



April 27, 2011

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Morrisville Environmental Group Seeking Funds For Riverfront Preserve

*Morrisville, PA* – The Morrisville Environmental Council (MEAC), on behalf of Morrisville Borough, is seeking contributions for matching funds for the Morrisville Riverfront Preserve.

The 8.8-acres preserve starts at Delmorr and Philadelphia avenues along the riverfront in Morrisville Borough. The preserve is located across the Delaware River from Katmandu and Waterfront Stadium in Trenton.

Debby Colgan, MEAC chairman, said funding for invasive species treatment and identification of priority planting sites and management plans has been obtained through the Bucks County Open Space Program, the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and the Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds and donations.

“An additional \$730 is needed to match county grants,” Colgan said. “The MEAC is outreaching to area businesses and civic groups for their assistance.”

MEAC members met with Emma Gutzler, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) restoration manager in April at the preserve.

Gutzler said, the MEAC “has done a great job getting this project underway and envisioning a healthy, natural preserve that will provide recreational and environmental education opportunities for the community while also benefiting the Delaware River. DRN is happy to be part of this project.”

Borough Council President David Rivella and Council Member Fred Kerner joined the group as they toured the site.

Last fall, the area was treated with an herbicide spray as the first step in ridding the site of the invasive species, Japanese knotweed.

Colgan said to minimize impact to the Delaware River and desired plants, the MEAC contracted with a certified applicator to spray the site. The group surveyed the effectiveness of the application and

condition of the riverfront property.

“Effectively controlling Japanese knotweed once it is established requires two years of control measures,” said Gutzler. “As expected after the first year of treatment, we saw some sprouts of knotweed returning, but only a very small percentage of what previously dominated the site.

“This time next year, the knotweed will be well under control and the area will be ready for native trees and shrubs,” she said.

Colgan noted that DRN will work with the MEAC to develop planting plans for the preserve which “will beautify the site, provide habitat for wildlife, and help protect the health of the river.”

She said the additional funding support received from local businesses and civic organizations “will go far in helping MEAC to achieve the next steps in its preservation efforts.”

Contributions can be sent earmarked for the Morrisville Riverfront Preserve and mailed to Morrisville Borough, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, Pa. 19067.

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