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Saving three acres near Blacks Creek

By LAURI SHEIBLEY
Burlington County Times

BORDENTOWN CITY — Bordentown City and a nonprofit organization have teamed up to save three acres near Blacks Creek.

A developer wanted to construct seven homes on the land at the intersection of Oliver and Chestnut streets, said Mayor John Collom.

But residents and Bordentown City officials opposed the plan when it was proposed a few years ago.

“It was a contentious issue,” Collom said.

The city worried that the developer was cramming too many homes on the lot, which includes some wetlands, Collom said.

So the city contacted D&R Greenway Land Trust, a nonprofit land preservation organization based in Princeton.

D&R Greenway negotiated to buy the land from the developer, Real

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Property Development Corp.

"The only way we could stop this horrendous development was to purchase it," Collom said.

The sale went through for \$500,000 in November, said Dennis Davidson, director of government relations and partnerships with D&R Greenway.

The Burlington County Board of Freeholders contributed \$125,000 toward the purchase. The rest of the money came from grants through the state's Green Acres program and the William Penn Foundation in Philadelphia, Davidson said.

D&R Greenway intends to transfer ownership of the land to Bordentown City.

Davidson said it is important to preserve this land since it abuts wetlands along Blacks Creek.

"It's a parcel in the middle of this dense, urban community of Bordentown," Davidson said. "It just provides access to those wetlands and Blacks Creek itself."

Davidson said D&R Greenway is working with Bordentown City officials to acquire more land near Blacks Creek. The goal is to connect these parcels and create a walking path along the creek, he said.



"This is one of a series of things we have been working on with the city," **Keyword(s)Business Name** Davidson said. "There is more to come."

Since its founding in 1989, D&R Greenway has preserved 8,338 acres in **TownST** central New Jersey.

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