

Moving Ahead in 2009



Snowman at the new Elmhurst Street Park.

In the year ahead, DEHC will help raise awareness locally about global warming, environmental justice and sustainable living – about what we here in Dorchester can do to make a green and healthy community. Get informed and get involved! - active living, energy efficiency, farmers markets selling locally grown food, youth advocacy, renewable energy, clean streets, walking, biking amenities, public transit improvements, tree planting, sus-

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DEHC's 2008 Accomplishments

- ◆ Formed DotBike, a bicycle transportation advocacy group that organizes community bike rides, and mobilizes for biking infrastructure improvements, like bike racks, for Dorchester.
- ◆ Forged new/stronger links with city-wide organizations such as Earthworks, The Food Project, Bikes Not Bombs, the Boston Climate Action Network, ACE [Alternatives for Community and Environment], the Franklin Park Coalition, MA Green Jobs Coalition, ACORN [Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now], and the Arnold Arboretum.
- ◆ Launched a regularly updated online calendar of free environmental activities in and around Dorchester, and maintained our listserve of events notifica-



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Air Quality

Locations Needed: DEHC has several sets of air quality (AQ) notification banners. Each 3 foot by 6 foot fabric AQ banners is either green, yellow or red, which indicates whether the day's air quality is Good, Moderate or Unhealthy. The banners are marked with DEHC's logo and "Today's Air Quality Is" and are designed to hang outdoors. Whoever sees the banners becomes aware of changes in local air quality.



We need volunteers to hang the banners in prominent locations in Dorchester and switch as needed daily according to an emailed EnviroFlash. Currently BOLD Teens maintain a banner at the Codman Square Health Center.

Water/Shoreline

Shoreline Advocates needed! DEHC has a seat on the Neponset River Restoration Citizens Advisory Committee which is exploring in depth how best to bring back the once-plentiful migratory fish whose passage is now blocked by the historic dam in Lower Mills. Your opinion on this issue matters, so please let us know!



DEHC helped organize the first annual Dorchester Beach Festival at Savin Hill-Malibu Beach which attracted thousands of beachgoers in August 2008. This summer, help give away free sunscreen, kites, frisbees, ice cream and more!

Get Active! Events Calendar

Thu. Jan. 29, 7-8:30 PM
Boston Bikes Update Report, at Boston Public Library Rabb Lecture Hall

Sat. Jan. 31, 10 AM-12 PM
Winter Volunteer Day, at Valley Gates Parking Lot, Franklin Park

Sun. Feb. 1, 2-4 PM
"Mush the Greenway" Dog Sleds, at Pope John Paul II Park, please rsvp

Wed. Feb. 4, 7-8:30 PM
Neponset Greenway Council meeting, at District 18 Police Station, Hyde Park

Thu. Feb 5, 6-8 PM
Food Justice & Active Living meeting, at 1353 Dorchester Ave, Fields Corner

Sat. Feb. 7, 1-4 PM
Franklin Park Snow Festival, at Franklin Park Golf Clubhouse

Mon. Feb 9 & Tue Feb 10
NEURON Conference, at Boston University

Fri. Feb. 13 - *Deadline*
Boston Green Awards applications due

Thu. Feb 18, 5-8 PM
Food Justice & Active Living meeting, at 6 Norfolk St, Codman Square

Sun. Feb. 22, 1-3 PM
Winter Wellness Walk, at the Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway

Sun. Mar. 15, 2-4 AM
Olmsted Talk, at Franklin Park Golf Clubhouse

Sat. Mar. 21, 10 AM
Annual Neponset Spring Cycle, meet at Paul's Bridge, Milton MA

Sat. Mar. 28, 11 AM-4 PM
Annual BNAN Gardeners Gathering, at Northeastern University, Curry Center

Selected events - for lots more updated events and activities, please check the DEHC calendar at www.dehc.org.

Dorchester's Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC) is a community-led network that tackles urban environmental health and justice issues such as air quality and open space, to improve the health of those who live, work, play and learn in Dorchester, MA. DEHC is funded by an Anonymous Foundation.



DORCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION

1452 Dorchester Ave, 4th Floor, Dorchester MA 02122
617-474-1478, dorchesterenviro@gmail.com ~ www.dehc.org

DEHC's newsletter comes out at least four times yearly—on the web at www.dehc.org, via email to subscribers, in hardcopy at local libraries. Submit content for inclusion by the 15th of the month before the target issue. Check www.dehc.org regularly for up-to-date event listings. Feel free to distribute this newsletter to any and all who may be interested.

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tainability resources, anti-idling law awareness, new opportunities for outdoor recreation, toxic lead awareness, water testing and lead paint abatement money - these are some of the focus areas DEHC works on. Some specifics:

- ◆ Green economy - new community jobs in renewal energy and retrofitting areas
- ◆ Sustainability - how to reduce energy costs and your carbon footprint
- ◆ New online presence - post your ideas, complaints and comments at www.DEHC.org, our new interactive website
- ◆ Linking up an existing public access gap between Harborwalk on Morrissey Boulevard and the Neponset River Greenway

2008 Accomplishments - continued from page 1

tion system for subscribers.

- ◆ Planted 500 new trees in Dorchester as part of the Grow Boston Greener campaign to plant 100,000 trees in the city of Boston by 2010
- ◆ Joined the new Boston Green Justice Coalition
- ◆ Worked on improving Dorchester Avenue as a member of the Task Force
- ◆ Part of the Diesel Pollution Solution Partnership to reduce particulates
- ◆ And lots more! Please contact DEHC to learn about their activities.

Slow Food/Gardening

- ◆ DEHC is working with a local Main Street organization to start up a new Farmers Market at Ashmont, slated for Fridays, from 4 to 7 p.m. Last year, other new Dorchester farmers markets were successful at Codman Square, Fields Corner and at Bowdoin Street.
- ◆ DEHC is linking with The Food Project and Earthworks, two organizations that help neighborhoods produce edible harvest.



Vacant Lot Re-Use/Planning

- ◆ DEHC supports the Park Patrol, a community youth advocacy group based at a new park on Elmhurst Street in the Codman Square area
- ◆ Free trees will again be available from Grow Boston Greener this year so please get in touch so we can sign you up!
- ◆ DEHC is involved in the Columbia Point Master Planning activities with focus on the acres of developable property around the BaySide Expo Center, Morrissey Boulevard, JFK/UMass MBTA station and the Boston Globe.
- ◆ The Sustainable Neighborhoods Group is a multi-agency pilot program to support and develop community-based planning efforts.



DEHC Partners

ACORN
Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow
Alternatives for Community & Environment
Annapolis Neighborhood Association
Arnold Arboretum
Ashmont-Adams Neighborhood Assoc.
Ashmont Hill Association
Boston Climate Action Network
Boston Green Justice Coalition
Boston Public Health Commission
Boston Urban Asthma Coalition
Boston Urban Forest Coalition
Bowdoin Street Health Center
Breath of Life: Dorchester (BOLD) Teens
Civic Health Institute, DotWell
Clam Point Neighborhood
Clean Water Action
Codman Square Health Center
Codman Sq. Neighborhood Dev. Corp.
Conservation Law Foundation
Dorchester House Multi-Service Center
Dorchester Park Association
DotBike
DotWell
Earthworks
Fields Corner Civic Association
Fields Corner Main Street
The Food Project
Four Corners Main Street
Franklin Park Coalition
Friends of Ronan Park
Greater Bowdoin/Geneva Neighborh. Assoc.
Greater Four Corners Action Coalition
Grow Boston Greener
Hub on Wheels
John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
Lead Action Collaborative
MassBike
MassCOSH
Neponset River Watershed Association
New Ecology Inc.
Park Patrol
St. Marks Area Main Street
SCI Dorchester
Trust for Public Land
The Urban Ecology Institute
Viet-American Initiative for Development
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And city and state elected officials—please contact DEHC for more information on our partners.

Did you know? That incandescent lightbulbs will be phased out starting in 2012, everyone must switch to LED/CFL

About DEHC's fiscal partner: **DotWell** works with Dorchester House Multi-Service Center & Codman Square Health Center to provide integrated clinical and community services to address health disparities, build social capital, and meet the complex needs of the dynamic Dorchester community.

