

2000 Annual Report
Conservation Advisory Commission
City of Newark, Delaware

Table of Contents

Overview

Background

2000 CAC Activities in Response to City Council Requests
 Rubberized Asphalt

2000 CAC Activities Initiated by CAC
 Adopt-A-Block/Stream/Park
 Recycling
 EPA Green Community Program
 Litter in Newark
 Riparian Corridors
 U of D Activities in Recycling and Conservation

2000 CAC Activities Conducted on a Regular Basis
 Review of Planning Department Administrative Reports
 Community Day
 Promoting Improvement through the Better Newark Award
 Community Cleanup

CAC Initiatives for 2001

Appendices

- A. Conservation Advisory Commission - 2000 Membership
- B. Overview Of Adopt-A-Block/Park/Stream Program
- C. Proposal To City Council For Participation In EPA Green Communities Program
- D. Summary of CAC Activities - Community Days 2000 / Green Community Program
- E. Responses From Community Day Attendants – Sunday, September 17, 2000

Overview

This report summarizes the activities of the City of Newark's Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) during the 2000 calendar year. Some of these overlap with 1999 activities as described in last year's report, and some materials are repeated to provide a "stand-alone" document. The direction of anticipated CAC work in the year 2001 is also described.

Background

The CAC was created in November, 1977 by Ordinance 77-56,

"to advise in the development, management, and protection of its natural resources with appropriate consideration of Newark's human and economic resources. The Commission shall concern itself with conservation in its broadest sense and may, among its activities:

(a) Recommend to City Council a program for ecologically suitable utilization of all wet lands, valley streams, and flood plains and other land areas, the condition and use of which will affect the environmental quality of life in the City of Newark;

(b) Shall file an annual report;

(c) Maintain informal liaison with the Planning Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department, the City Manager, and the City Council, and cooperate with other public and private bodies organized for similar purposes:

(d) In addition to the foregoing, carry out any other duties, tasks, or responsibilities, consistent with the objectives of this Commission assigned to it by resolution of City Council."

Ordinance 77-56 gave examples of programs that may be considered by the Commission as street tree replacement; improved recycling; a plant and tree bank; a beautification plan ready for implementation by volunteer groups; mini parks; assist Parks Department in the acquisition of conservation easements; guidelines for multiple use of open space and public areas; community gardens; energy conservation; and review of Zoning Code amendments to encourage conservation, and also stated that "the above list shall not, however, limit the program which the Commission may undertake or be requested to undertake."

The CAC has 9 members; the roster for 2000 provided as **Appendix A**.

The CAC's year 2000 activities are organized in this report into three groups:

-activities in response to City Council Requests

-activities initiated by the CAC

-activities conducted on a regular basis

2000 CAC Activities in Response to City Council Requests

Rubberized Asphalt: This work followed a request from City Council at its meeting of September 13, 1999, asking the CAC to examine the possible use of rubber additive in the asphalt used for city road construction and rebuilding. This is a means of utilizing used rubber tires to improve the characteristics and longevity of asphalt. Used tires would otherwise represent an environmental nuisance, and even threat in the case of used tire fires which release large amounts of air and water pollution.

The CAC reviewed rubberized asphalt characteristics, history, economics, and environmental effects. Literature was located from a variety of library and internet sources, including a U.S.

Department of transportation report, information from the Rubber Pavements Association, and abstracts from many reviewed journal articles. This activity was completed in January 2000 with viewing of a video provided by a rubberized pavement supplier. These materials were then forwarded to City Council and the Public Works Director, with the CAC's recommendation, passed as a motion with a vote of 7-0:

MOTION BY MR. HARMER, SECONDED BY MR. WIRTH: THAT THE CAC RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT THE CITY REVIEW THE FEASIBILITY OF RUBBER ASPHALT, AND ALTHOUGH THERE INITIALLY MIGHT BE SLIGHTLY HIGHER COSTS, RUBBER ASPHALT WOULD DOUBLE THE ROAD LIFE, REDUCE ROAD NOISE, INCREASE TRACTION, AND IS ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSERVATIVE.

This recommendation was based on environmental aspects only. Additional considerations such as availability of needed suppliers, increased capital expense over the initial years of use, and possible requirement for specialized equipment, were considered to be beyond the expertise of CAC or the charge placed before it by City Council.

The Director of Public Works reviewed the information provided by the CAC and indicated that his department's assessment was that the use of rubber in asphalt may promote environmental conservation, but also has costs and possibly some technical issues associated with its use. For example, the use of rubber asphalt would increase maintenance costs immediately, but foreseen economic benefits from increased road life would not be realized for many years. The relatively low volume of asphalt purchased by the city would not provide adequate incentive for a nearby asphalt producer to introduce the product.

As a consequence, the January motion was rescinded. In April 2000, the CAC unanimously approved an alternative motion:

MOTION BY MS. WEIKER, SECONDED BY MR. PHILIPP: THAT THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL CONTINUE TO BE RECEPTIVE TO THE OPTION OF USING CRUMB RUBBER MODIFIER (CRM) AND OTHER MODIFIERS (GLASS) IN CITY PAVEMENT CONTRACTS IN THE FUTURE AS WARRANTED BY THE LOCAL AVAILABILITY AND COSTS OF THEIR USE. IF, IN THE FUTURE, THE USE OF SUCH MODIFIERS IS FOUND ACCEPTABLE BY THE STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND IF CRM AVAILABILITY IS SUPPORTED BY LOCAL SUPPLIERS, THE CAC RECOMMENDS ASPHALT MODIFIER USE BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE BY CASE CONTRACT BASIS AND INTRODUCED ON A GRADUAL BASIS.

2000 CAC Activities Initiated by CAC

Adopt-A-Block/Stream/Park: In 1999, the CAC began considering an "Adopt-A-Block" program similar to the "Adopt-A-Highway" programs common in many counties and states. This would be a re-initiation of a similar program that the CAC conducted from 1991 to 1993. Information was gathered in 2000 from the City of Middletown and from the State program regarding particulars. Streams and parks were added to the proposed program. In December 2000 CAC member O'Neill finalized a proposal for the program, which is attached to this report as **Appendix B**. The CAC approved this proposal unanimously at that meeting. Initiation of the program is intended for 2001, starting on a small scale. A packet of materials has been prepared

which includes conditions of participation, safety considerations, an application form, and release forms for adult and child participants.

Recycling: Curbside recycling has been a focus of the CAC in 2000. Although the 26 week pilot Curbside Recycling Program of 1996-1997 indicated that curbside recycling was too costly to be viable, the CAC has been exploring other options in an attempt to reduce the expense. Cities and towns in this region with successful recycling programs were contacted, and information was obtained on their programs' strong points and weak points. Contacts were made both in states that have mandatory recycling as well as in states that have voluntary programs.

The Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) currently handles the voluntary recycling activity in Delaware through their collection points at the Recycle Delaware locations throughout the state. In March of 2000, the Citizens' Work Group on Recycling presented their report to Governor Carper, entitled "A Course of Action to Increase Recycling in the State of Delaware," which resulted in the creation of an Office of Recycling and a Recycling Public Advisory Council within the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). Contacts have been established with these groups and the CAC will be working with them in 2001 to evaluate the feasibility of a curbside recycling program for Newark. This will build on the CAC's activities in 1999 (e.g. investigation of recycling activities by the University of Delaware) and in 2000 (review of the aforementioned report; review of the findings of the 1996-97 curbside recycling study; inquiries into curbside recycling programs in Elsemere and elsewhere).

EPA Green Community Program: The CAC sought information about the EPA's Green Communities Program. Materials describing this program were obtained in hard copy and from the EPA web site. The manager of EPA's Community-Based Environmental Protection Program, Ms. Susan McDowell, came from the EPA Region II office in Philadelphia to present and discuss possible participation by the City of Newark. After further study, the CAC developed a proposal to City Council at the Council meeting of September 11, 2000. The proposal is attached to this report as **Appendix C**, giving details on the nature of the program.

City Council did not endorse the proposal given the time and effort commitments asked of the city (such as conducting a community workshop on the topic) but allowed the possibility of CAC conducting an initial survey at Community Days to determine public interest.

The CAC presented the Green Community concept to the public at Community Days, as described in the section on CAC's Community Days activities, and summarized in **Appendix D**. 75 signatures were collected on a petition supporting City participation in the Green Communities program, and many concerns were written on the open posters asking for comments. A transcription of these comments was provided to Council (see **Appendix E**), and members of the CAC presented their findings from the Community Days activities at the November 14 Council meeting. Although there was extended discussion of the proposal to participate in the Green Communities program, Council again declined the CAC proposal, primarily on the grounds that it asked for excessive time and effort from the city when a number of other important projects (such as the reservoir) were underway.

Littering in Newark: The issue of littering and the lack of any anti-littering program or signage in Newark had been a concern in 1999. Dr. Dentel engaged an undergraduate student at UD to study this problem, as an independent study project, to be reported to the CAC early in 2001.

Riparian Corridors: Members of the CAC had been aware of erosion and flooding problems in the Christina Creek which have been attributed (in part) to lack of proper attention to the riparian corridor along this creek, particularly in the Christianstead and West Branch developments. These developments included deed restriction, put in place in 1985, intended to protect the 100-year flood plain areas included in these residential properties. In many cases (one-third to two-fifths of the lots), these restriction had not been heeded, impairing access to the trail along the stream and razing natural vegetation.

The CAC reviewed the history of the developments' restrictions as well as Riparian buffer area policies of the New Castle County Unified Development Code and practices recommended by the Delaware Nature Society's Streamside Property Management Program. In view of the informative nature of the Delaware Nature Society's program, the CAC passed the following recommendation at the June 7, 2000 meeting:

MOTION BY DR. BENNETT, SECONDED BY MR. DIEHL: THAT THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ADVISE COUNCIL OF THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF JUNE 22, 2000 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE PRESERVATION OF RIPARIAN CORRIDORS AND RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH RIPARIAN CORRIDOR RESPONSIBILITIES TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

2000 CAC Activities Conducted on a Regular Basis

Review of Planning Department Administrative Reports: This regular activity of the CAC is for the purpose of addressing potential environmental effects of development within city limits as early in the planning process as possible. In 1999 the Planning Department instituted the routine mailing of its weekly reports to CAC members for this purpose. CAC members have attended Planning Commission meetings and spoken to environmental questions as a result.

In 2000, the following developmental concerns were addressed, many resulting from Planning department information:

- Meadow Crossing development planned for Valley Road and the associated wetlands.
- Christina Plaza apartment complex planned for Elkton Road.
- Pomeroy corridor bike path route, its pavement characteristics, possible wetlands impacts, and planned implementation in University Courtyard area.
- Yorkshire Woods II development.
- Proposed city warehouse near the current city garage and associated plans for tree removal
- Ogletown Road/Library Avenue intersection (Routes 273 and 72), adjacent landscaping, and possible tree removal.
- Former wooded area of the DelChapel site and DNREC assessment of sediment remediation.
- 924 Barksdale Road, purchased by the International Reading Association.
- Status of Newark Country Club property.
- Ongoing plans for the City Reservoir.

Community Day: CAC has manned a booth for Community Day for many years. Each year, current issues are highlighted and recipients of the "Better Newark Award" are displayed. Themes from 1994 to 1998 were reviewed in the 1998 Annual Report. Last year the CAC promoted both the Better Newark Award and the Adopt-A-Block/Stream program.

For Community Day 2000, the CAC selected the EPA's Green Communities program as its highlight. Posters were prepared and displayed that explain the nature and benefits of this

program, which entails community assessment (where are we now?); trends analysis (where are we going?); a vision statement (where do we want to be?); action plans (how do we get there?); and implementation. The environmental emphasis is determined by the particular community, with EPA's emphasis being the focus on environment in designing a community's future direction. Questions were posed on environmental issues, such as, "do you think that in ten years, Newark will be a better place to live than it is now?" A map of open spaces in Newark was presented, and a locator map for participants to indicate whether they felt there was enough open space near where they live. **Appendix D** provides a more detailed summary of the materials presented and the results, and **Appendix E** summarizes the responses received by visitors to the CAC display.

One poster also presented the names of recent winners of the Better Newark Award and pictures of selected properties, in order to publicize this important activity.

Promoting Improvement through the Better Newark Award: Since 1986, the "Better Newark Award" has been awarded quarterly for environmental improvements as well as noteworthy aesthetic improvements. This award includes a proclamation signed by the Mayor and a publicized photo of the property. Nominations are reviewed regularly by the CAC, and winning properties were selected. The winning Newark properties during 2000 were:

- 340 Delaware Circle, George Read, owned by Janet R. Yoder.
- 11 Ritter Lane, Jane and Ben Campagna Jr.
- 271 West Main Street, William R. Stritzinger
- 205 Hullihen Drive

Community Cleanup: The CAC was active in assisting with the city's 2000 Community Cleanup. In 1999, this event replaced the Stream Cleanup because the stream beds in the area were assessed as being relatively clean (they are walked periodically by Parks and Recreation personnel).

The Community Cleanup was planned for April 1, 2000. CAC members met with Parks and Recreation to organize the event, including identification of areas to be assigned, sources of supplemental funding, and community groups to be contacted for volunteers.

Each CAC member was assigned a cleanup group on the day of the activity, and advised on duties, area boundaries, and safety considerations (since many areas were along busy thoroughfares). Participation was good, with 125 volunteers participating. A greater amount of litter was collected than in 1999, due to the cleanup of the South Well Field area. There was a lot of enthusiasm and people enjoyed being involved in the event as much as picking up litter in common areas around the city. Continuation of the event for 2001 was anticipated.

CAC Initiatives for 2001

The CAC looks forward to 2001 with the following priorities:

1. Respond to directives and requests from the Mayor, City Council, and others within the City government.
2. Beautification: continue administration of the Better Newark Award. Continue with the Community Cleanup program, with improvements as indicated after assessment of the 2000 effort.

3. **Conservation:** further explore the Green Communities Program for ways in which Newark might participate and qualify. Continue to encourage appropriate treatment of riparian corridors in Newark.
4. **Recycling:** the CAC intends to reassess the possibility of increased recycling given recent changes in the statewide handling of solid waste. This could include curbside recycling, but other strategies as well. Means of decreasing littering in Newark are also to be explored.



APPENDIX A: CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - 2000 MEMBERSHIP

(Three-Year Term)

Steven K. Dentel, Chairperson
69 Kells Avenue
Newark, DE 19711
Appointment by Mayor
Term Expired: March 13, 2000
Reappointed to March 13, 2003
Phone: 737-3939 (H) 831-8120 (B) 831-3640 (FAX)
Steve Dentel <dentel@udel.edu>

Bruce Diehl, Vice-Chairperson
205 Meriden Drive
Newark, DE 19711
Appointment for District 5
Term Expired: March 13, 2000
Reappointed to March 13, 2003
Phone: 368-0790 (H) 773-2841 (B)
Bruce Diehl <TheDeal246@aol.com>

Alan Hitchner
905 Pheasant Run
Newark, DE 19711
Appointment for District 1
Term Expires: March 13, 2001
Phone: 292-3658 (H)
Alan Hitchner <ahitchne@csc.com>

Mike Harmer
36 Hawthorne Avenue
Newark, DE 19711
Appointment for District 2
366-0877 (H) 395-5845 (B)
mtharmer@co.new-castle.de.us

Edward H. Wirth
427 Arbour Drive
Newark, DE 19713
Appointment for District 3
Term Expired: March 13, 2000
Phone: 368-4332 (H)

Robert B. Bennett
117 Dallas Avenue
Newark, DE 19711
Appointment for District 3
Appointed May 8, 2000
Term Expires: March 13, 2003
Phone: 731-4524 (H) 831-3653 (B)
Robert Bennett <Rbennett@udel.edu>

Kurt R. Philipp
37 Kells Avenue
Newark, DE 19711
Appointment for District 4
Term Expires: March 13, 2002
Phone: 738-7535 (B)
Kurt Philipp <KRPhilipp@aol.com>

Sheila Smith
130 Kells Avenue
Newark, DE 19711
Appointment for District 6
Resigned: February 28, 2000
Phone: 731-4329 (H)

Peter Griffin
329 Paper Mill Road
Newark, DE 19711
Appointment for District 6
Appointed February 28, 2000
Term expires: March 13, 2001
Phone: 733-7486 (H) 831-0892 (B)
Peter Griffin <griffin@ce.udel.edu>

Arthur O'Neill
211 Sypherd Drive
Newark, DE 19711
Appointment by Mayor
Term Expires: March 13, 2001
Phone: 731-7580 (H) 366-5387 (B)
831-4934 (FAX)
<arthur.j.oneill@usa.dupont.com>

Debra Weiker
106 East Park Place Newark, DE 19711
Appointment by Mayor
Resigned: June, 2000

Peter Drake
12 Plymouth Drive
Newark, DE 19711
Appointed August 14, 2000
Term Expires: March 13, 2002
Appointment by Mayor
731-0319 (H) 998-7500 (B)
pdrake@chhetrick.com

APPENDIX B: OVERVIEW OF ADOPT-A-BLOCK/PARK/STREAM PROGRAM

CITY OF NEWARK

ADOPT A BLOCK ADOPT A PARK ADOPT A STREAM

PROPOSAL

The Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) would initiate a program that facilitates volunteers (individuals or groups) to help clean selected areas within the limits of the City of Newark. Initially, then program would concentrate its efforts in areas that require the most attention (e.g. Main Street) but would eventually spread to a wider area. The program would also coordinate its efforts with any city services that have a similar agenda.

CONCERNS

- Overview – members of the CAC would initiate and maintain the program. No city officials would be required to “run this program.”
- Cost – the individuals performing the cleanups would be volunteers so the only costs associated with this program would be the supplies needed by the volunteers for the clean-ups (e.g. plastic bags, gloves, etc.) and any marketing tools (e.g. signs, mailers, etc.) deemed appropriate
- Liability – all volunteers would be required to sign waivers modeled after the Adopt-A-Highway program sponsored by the Delaware Department of Transportation

BENEFIT

The streets, parks, and streams within the City of Newark would have a mechanism in place to help the existing city services keep these areas clean for all the community. In addition, volunteerism by the community would instill a sense of pride and ownership in these areas.

APPENDIX C: PROPOSAL TO CITY COUNCIL FOR PARTICIPATION IN EPA GREEN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Cover letter

July 25, 2000

Honorable Mayor Harold F. Godwin
Members of City Council of Newark

Dear Mayor Godwin and Members of City Council:

The Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) has spent the last several months learning about the Green Communities Program conducted by the EPA. In brief, this program sets forth a sequence of five steps through which a city, county, or watershed area can identify and implement actions that will lead towards a desired vision of environmental and economic sustainability. It relies on public involvement, coupled with participation of the many organizations that might be considered as stakeholders, and must also depend on City personnel for their knowledge and resources.

The CAC has unanimously recommended that Newark set forth on the Green Communities process, and asks that City Council endorse the following:

- (1) scheduling of an initial workshop to initiate the process, with subsequent workshops as needed, and
- (2) assistance of City personnel in the Green Communities process.

We feel that Newark participation in the Green Communities Program can be used to integrate many community concerns--such as green space needs, water quality and supply, transportation planning, and economic well-being--into a vision, and then an action plan, that will help the government of Newark fulfill its mission, and also bring the City closer to an environmentally and economically sustainable future.

A more detailed outline of what we might do, and how the city might benefit, is presented with the attached recommendation from CAC. We hope you will approve this recommendation, and look forward to becoming a certified "Green Community."

Sincerely

Steven K. Dentel
Chair, Conservation Advisory Commission

Newark: Toward A Green Community

A possible initiative for consideration by Mayor Godwin and City Council

The Status Quo

Growth in and around Newark is gradually impinging on the quality of life available to its citizens. This growth can detract from the local environment, both in the sense of aesthetic quality and in the larger sense of its impact on pollution of the water, land, air, and overall ecosystem. It must also be recognized that the citizenry desires a balance between economic and environmental well-being in the area. The environmental effects of many on-going aspects of "progress" in the Newark area should be considered in this light, and should be in harmony with our future vision of this community. It should be possible to integrate our economic, educational, cultural, transportation, and lifestyle needs into an environmentally sustainable approach.

Green Communities: A Sustainable Approach

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has created a program for communities who desire a firmer grip on their own environmental future. Entitled the Green Community program, it is set forth on a web site at <http://www.epa.gov/region03/greenkit>. It sets forth a sequence of steps through which a city, county, or watershed area can identify and implement actions leading towards the desired vision of environmental and economic sustainability.

There are 5 steps to the process:

1. **Where are we now?** The community does a self-assessment.
2. **Where are we going?** The community looks at its trends.
3. **Where do we want to be?** The community develops a common vision of its future.
4. **How do we get there?** The community develops action plans.
5. **Let's go!** Plans are implemented.

It is proposed that Newark embark on this process, beginning with a start-up workshop to identify stakeholders and develop a path forward. The Mayor and City Council, the City Manager's office, and the Newark Conservation Advisory Commission would need to take the lead in this process. If this process is successful, Newark can be awarded EPA designation as a 'Green Community.' More importantly, a community vision of Newark's future would be fostered.

What Are Possible Benefits of EPA Designation as a Green Community?

The process of developing and implementing a green vision of Newark's future could provide many benefits. Existing and planned components of our city that make it a "green" can be more effectively publicized and integrated into other aspects of city life. New initiatives are likely to be identified and given sufficient community support to become part of Newark's environment and economy. Identification of Newark as a Green Community (with, for example, signs at main entries to the city) will bring pride and recognition to the Newark residents, government, and environs.

What Other Communities Have Attained Recognition as Green Communities?

Many other communities throughout the country and the world are making this commitment to

environmental protection with outstanding economic and social benefits. In EPA Region 3, examples are

<u>City of York, PA</u>	<u>October 1997</u>
<u>Union County, PA</u>	<u>December 1998</u>
King and Queen County, VA	July 1999
Swatara Creek Watershed, PA	December 1999

As they work toward sustainable solutions, these communities are realizing a variety of tangible and intangible benefits. A Green Community benefits from:

- \$ Compliance with environmental regulations
- \$ Retention of locally based economies
- \$ Natural resource conservation through appropriate land use
- \$ Adequate affordable housing
- \$ Citizen involvement in decision-making
- \$ Long Term Solutions to community issues
- \$ Economic equity
- \$ Pollution prevention and much, much more.

How Much Effort is Involved in Becoming a Green Community?

The effort to become a Green Community and maintain that status is an ongoing one. Case studies presented on the EPA web site suggest that the Green Community designation itself may require as little as two years, but could take much longer than this, depending on the scope of the community's effort and the resources available. For some communities, it appears that a small core group of organized participants accomplished most of the tasks, but extensive efforts by hundreds of citizens and concerned groups have also been necessary where communities required it. The level of commitment and resources from city and other government agencies may also determine how long the process takes.

Possible Facets of the Program

The following are efforts that might be used to exemplify Newark's status as a Green Community in several years. Many of the listed items already exist, are in development, or have been planned. Others are only cited as illustrations of additional components that could be part of Newark's future. Choosing to initiate the Green Communities process in Newark does require the specific endorsement of the items below at the outset. The true picture of Newark as a Green Community cannot be painted without the visualization and the tentative sketches that will occur through the Green Communities process.

- \$ Greenway acquisition and pathway development for connection of City Parks such as Coverdale, Karpinski, Paper Mill and Redd and linking disconnected cul-de-sac subdivisions
- \$ Continued bicycle path development throughout the Newark area (downtown, campus, residential areas, green spaces) and interconnecting with a larger network Connection of by bike paths, walkways
- \$ City acquisition of Koelig Farm tract for recreational and water storage facilities instead of residential development
- \$ Integration of local schools into park, greenspace, and bike path planning
- \$ Additional cultural/educational facilities in future plans, located in environmentally appropriate sites (e.g. Watershed Education Center near water treatment plant/paper mill site).
- \$ Reduced traffic and noise impacts due to traffic calming and better bicycle and pedestrian paths
- \$ Definition/zoning of "campus"-type commercial developments to assure that growth of research parks is desirable while also consistent with transportation and environmental visions for Newark
- \$ Rehabilitation of Paper Mill Road/White Clay Creek area with mixed office/commercial/residential use while limiting further low-density residential development
- \$ Pedestrian loop path connecting Main Street with the riparian areas of the White Clay Valley, to include trail signs, footbridges, trail side fountains and benches, street painting, landscaping

- § Continued intelligent planning for downtown area to encourage mixed use facilities, business vitality, and a "home town" feel.
- § Creation of a watershed master plan to combine water quality and supply planning with appropriate land use

Possible Elements to the Process

The City of Newark and the Newark Conservation Advisory Commission would initiate the program with a Workshop (the first in a series of Workshops as the process continues). The initial Workshop would be used to introduce the process and recruit participants. This Workshop should be widely publicized and stakeholders invited from many quarters, including the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Newark City Manager's Office | Restaurant and Redevelopment Property Owners |
| City Planning Director/Asst Planning Director | Campus/Community Coalition |
| City Director of Public Works | Newark Traffic Relief Committee |
| City Director of Park and Recreation | Newark Arts Alliance |
| Newark Water and Wastewater Department | Businessmen and Restaurateurs |
| Downtown Newark Partnership | Trout Unlimited/Delaware Fly Fisherman |
| Old Newark Civic Association | Water Resources Agency |
| White Clay Watershed Association | Students for the Environment |

Work on the first three steps in the Green Communities Process (Where are we now?/Where are we going?/Where do we want to be?) could be concomitant and involve overlapping groups. Involvement and support of the city offices listed above will be essential and should be encouraged by the Mayor's office and City Council. Community-wide participation should be encouraged by organizing a **Green Community Coalition** to include both individuals and environmental, community, and business groups. The University of Delaware, as an obvious stakeholder, should be organizationally involved.

The assembly of interested parties should establish regular meetings to assure progress on each of the steps in the Green Communities Process. Meetings could be held at the offices of the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration, which will agree to serve as a forum for this purpose. This Institute proposed a similar undertaking in a proposal to EPA in October 1999, and endorses this proposal. Representatives of EPA Region 3's Green Communities Program provide help in this overall process, and other Green Communities are likely to provide assistance on specific issues. The Water Resources Agency, housed at the University of Delaware, is willing to assist with a watershed master plan as part of this process.

Completion of each step should include a Workshop to report to the greater public and solicit feedback, and a report for dissemination in hard copy and internet posting. Endorsement by the Mayor and City Council should be requested. For the third step, a **Vision Document** would be essential for continuation with the fourth and fifth steps. When the fourth and fifth steps are in progress, application to the EPA for Green Community designation is appropriate.

APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF CAC ACTIVITIES - COMMUNITY DAYS 2000 / GREEN COMMUNITY PROGRAM

The CAC booth at Community Days was located next to a chain barrier and our usual banner was not available, but nonetheless a good number of people visited our display. Four posters and two large maps were presented. One poster summarized the EPA Green Communities program, and one poster asked for opinions from the public. The contents of these posters are presented below:

Help Newark Be a Green Community

The EPA can award this designation to any community that is working towards a sustainable future - a healthy environment, a strong economy, and a high quality of life for all its citizens. Can Newark qualify for this recognition?

You can help!

Here's what we need to do:

1. Community Assessment (Where Are We Now?)
2. Trends Analysis (Where Are We Going?)
3. Vision Statement (Where Do We Want To Be?)
4. Action Plans (How Do We Get There?)
5. Start Implementation (Let's Go!)

Here's how we do it:

- § Begin with an organizational workshop that will involve a broad range of stakeholders in Newark's future - individuals and representatives from local organizations (environmental, commercial, government, educational, etc.)
- § Use the workshop to identify Newark's existing resources and efforts towards a Green Community, to determine priorities for further progress, and to assemble working groups to develop reports on these areas.
- § Based in part on Newark's existing documentation of efforts for environmental and economic sustainability, and in part of newly developed visions and plans, develop a report to the City on these priorities and how to achieve them (action plans).
- § Get the plans implemented!

These steps will give an environmental focus to Newark's future.

What are some examples of Green Community priorities for Newark?

(Note: these are only suggestions. The Newark community decides!)

- ⊃ Attraction of environmentally friendly businesses
- ⊃ Better stormwater runoff control
- ⊃ Control of development sprawl
- ⊃ Curbside recycling
- ⊃ Encouragement of neo-traditional housing
- ⊃ Energy conservation incentives
- ⊃ Greenways and bike paths
- ⊃ Improved drinking water
- ⊃ Incentives for use of mass transit
- ⊃ Solar energy incentives
- ⊃ Stringent wetland and streambed protection
- ⊃ Traffic calming measures
- ⊃ Your idea - put it on the questionnaire!

Please sign the petition asking Newark City Council to approve the Green Communities process
For more information on EPA's "Green Communities" program: see www.epa.gov/greenkit

The petition for those wishing to express their support for a Green Communities program was signed by 75 people. Six people also expressed specific interest in volunteering to help.

City of Newark's Conservation Advisory Commission **Y2K Green Communities Questionnaire**

1. What do you like the most about Newark's environment?
2. What do you dislike about Newark's environment?
3. What environmental practices, facilities, or resources have you seen in other communities that you would like to have here?
4. What positive steps (if any) are needed for Newark to deserve the title of "a green community?"
5. Given current trends, do you think that in ten years, Newark will be a better place to live than it is now, the same, or worse?

Responses to these questions were written by hand on the blank spaces provided on the two questionnaire posters. These have been transcribed and provided separately to City Council. A wide variety of ideas and opinions were presented and these represent possible directions for future CAC activity.

A Better Newark Award Publicity

One additional poster described the CAC's A Better Newark Award program, with a tabulation of recent winners and photographs of selected sites.

The "A Better Newark" Award

The "A Better Newark" award is sponsored by the Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) to recognize property owners of houses and businesses who attempt to improve the appearance of their property through structural renovations and/or landscaping, thereby enhancing the image of the entire community. Property endeavors that result in energy, water, and soil conservation as well as waste reductions support CAC's drive for continual environmental improvement in Newark, and therefore are also eligible for this award.

Anyone can nominate a Newark property for this award by submitting a nomination form. The "A Better Newark" award is presented quarterly to deserving property owners in the form of a commemorative proclamation signed by the Mayor of Newark accompanied by a mounted photograph of the award winning property, suitable for display. A duplicate photo and award press release are sent to local newspapers for publication.

Nominate for the "A Better Newark " Award! Forms available here!

Newark Map Survey

The two maps presented diagramed and photographic views of the Newark area. One had the following instructions:

Map question:

-Examine both maps of Newark, and locate the place where you live.

-Do you think there is enough green space near you, such as parks, schools, or other accessible natural areas?

-If so, place a GREEN sticker at your location on the "Sustainable Newark" map.

- If not, use a RED sticker.

A total of 22 green stickers and 8 red stickers were placed. Green stickers were broadly placed, while red stickers were somewhat clustered along the Elkton Road corridor.

Summary

These were not scientifically conducted surveys but provide some indication of environmental concerns for the Newark area. Major priorities of respondents included curbside recycling, bikeways, open and green spaces, traffic intensity, and water quality. A more comprehensive assessment might be arrived at by conducting a Green Community workshop and/or an environmental survey distributed with electric bills.

**APPENDIX E. RESPONSES FROM COMMUNITY DAY ATTENDANTS -
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2000**

1. WHAT DO YOU LIKE THE MOST ABOUT NEWARK'S ENVIRONMENT?

Main Street;
Rittenhouse Park;
The people;
Parks, open space;
Original architecture;
Proximity to parks;;
Location;
Small town character (but disappearing--mammoth development projects & national chain stores);
Comfort - locality;
Access to parks;
Everything within walking distance;
College memories, university atmosphere;
Relatively small in size;
Community Day.

2. WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE ABOUT NEWARK'S ENVIRONMENT?

Too much vehicular traffic;
White Clay Creek is polluted;
University of Delaware;
No good bus system;
Towing;
Car dealer row;
No biking roadway; lack of separate bike path;
Fishing in Rittenhouse Park;
Water tastes bad;
Lack of parking;
Loss of green space;
No good running places;
University of Delaware's expansion;
Construction;
Main Street should be (for) pedestrians and bicycles only;
Too much car traffic and too little bikeways;

The new apartment complex on S. Chapel Street - Ugly;
Students not paying attention to cars;
Power lines on Main Street;
National chain stores and malls (College Sq. & Suburban Plaza);
Lack of respect for speed limits and cyclists;
Water quality & open space;
Gum on Main Street sidewalks;
Cigarette butts at every stop light;
It is not illegal to burn wood for house heating without a means of keeping the smoke from polluting the air.

3. WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES, FACILITIES, OR RESOURCES HAVE YOU SEEN IN OTHER COMMUNITIES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HERE?

Smoke-free buildings (like California);
Curbside recycling (as in New Jersey and Florida--works well there); It's a must!;
Recycling;
More activities for youth & teens;
More bikeways;
Access to parks/green space;
More walking paths in public parks;
Another food co-op;
Bike path;
More sidewalks;
Bicycle Days;
Zoning.

4. WHAT POSITIVE STEPS (IF ANY) ARE NEEDED FOR NEWARK TO DESERVE THE TITLE OF "A GREEN COMMUNITY?"

Curbside recycling - a MUST for a Green Community (several in favor of curbside recycling);
More efforts for energy conservation;
Curb the developing that keeps destroying the only remaining woods and fields surrounding Newark;
Spread out the U of D;
More respect for Newark's past (save older buildings);
More off-road bike trails;
Combine UniCity & UD bus systems;
Main Street as a pedestrian and bicycles only street;
Bicycle Days;
Establishment of an easily reached source of information on recycling of materials besides the usual curbside recycled ones (e.g., plastics, hard plastic--as in vitamin

bottles);

Protection of riparian buffers (by ordinance);

Keep-up and well-being of wildlife;

An annual or biannual "report card" of quality of Newark's air, water, % of impervious surface, public transportation, % of residents who use public transportation, recycling, etc.;

Green energy/electricity recyclers;

More trees--Actively identify part of town that would benefit, and figure out way to provide incentive for having trees;

More City initiative to encourage water and energy (electric, etc.) conservation;

More public transportation.

5. GIVEN CURRENT TRENDS, DO YOU THINK THAT IN TEN YEARS, NEWARK WILL BE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE THAN IT IS NOW, THE SAME, OR WORSE?

Better: (4)

--But only if we work fast and save what open areas are left

--I think we can work to make it better; given no positive action it will be worse for all reasons stated above;

--If improvements to public transportation are made and curbside recycling is included.

--"Boo-hoo all the pessimists!"

Same: (None)

Worse: (8)

--More sewage from UD expansion;

--More traffic/air pollution;

--Traffic and air quality getting worse;

--Traffic - Beauty of little "town" being replaced;

--Only fast-food - No better shops (men's/women's);

--Traffic & UD sprawl;

--Traffic and UD are taking over;

--Traffic and character of town, the huge developments and four-story buildings are ugly and ruin Newark; small-town character and open space being eaten up.

/phb

