

# GREENWAYS

Newsletter of  
D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.  
Volume 24, Number 3  
Winter 2015

## Land Preservation Update

Since 1989, D&R Greenway has placed 284 properties, approximately 19,550 acres valued at \$389,014,346, into permanent preservation, an area as big as 15,000 football fields!

## Natural Connections: Unique Partnership Broadens Value of Conservation Campus

A campus is a place where people go to learn. Conservation is about sustaining resources. Together, they create an exciting place — where care and nurture for people and nature happens every day.

In October, D&R Greenway Land Trust announced that its Princeton campus will become a Conservation Campus, with the YWCA Princeton's Breast Cancer Resource Center (BCRC) as its first campus partner at 2 Preservation Place.

"The new strategic alliance between the two nonprofits celebrates the healing value that nature brings to our lives," says D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead. "D&R Greenway's work to preserve open spaces and create public trails recognizes the important connection between the outdoors and health. The new  
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## A Healing Environment: The Magic Field

Edie Howard and her husband, Charlie, preserved their 35-acre farm in Montgomery Township with D&R Greenway Land Trust in 2013. Here, in Edie's words, is what her preserved land has come to mean to her and her family.

"Land is a magical resource. There's energy in the land and healing in nature.

"These thoughts resonated with me when I was given the diagnosis of cancer. It completely startled me: I had

been strong and fit, going to the gym four days a week, working out.

"Before I could catch my breath, I had surgery. I was looking at a course of chemotherapy that would last 18 weeks.

"When you want your body to heal, it's good to have a vision. I started with a vision of a rainbow which, to me, represented my mother's love. The rainbow in my mind dissolved into a shower of iridescent colored bubbles.

"I had a partner in my husband



### Inside

- A farm grows in the city of Trenton
- Creating a Conservation Campus
- A new stop for migrating birds
- Winter exhibits and programs

Charlie. We walked, every day, around the farm field we had preserved with D&R Greenway. Through the four month course of my treatment, we covered 700 miles.

"As I was concentrating on the rainbow and the energy the colors were giving me, I could see butterflies and flowers and birds and sunsets and great swaths of green. The Queen Anne's lace was so thick in the field it looked like a cauldron of bubbles. Bubbles were growing on top of red purple clover that looked like a sea reflecting the sunset. Without that field, my own sense of healing, shared with my four children, nine grandchildren, siblings and friends through weekly emails, would not have been as rich.

"We managed to get in at least five miles a day, sometimes six or seven, and, when I totaled it up at the end, I said, 'Wow, we've walked 700 miles.' Hand-in-hand, all the way."

Edie's husband Charlie adds this about preserving their land:

"It's been about three years. So we've had 1,000 plus days to think about it. But we don't think about it, because it was the right decision. The proof is how we feel. Would we have done anything differently? The answer is no. And it's never going to be different." ❧

## *“Every act of conservation matters.”*

As an advisor to the Wildlife Habitat Council’s Conservation Certificate program for corporations, I recently attended their annual meeting. I was shocked to learn that 230 species of birds are at risk for extinction and that 60% of the earth’s ecosystems are degraded. Monarch butterflies have declined by 96.4% and 80% of the plants found in our landscape today are originally from Asia.

It made me think about how D&R Greenway strives to do our part, and how we are making a difference. A scientific study by Professor Laura

Hyatt, Ph.D. of Rider University, recently discovered that all lands preserved by D&R Greenway in our 26 years produce an economic value greater than \$61,000,000 annually in



*Scarlet Tanager (photo: Brenda Jones)*

ecosystem services. Many of these services, like flood control, clean water, and regulating carbon balance in the atmosphere, would have to be provided by taxpayers in another way if those lands had been developed. Others, like recreation and habitat for wildlife, would simply disappear.

It is up to each of us to make a difference by making good choices for the environment. Our mission at our Conservation Campus is to inspire a conservation ethic. Here we teach about nature and learn about ourselves. I invite you to join with us and do your part, too.

*Linda J. Mead*  
President & CEO

## **Conservation Campus**

*Continued from page 1*

home for YWCA Princeton’s BCRC will be a welcoming and nurturing setting for women that benefits well-being by connecting to nature.”

Surrounded by more than 60 acres of open space, D&R Greenway’s campus presents a healing environment with fresh air, sunshine and nature right outside the door.

The Johnson Education Center, headquarters for D&R Greenway, is known for its conservation-focused art exhibits and educational programs, and for its community meeting space used by five garden clubs, the Princeton Photography Club, educational institutions and government partners.

D&R Greenway acquired the three homes adjacent to its Johnson Education Center through a generous grant from the George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation. It is developing a vision for a Conservation Campus where nonprofits aligned with it’s mission to inspire a conservation ethic can share resources and ideas (see story on page 4).

A true partnership, the new arrangement creates benefits for both organizations.

“In order to serve more survivors and expand the scope of offerings, we are pleased to move our educational and counseling programs onto the Conservation Campus, walking distance from our main campus,” says YWCA Princeton CEO Judy Hutton. “We are delighted to partner with an organization that finds value and

beauty in open space and greenery, because a healthy environment is so beneficial to good health.”

“We’re looking toward holistic health models,” says Nancy Faherty, Director of Advocacy & Development for the YWCA Princeton. “This move represents the intersection of health care, environment and real estate. We hope to model this for other YWCAs, empowering women.”

Recent scientific studies have shown that green space offers numerous health benefits. Walking in nature reduces depression and anxiety. It lowers stress and blood pressure. Being outdoors increases opportunities for exercise and offers greater health benefits than indoor exercise. (For more information, visit [www.drgreenway.org](http://www.drgreenway.org))

“The new Conservation Campus will encourage collaboration among nonprofits,” says Mead. “This destination campus will benefit our local community and beyond, and will stay relevant no matter what the future brings.”

Betsy Sands, donor turned D&R Greenway trustee, talks about the impact of the Conservation Campus, “Partnering with effective organizations like the YWCA Princeton makes us think about why our work matters, inspiring us all to get outside and connect with nature to preserve our spirit, which is perhaps the most important of all.” 🌿



*Cutting the ribbon to the new YWCA Breast Cancer Resource Center on D&R Greenway Land Trust’s Conservation Campus, (from left) Nancy Faherty, YWCA Princeton; Margee Harper, Trustee, D&R Greenway Land Trust; Judy Hutton, YWCA Princeton; Paula Flory, Breast Cancer Resource Center; with D&R Greenway President and CEO Linda Mead, Chair Brian Breuel and Director of Operations Laurie Emde.*



# A Farm Grows in the City of Trenton

Next to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), a formerly weedy and trash-filled lot has been transformed in less than a year into a blossoming place for those who pass by this land every day.

A demonstration crop from raised beds is already providing kale, mustard greens, daikon radishes, beets and cilantro to local residents. The planting and infrastructure improvements have been managed by Allegra Lovejoy, D&R Greenway's Project 55 fellow from Princeton University. New attractive fencing creates an entryway into nature's bounty. A large storage container placed on the site to hold farm equipment is resplendent with a colorful mural of bees, butterflies and ladybugs painted by local artists Jon Conner and Lori Johanssen and the Trenton Community A-Team. Walking down Escher Street, newly planted native trees of maple and hawthorne create a greener and more welcoming environment.

Thanks to a Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program grant, administered by New Jersey Community Capital, D&R Greenway and its partners including Isles, Inc., East Trenton Collaborative, TASK, Escher SRO Project, Helping Arms, Rescue Mission, the City of Trenton and Mercer County are growing Capital City Farm as a place of learning, food and community.

Testament to the power of nature, perhaps the most spectacular new resident to the farm is a variegated

fritillary butterfly, attracted by the wildflower meadow planted after the site's remediation. It was the first recorded sighting of a variegated fritillary in New Jersey since 2000. Other butterflies seen nectaring on the wildflowers include buckeye, pearl crescent, sache skipper, cabbage white and monarchs. "Build it and they will come," says D&R Greenway Vice-President Jay Watson, who has led the creation of Capital City Farm.



Beyond the fresh harvest, wildlife and emerging beauty, Capital City Farm exists to serve the neighbors and partner organizations. To that end, D&R Greenway has initiated a community engagement process led by consultants from 'Designing the We' and the John S. Watson Institute at Thomas Edison College. Street surveys and community meetings are ensuring that the project is delivering something of value to residents.

"We need to discover how the farm

can be most valuable to the surrounding neighborhood and the people in it," says D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead. "We need to connect the farm to other organizations, churches, businesses, projects and residents. We need to create a farm model that encourages everyone to get involved and use the farm to build a strong community."

Among the findings so far: The most important neighborhood needs are, in this order, education and youth development; jobs and economic development, tied with affordable housing; safety; environment and green space, tied with family and community welfare; health and good food; transportation.

Community members specifically spoke of the need for youth programming, whether afterschool, a summer activity or as educational curriculum. The second most mentioned need was for jobs and economic development. Other activities,

like a market, adult education and arts and culture could also complement these core needs.

Happily, an overwhelming majority said they want to get involved. When asked how they want to participate in the farm, many agreed to attend events, volunteer to garden, participate in youth programs and attend a farm market.

Capital City farm is becoming a place that embraces and provides benefits for all. 🌱



## New World Record

D&R Greenway partnered with the Rescue Mission of Trenton to beat the world's record of donated clothing, tallying nearly 180,000 items. This is 26,000 items greater than the previous world record, set in the United Arab Emirates.

The counting was done by volunteers over three and half days. Recycling clothing is one more way we can sustain resources. 🌱



# Creating a Conservation Campus at the Johnson Education Center

**“The future is always beginning now” wrote poet Mark Strand.**

Today, the future of D&R Greenway’s Princeton headquarters is beginning to take shape, in the form of conversations about what it could look like.

The Board of Trustees is developing a long-term master plan for the five acres that surround the Johnson Education Center. The vision is to create a “Conservation Campus” that integrates land and buildings to advance the mission of conservation and stewardship. “We’re looking at how to create a bigger, better mission,” says Betsy Sands, who co-chairs the Board’s Master Plan Committee with Shawn Ellsworth.

The opportunity to think on a large scale was sparked by the recent acquisition of three historic houses adjacent to the JEC, assisted by a generous grant from the George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation. The acquisition provided the impetus to think about a vision for the entire site that is surrounded by Greenway Meadows park and connects across Rosedale Road to a D&R Greenway woodland preserve next to Johnson Park School.

A little history is in order. In 2001 D&R Greenway led the preservation of the 60-acre Robert Wood Johnson estate. D&R Greenway retained the historic (ca. 1900) barn and carriage house, while deeding 55 acres to Princeton Township, and selling the three houses to the Hun School. Princeton transformed its property into Greenway Meadows, a public park. In April 2006, D&R Greenway dedicated the renovated barn as the Johnson Education Center, the organization’s headquarters and a unique community resource for land preservation and stewardship. Then, in 2015, D&R Greenway took advantage of an opportunity to reacquire the three houses.

In the short term the houses will provide rental income. The YWCA Princeton’s Breast Cancer Resource Center is the newest tenant (see story Page 1). “Welcoming the BCRC was the springboard to considering the entire site as an integrated campus that we share with nonprofit organizations whose missions are complementary to conservation,” explains Betsy. “Conservation is not just about land, it is about creating places to conserve our physical health and spiritual

well-being. The BCRC fits right into that ethos.” At their new facility on the Conservation Campus, the BCRC will provide programs that support breast cancer patients, including the opportunity to enjoy the healing effects of nature and the outdoors.

The Master Plan will build on a decade of innovations that have been incorporated into the site. “From the beginning, we envisioned the JEC and the adjacent land as a place where we could inspire a conservation ethic in as many different ways as we could think of,” says President & CEO Linda Mead. “The renovation of the barn into a headquarters and public exhibit and teaching space is an exemplary adaptive re-use that demonstrates

*...if a campus is a place where one goes to learn, then isn't a preserve in the Sourlands that teaches ecology, and a farm in the city that demonstrates healthy foods, also a campus?*

our commitment to partnership.” D&R Greenway has added features to the grounds to showcase stewardship practices for individuals to use on their own property: Meredith’s Garden features native wildflowers, the Cone Grove demonstrates a planting of native trees and shrubs and the Native Plant Nursery provides plants for home gardeners. Mead notes that “our educational programs have achieved national recognition and have resulted in hundreds, if not thousands, of acres preserved beyond New Jersey.”

To answer the question of what’s the best use for the three newly acquired houses, the committee asked, what’s the bigger conceptual landscape that the houses will fit into?

“The committee started by looking at how to match the organization’s vision, mission and strategic plan to the campus,” explains Shawn. “We need to look short-term, three to five years, and also farther out into the future. That is the challenge.”





“We’re asking, where will D&R Greenway be in 20 years and longer?” adds Betsy. “As a land conservation organization we know that eventually there will be no land left to preserve, but we will always have the responsibility of stewardship for the lands we’ve already preserved. We’re asking how we can be good stewards of this property, and, just as important, how can we use this property to advance stewardship on all our properties—and in the larger community.”

Clearly, looking into the future is not a matter of reading tea leaves. To develop the Master Plan the subcommittee has been coming up with questions to ask that don’t have definitive answers, and then following the implications of what seem to be the best answers.

For example, the three houses might all serve different purposes. Providing space for conservation-related nonprofits like BCRC is one possible use. Another might be to provide staff and intern housing. Already an apartment in one of the houses has enabled D&R Greenway to welcome a year-long fellow from Princeton University’s Project 55 program. There may be an opportunity to create a place for artists and writers whose work is related to the environment. Planning for how this might happen also includes thinking about how these changes advance stewardship by, for example, creating parking areas of pervious paving materials to protect water quality.



*Lucy and Charles McVicker explain the technique of painting landscapes in watercolor.*

A priority is determining the best future use of the historic carriage house on the campus. One idea that has been advanced is to use the carriage house as a stewardship education center, where visitors can interact with exhibits and maps of preserved lands, and learn through interactive programs and informational resources about stewardship techniques. This could be integrated with a space set aside to nurture and support volunteers and teach about stewardship techniques. “We really don’t have a place for those kinds of activities now,” says Betsy.

Central to all plans is a community gathering space, where educational programs that inspire a conservation ethic could expand out from the

Johnson Education Center — a place that incorporates the indoors and outdoors into an environment where people of all ages could come together to learn about and appreciate the natural world.

Visioning discussions have led to a broader perspective, too, that D&R Greenway’s greater conservation campus encompasses all of the preserves and protected open spaces and farms that D&R Greenway has made possible. As a matter of fact, if a campus is a place where one goes to learn, then isn’t a preserve in the Sourlands that teaches ecology and a farm in the city that demonstrates healthy foods also a campus? The whole is indeed greater than any individual part.

The committee’s work has benefitted from the facilitation and advice of architect and trustee Jeanne Perantoni, as well as other current and former Board members and thoughtful advisors. The committee has visited other conservation-oriented sites, including Duke Farms, but “there’s nothing in our region that is attempting to do exactly what we are doing,” says Betsy. Instead the D&R Greenway Conservation Campus can be a model for others. Princeton University is currently engaged in a similar process.

“It’s exciting!” Shawn comments. “Thinking about the campus in this way energizes you to look back on what we’ve accomplished in the past, and to envision where we’re going in the future.” 🍷



*Aerial view of the Johnson Education Center and Conservation Campus surrounded by Greenway Meadows Park. (photo: Paul Pogorzelski)*



## Ewing Park Addition First for D&R Greenway

For the first time in its 26-year history, D&R Greenway joined with Ewing Township to preserve land in a populated community where recreational open space is highly valued.

The 2-acre site is significant as an addition to John S. Watson Park, a neighborhood recreation hub. Father of U.S. Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman and D&R Greenway Vice President John S. Watson Jr.,

John S. Watson was the first African-American elected to the Board of Chosen Freeholders in Mercer County. A six-term state legislator, he was the first African-American Chair of a State Assembly Appropriations Committee in the country.

Ewing Township is Trenton's first-ring suburb along the Delaware River south of Hopewell. "We are very happy that D&R Greenway has moved into Ewing Township with their good



Ray Smalley of Blue Ridge Mountain Sports presents a donation of \$1,733.34 to Linda Mead, President & CEO of D&R Greenway Land Trust. The donation represents proceeds from the 2015 Banff Mountain Film Festival. Princeton's Blue Ridge Mountain Sports designated D&R Greenway Land Trust as their chosen non-profit to support land preservation and publicly-accessible trails.

## Cattail Brook Preserve teaches about Prime Forest

The Sourland forest is central New Jersey's most important migratory stopover for bird species coming north from Mexico and Central America. A new 10-acre parcel of land acquired in partnership with East Amwell Township adds to the 140-acre Cattail Brook Preserve donated to D&R Greenway in 2002.

This large intact forest contains a range of ecosystems, including wetland and upland forest, edge and interior forest, headwater stream corridors, vernal pools and boulder fields. It is part of a network of lands preserved in the Sourlands with state, county, municipal and nonprofit partners.

Permanent protection in the

Sourlands enables stewardship of forest cover, preventing fragmentation. This is the largest contiguous forest in central New Jersey. Maintaining that contiguity is important to interior forest dwelling and breeding bird species.

The ecosystem is an especially important stronghold for deep forest-breeding neo-tropical migrant songbirds including a number of species of warblers, tanagers, flycatchers, vireos and others.

A walk in the Sourlands D&R Greenway's Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve on Mountain Road, gives insight into the ecological connections between the forest and the birds. Bring your binoculars. 🦋

work," says Bert Steinmann, Ewing's Mayor. "This is a beautiful place to live and work. We intend to make sure that many future generations of residents have quality outdoor places to play and recreate. We welcome this successful nonprofit land trust into our community, bringing their expertise to help us build on our conservation successes."

The property has 300 feet of frontage on Scotch Road that will enable Ewing to create a new pedestrian gateway to the adjacent 66-acre park. The site is directly across from an apartment complex with many residents, whose current access is a narrow driveway leading to an isolated parking area. The new gateway will allow those residents to easily access the park and the planned trail network.

Eventually the gateway will connect to a comprehensive bike and pedestrian trail network. The park sits between the D&R Canal Path and the Johnson Trolley Trail.

Located on a tributary to the West Branch of the Shabakunk Creek, the wooded property was slated for development: a construction plan had already been approved for development into a bank and storage buildings, and possibly a car wash and auto facility. Local businessman Peter Dawson co-owned the site with an investment partner. Joining D&R Greenway's Board of Trustees educated Dawson about the value of preserving land as an alternative to development. He encouraged his partner to consider this option and Eric Rosenblum negotiated the sale of the property to the township. D&R Greenway made the connection and Ewing Township preserved the land with municipal funds.

"Expanding our work to Ewing brings our carefully honed skill-set to one of Mercer County's largest and densest municipalities, with a more diverse population than communities we typically work with in Mercer, Hunterdon and Somerset counties," says D&R Greenway Vice-President Jay Watson. "Widening our reach to create and expand recreational opportunities close to population centers ensures that everyone has easy access to quality open spaces in their own communities." 🦋

# Winter Exhibits & Programs

Events are free to attend unless otherwise indicated.

For gallery hours and to RSVP: [rsvp@drgreenway.org](mailto:rsvp@drgreenway.org) or call (609) 924-4646.

Stop by the Johnson Education Center to enjoy D&R Greenway's Jay Vawter Decoy Collection.

While there's no denying the beauty of being outdoors on a winter's day, the colder temperatures provide the perfect reason to visit the Johnson Education Center. You will experience a warm welcome, stunning works of art and thought-provoking programs.

## Art Exhibits, Marie L. Matthews Gallery

### Earth/Fire Juried Exhibit

*On view through January 22, 2016*

Earth and Fire are essential to conservation and inspire spiritual passion and grounding. This juried exhibition celebrates the playfulness of flame and steadiness of soil in a variety of interpretations and mediums.

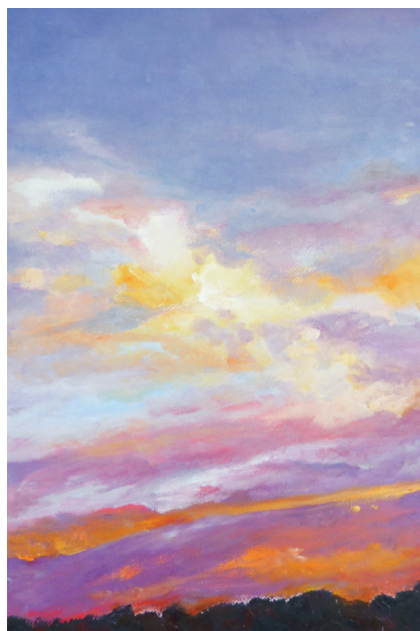
### New Decoy Exhibit: Timeline, from Craft to Art

*On view through November 2016*

World class exhibit of original "gunners" over 100 years old to today's fine art "high decoratives" and the latest trend that echoes earliest working decoys. Includes decoys from the private collections of Jay Vawter and from Ron Kobli, owner of the Decoy & Wildlife Gallery, Frenchtown.



Old Squaw Drake, by Lem Ward, carver



Heavenly Fire, by Catherine Martzloff

## Olivia Rainbow Gallery

### Three Generations of Kuenne Artists

*On view through January 15, 2016*

The grandfather, mother and brothers of Olivia Kuenne, for whom the gallery is named, will exhibit their paintings and photography.

Grandfather Peter Vought's art hangs in private collections, including the American Embassies in Moscow and Dubai, and has been exhibited in museums. He expresses his love of the colors and expanse of nature through abstract acrylic works of the undeveloped American landscape.

## Raritan, the Forgotten River

*Princeton Day School student art*

*January 22 – March 30, 2016*

Nature Photographs of the Raritan, curated by art teacher Eileen Hohmuth-Lemonick

## Classes and Lectures

### Discussion: Framing The Future—Seeking Solutions to Environmental Challenges

*A series of discussions co-sponsored by D&R Greenway and the Green Hour*

*Climate Change—Where do we go from here?*

*Thursday, January 28, 2016*

*Doors open: 5:30 p.m.*

*Program: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.*

Leading experts will discuss implications from COP21, the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, where representatives from 195 nations met to discuss a new international agreement. Viewpoints will be presented on new scientific thinking and what it means for all of us.

We expect a lively discussion among participants and the audience is encouraged to participate.

### Natural Healing: The Power of Being Outdoors

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

*Doors open: 6:30 p.m.*

*Program: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.*

Sometimes the best medicine is free. Getting outdoors—whether to walk around a field, sit by a stream or smell the fresh air—can lift your spirits and promote health and wellness.

Hear from three women who have faced health challenges and found solace and healing in nature. Edie Howard (see story, page 1) and former Princeton Mayor Phyllis Marchand will share their stories.

VOICES Chorale founder and music director Dr. Lyn Ransom will perform songs she composed to help cope with cancer. Light refreshments served.

Stay informed about D&R Greenway events, preserves and news by subscribing to our e-news.

Visit [www.drgreenway.org](http://www.drgreenway.org) and sign-up today.

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## D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.

D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc., is a regional, 501(c)(3) nonprofit land conservancy dedicated to preserving and caring for land, and inspiring a conservation ethic.

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## Inspiration Creates Conservation

"... it is helpful to set aside some places  
which can be preserved and protected  
from constant changes brought by  
human intervention."

—Pope Francis, *Encyclical on Climate Change &  
Inequality* ("On Care for Our Common Home")

"How we treat our land and act  
toward our air and water will, in  
the long run, tell what kind of  
people we really are."

—Laurence Rockefeller, advisor on  
environmental conservation and recreation  
to five Presidents, for which he was awarded  
the Congressional Gold Medal and given  
the title "Mr. Conservation"



"Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it.  
What you can do is keep it for your children, your  
children's children and for all who come after you."

—Theodore Roosevelt, 1903 at the Grand Canyon

"There is plenty of land to be  
saved and restored, plenty of  
environmental protection causes  
to be fought. I truly believe  
that any one individual can  
make a difference — it has been  
proven time and again."

—Mary Louise Pierson,  
fifth-generation Rockefeller

May the peace and joy of nature inspire you over the holidays and throughout the year.