



For Immediate Release
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Contact:

John Nystedt, RLA, LEED AP BD+C, Delaware Riverkeeper Network
john@delawariverkeeper.org Tel. 215.369.1188, extension 112

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AT REVEREND EVERS PARK – September 29th Planting Event

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN), partnering with the New Jersey Tree Foundation (NJTF), American Water Enterprises, Morgan Village Circle CDC, Newton Creek Watershed Association, and Cooper's Ferry Partnership, will lead employees from American Water Enterprises September 29th in installing trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses at Reverend Evers Park in Camden, New Jersey. Dozens of trees will be planted throughout the park, enhancing aesthetics while providing shade and improving habitat. An additional 60 shrubs, 200 perennials and 400 grasses will also be planting to provide habitat and color at woodland restoration areas and a new vegetated swale, which will filter and reduce stormwater run-off before it enters nearby Newton Creek. Simultaneously, NJTF and New Jersey American Water will be doing planting at the Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy, across the street from the park.



Proposed Vegetated Swale (Rendering by Melissa Boffa)

130 workers will be at the September 29th planting is part of the first phase in implementing the park's updated Master Plan that was recently developed by DRN. A sister event on October 10th will include additional planting work led by DRN with employees from Wakefern Corporation, residents and other volunteers. Funding for the planting is being provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Water Enterprises, 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.

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
dm@delawariverkeeper.org
www.delawariverkeeper.org

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)