



For Immediate Release  
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### ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AT REVEREND EVERS PARK – October 10, 2015 Planting Day

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, partnering with the Wakefern Corporation, the Morgan Village Circle CDC, the Newton Creek Watershed Association, and Cooper's Ferry Partnership, will lead volunteers October 10<sup>th</sup> in installing native trees, perennials and grasses at Reverend Evers Park in Camden, New Jersey. These plants will provide habitat and color at woodland restoration areas and a new vegetated swale, while filtering and reducing stormwater run-off before it enters nearby Newton Creek. The event runs from 9A.M. to 12:00 P.M. near the park entrance at the end of Hunter Street, east of Morgan Boulevard. Volunteers are welcome.



*Proposed Vegetated Swale  
(Rendering by Melissa Boffa)*

The planting is part of the first phase in implementing the park's updated Master Plan. A sister event on September 28-29 includes work led by the New Jersey Tree Foundation (NJTF) and Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) with volunteers from American Water. Funding is being provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Foundation for a Better Tomorrow, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and Wakefern Corporation. It is a multi-pronged effort that includes job training and educational outreach.

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Neighborhood leadership is provided by the Morgan Village Circle Community Development Corporation, led by Esther Gross, Executive Director. Her caring and consistent leadership is inspiring others to improve the neighborhood and the lives of residents.

The park project is directed and designed by John Nystedt, a landscape architect and restoration specialist at DRN. Planning concepts were developed with input from Sally Reynolds and Melissa Boffa, also landscape architects; conceptual ideas for the park were previously provided by a landscape architecture class at Philadelphia University in conjunction with Olin Partnership.

John Nystedt explained that the updated Master Plan “includes a blending of ‘Exercise & Ecology’ where exercise stations and trails are proposed alongside ecological educational exhibits and restored woodlands. A boardwalk is proposed along Newton Creek, and a new fishing pier is proposed to replace a long-lost pier. A multi-use trail will connect Morgan Boulevard to Mount Ephraim Ave, providing an important link between neighborhoods and businesses, completing another section of the regional trail system.”



*Proposed Exercise Area (Rendering by Melissa Boffa)*

“This project will be a significant benefit for the community, providing much needed amenities and quality-of-life improvements, while managing stormwater runoff and restoring ecological function” says Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and head of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.



*Proposed “Bump-Out” Rain Garden along Morgan Boulevard (Rendering by Melissa Boffa)*

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