

Dedication ceremony held for Charles Evans native plant garden in Trenton

By **Hunterdon County Democrat**
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On Saturday, Oct. 6, the Charles Evans Native Plant Garden was dedicated by D&R Greenway Land Trust and National Junior Tennis & Learning of Trenton. It features trees, shrubs and perennial wildflowers that are indigenous to New Jersey. The garden is in Cadwalader Park, adjacent to the new tennis center.

This project came to fruition through a generous gift from Linda Munson, Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Charles Evans Foundation.

The Charles Evans Native Plant Garden, installed by D&R Greenway Land Trust over the summer, is maintained by the Garden Club of Trenton.

The garden's plants were grown in D&R Greenway's native plant nursery.

Dogwoods and shadbush, grasses and sedges, and swathes of vivid wildflowers thrive on what had been a barren stretch between baseball fields and tennis courts. New benches allow visitors to enjoy the plants and the pollinators they attract, while watching children participate in the adjacent National Junior Tennis and Learning programs.

Linda Munson's generosity through the Charles Evans Foundation has had profound effects upon both dedicating organizations, providing multiple six-figure gifts, establishing endowments and supporting the mission of each. Munson reveals, "Charles Evans would be very proud to be associated with these two dedicated and successful charities, as well as, knowing that we are providing a beautiful garden in his name to the Trenton community."

D&R Greenway Land Trust CEO/President, Linda Mead declares, "We are delighted to be able, with Linda Munson's loyal partnership, to create this natural oasis for the City of Trenton. These are the plants that truly belong here, which will nourish birds and butterflies, and provide beauty for the garden's human visitors for generations to come."

NJTL of Trenton Executive Director, Dan Faber, proclaims, "Linda Munson's generosity in support of this wonderful garden, and other NJTLT initiatives, has forever changed our organization. For this we are very grateful. D&R Greenway designed and implemented an incredible native plant gardens, one from which our participants will learn and the Trenton community cherish for years to come."

A thoughtful visionary, Charles Evans particularly appreciated the natural world, having been born and educated in New York. After serving in the United States Army, he entered the world of fashion, going on to found the iconic women's sportswear line, Evan-Picone. In 1962, Evans sold the company to Revlon, embarking upon a successful commercial real estate business. Soon, his organization rose to the pinnacle of office building development in the Northeast. Prior to his June 2007 death, Mr. Evans selected six trustees to distribute residual assets to charities of their choice. Thus far, the Trustees have distributed his' endowment to hundreds of charities. Mr. Evans would be gratified to see this center city garden spring to life, to benefit youth, in honor of his own granddaughter, Charle Lily Evans."

NJTL of Trenton's mission is to strengthen the character and enhance the lives of low-income youth by providing opportunities and instruction in nutrition, education and tennis." Founded in 1975, the NJTLT touches the lives of more than 2,500 children from the Trenton area each year. Through its award winning programs, Trenton youth learn to play tennis, participate in after-school nutrition and cooking classes, and receive academic enrichment. This reaffirms the vision of NJTL national founder and tennis great Arthur Ashe - to promote character and offer education and nutrition opportunities for young people through tennis. www.njtlloftrenton.org

D&R Greenway Land Trust's mission is to preserve and protect natural lands, farm lands and open spaces throughout central and southern New Jersey. The land trust celebrates preservation of 26.5 miles since 1989, - an area three times the size of Trenton.

Through continuous preservation and stewardship, D&R Greenway nurtures a healthier and more diverse environment in seven counties. D&R Greenway's home, --a circa-1900 restored barn--, the Johnson Education Center, has become a focal point for conservation activity. Through programs, art exhibits and related lectures at One Preservation Place, the non-profit inspires greater public commitment to safeguarding land. Linda Mead, President and CEO, since 1997, has been increasingly recognized as a leader in creating the partnerships and orchestrating the complex transactions that lead to preservation success. www.drgreenway.org

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