



# DEHC Newsletter

Volume 3, No. 2

The Coalition welcomes new partner Trust for Public Land!

May-June 2005

*MISSION: To tackle urban environmental health concerns with community-based education and organizing, leading to measurable improvements and a healthy environment for people who live and work in Dorchester.*

Members/Partners

- Alternatives for Community & Environment
- Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow
- A.N.G.E.L.S.
- Ashmont-Adams Neighborhood Association
- Ashmont Hill Association
- Boston Greenspace Alliance
- Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston Urban Asthma Coalition
- Breath of Life: Dorchester (BOLD) Teens
- Bowdoin Street Health Center
- Cedar Grove Civic Association
- Civic Health Institute, CSHC
- Clam Point Neighborhood Association
- Clean Water Action
- Codman Academy Charter School
- Codman Square Health Center
- Codman Sq. Neighborhood Development Corp
- Codman Square Neighborhood Council
- Columbia Savin Hill Civic Association
- Columbia Washington St Neighborhood Assoc.
- Community Improvement Association (Torrey St)
- Dorchester Center for Adult Education
- Dorchester House Multi-Service Center
- DotWell
- City Councilor Maureen E. Feeney
- Fields Corner Civic Association
- Fields Corner Main Street
- Four Corners Main Street
- Friends of Ronan Park
- Greater Bowdoin/Geneva Neighborhood Assoc
- Greater Four Corners Action Coalition
- Greenwood Family Life Center, Inc.
- State Senator Jack Hart
- John Snow, Inc. (JSI) Research and Training Institute
- Jones Hill Association
- Lead Action Collaborative
- Mattapan Community Health Center
- Mattapan Community Development Corp
- MassCOSH
- John W. McCormack Civic Association
- Melville Park Association
- Richard J. Murphy School Parent Council
- Park Partners of Wainwright Park
- Pope's Hill Neighborhood Association
- State Representative Marie P. St. Fleur
- St. Marks Area Civic Association
- St Marks Area Main Street
- Technology Goes Home/TGH Alumni, Inc.
- Trust for Public Land
- The Urban Ecology Institute
- Viet-American Initiative for Development
- State Representative Martin Walsh

## Keep Active For Wellness!

### Bicycling Activities

National Bike to Work Day is May 20, and National Bike to Work Week is May 16-20. For more info, see [www.bikemonth.com](http://www.bikemonth.com).

Bikes Not Bombs 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike-A-Thon, Sunday May 15. There will be 15, 25 and 62 mile rides; registration starts at 9 am at Jamaica Pond, rain or shine. Post-ride celebration (gourmet buffet) at Mississippi's Restaurant, 103 Terrace St, Roxbury. Awards ceremony at 4:30 pm. Grand Prize: ANT Custom Commuter Bike. For more: BNB, 59 Amory St, Roxbury MA 02119, [www.bikesnotbombs.org](http://www.bikesnotbombs.org), 617-442-0004.

### Neponset River Activities

Kite Festival, at Pope John Paul II Park, Hallet St entrance, May 16, 11-2, and Neponset Summer Festival Kickoff on June 30. These activities and more throughout the summer are sponsored by the Boston Natural Areas Network. See [bostonnatural.org](http://bostonnatural.org) for more.

Neponset River Greenway Walking Club Every Thursday from April 21 through June 10 10 AM at Pope John Paul II Park Tot Lot, Dorchester.

CANOE THE NEPONSET! 11AM, Sat. May 14, With guides from Neponset River Watershed Association (NepWRA) and the Massachusetts Audubon Society, explore either Fowl Meadow or the Neponset River Estuary by canoe on the lovely Neponset River. Please see (<http://www.neponset.org/Events-NepRWA.htm>) for more information, closer to the event.



Neponset Greenway Council has meetings the first Weds of each month, 7-9 pm. On May 4, the meeting is at Neponset Reservation HQ, 7 Brush Hill, Milton; on June 1, at Hyde Park Dist 18 police station, 1249 Hyde Park Ave.

### Urban Forest Activities

*Do You Care About Trees In Boston?* Street trees and park trees in Boston need your help! Come learn about the Boston Urban Forest Coalition

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## DEHC Quarterly Meeting—Environmental Forum Notes

The most recent Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition quarterly meeting, an Environmental Forum, was held on April 27th at the Vietnamese American Community Center, 42 Charles Street in Fields Corner.

James W. Hunt III, who is Chief of Environmental and Energy Services for the City of

Boston, and former assistant secretary of the MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, heard about exciting local projects and research, and spoke about his vision for Boston's environmental future. Others presenting: Charles Lord of the Urban Ecology Institute

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### Spring Yard Waste Saturday Pickups

Aren't able to compost your yard waste? Put out your leaves and brush on

**Saturdays, May 7, 14, 21, & 28, by 7 a.m.**

Paper leaf bags or open barrels (no plastic bags). Tie brush with string, 3' max. length.

Info: 617-635-4959 or 617-635-7573.

*Your yard waste composted becomes natural fertilizer for Boston's community gardens!*

## DORCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION

DotWell, 1452 Dorchester Avenue, 4th Floor, Dorchester MA 02122

Phone: 617-474-1478; Fax: 617-474-0465

Email: [Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org](mailto:Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org),

Join our new listserv!

<http://lists.dotwell.org/mailman/listinfo/dehc>

*This bi-monthly community newsletter is compiled and edited by Rosanne Foley. Six issues are available annually: Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr, May-June, Jul-Aug, Sep-Oct, Nov-Dec. Access is via email, as a publication on [www.codman.org](http://www.codman.org) and [dorchesterhouse.org](http://dorchesterhouse.org), and at any Dorchester or Mattapan Boston Public Library branch. Please email or fax brief articles or event notices by the 15 of the month preceding the issue you want your info in.*

### Keep Active for Wellness (Contd. from page 1.)

tion, & how you can help on Tuesday May 3, 2005, 6–8 PM at the Boston Public Library, Copley Square, Mezzanine Conference Room. This event is free and open to the public but seating is limited so pre-register! Please RSVP to [events@greenspacealliance.org](mailto:events@greenspacealliance.org). For directions go to: [www.bpl.org/general/directions.htm](http://www.bpl.org/general/directions.htm).

Sponsored by the Boston Urban Forest Coalition. The mission of BUFC is to transform and improve Boston's Urban Forest in order to improve the urban ecosystem, public health and the quality of life of Boston's residents.

### At the Boston Nature Center

May 7th, and repeated on June 11: **Gaining Ground in the City: Sustainability Through Design and Preservation**, 1-2:30 pm.

Join us for a presentation on urban ecology at Boston Nature Center (BNC). Learn about the green building design features of the of the George Robert White Environmental Conservation Center, then take a walk to see first hand the benefits and challenges of habitat protection in urban ecosystems. BNC, 500 Walk Hill St, Mattapan, 617-983-8500, [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org)

### DEHC Quarterly Meeting Notes (contd. from page 1)

who discussed a new initiative, the Boston Urban Forest Coalition, (see above May 3d event), and Dave Queeley of Parks for People, a Trust for Public Land program, talked about their work with the Codman Square neighborhood. A new park will break ground this year, The Spencer-Whitfield Neighborhood Backyard. And Tom Lambert of University of New Hampshire, along with BOLD Teens, presented fascinating respiratory health and air quality data they collected in Dorchester last year. For more on this event, call 617-474-1478.

## BOLD Teens Program Gets National Award

In May, BOLD (Breath Of Life Dorchester) Teens, a youth peer leadership environmental health group and DEHC partner, will travel to Washington D.C. to receive a national Youth Group of the Year Award from the national Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids for their air quality/anti-tobacco efforts. And long-time BOLD leader Cynthia Loesch has been chosen as national youth leader by American Legacy Foundation, the creator of the "Truth" anti-smoking TV ad campaign, and will be recognized at their national convention in Chicago.

If you want to know more: call Bill Loesch at 822-8189, or email [Bill.Loesch@codman.org](mailto:Bill.Loesch@codman.org).

## NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENT FUND'S BOSTON GRANTS INITIATIVE and SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund's (NEGEF) Boston Grants Initiative is designed to help increase the number of citizens involved in concrete actions that improve the quality of the environment and public health in Greater Boston. The initiative provides grants for environmental justice, environmental health, greenspace and other such projects in neighborhoods of Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea or Somerville.

Prior awards have supported hiring part-time paid coordinators, purchasing tools for community gardens, and removing debris to reclaim access to a river. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$10,000; groups must show significant volunteer involvement in their programs. Applications must be postmarked by Aug 15, 2005. Interested in applying? Contact NEGEF staff to discuss the project before submitting a grant proposal.

NEGEF Small Grants Program is designed to help local grassroots environmental initiatives in New England with small grants of up to \$2,500. Whether tackling an environmental health problem, addressing air quality or water pollution, working on energy or local land use challenges, whatever the issue, NEGEF wants to help move these efforts forward. Deadlines for Small Grants: May 1, or Sep 15, 2005. For more information contact NEGEF staff at 802-223-4622, email [callan@grassrootsfund.org](mailto:callan@grassrootsfund.org). PO Box 1057, Montpelier, VT 05601, or [www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org)

**What is DEHC** The Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC) is a network of community organizations and individuals who are concerned about environmental health threats in Dorchester and are committed to identifying and addressing them. DEHC is funded by Anonymous Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Library of Medicine, and is a DotWell initiative.



DotWell is our new name for the Health Services Partnership, established by Dorchester House Multi-Service Center and Codman Square Health Center. DotWell works to provide integrated clinical and community services to address health disparities, build social capital, and meet the complex needs of the dynamic Dorchester community.