no cost to the taxpayers. The walkways will make the flood-prone parts of the trail much easier and safer to use.

Frank and Tim Dougherty, of Downs Farms in Cherry Hill, both initiated and coordinated separate projects at the farmstead just before their eighteenth birthdays, in order to earn their Eagle Scout Badges.

"Before, parts of the trail were often impassable, but now people can enjoy the trail even when it's muddy out – they'll no longer have to plod through water to get from one part of the trail to another," Frank said. The project will also help reduce erosion and expenses to maintain the path, Frank said, because the walkways' timber foundations will help conserve and collect dirt that formerly would have washed away from the path and need to be restored.

Frank and Tim, who are members of Troop 64 in Haddonfield, initially contacted Cherry Hill Township looking for projects they could undertake to earn badges. Frank was hooked up with Lew Gorman, CHEAC chairman, who told Frank about how a walkway was needed at the farmstead. Gorman explained to Frank the things that needed to be done and looked over his plans and outlines. Tim worked with Jim Wioland, the Township's Director of Recreation. "CHEAC depends on its community partners to further the environmental objectives for our town, and Frank and Tim display the finest examples of community service," noted Gorman.

## Current CHEAC Membership

Lewis Gorman III, Chair	
Jeanne Barnum	Jodi Raditz
Patricia Corbett	Nancy Ryan
Michael Gilman	Christopher Shull
Nick Horiates	Gary Sternberg
David Iacono	
Bud Kaliss	Earle Seneres
Sidney Katz	<i>Township Liaison</i>
Helen Kushner	Jennifer Kelley
	<i>Mayor's Liaison</i>