



MAYOR CHRIS BOLLWAGE

# CITY OF ELIZABETH PRESS RELEASE



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## **GROUNDWORK ELIZABETH GREEN TEAM UNVEILS “DISCOVERING NATURE IN ELIZABETH” GUIDE**

**Elizabeth, N.J., July 26, 2007** Groundwork Elizabeth’s Green Team is proud to announce their “Discovering Nature in Elizabeth” Nature Guide, recently completed by more than 20 Elizabeth youth. Inspired and directed by Green Team leaders Dave Wiener, Mollie Mallett, and Lily Chaika, the journal is the result of countless weekends of observing, cataloging, photographing, writing, and arranging.

Through a cooperative partnership of community leaders led by Mayor Chris Bollwage, Elizabeth High School, the City of Elizabeth, Union County, the Elizabeth Development Company, the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Assistance Program, the Community Development Block Grant program, the National Association of Counties, and Groundwork Elizabeth, and private sector partner Elizabethtown Gas Company, the Green Team’s journal teaches awareness of the natural environment, which can be found everywhere in the urban landscape.

“Groundwork Elizabeth continues to help residents in each community within our City improve their environment” said Mayor Chris Bollwage. “The City of Elizabeth is fortunate to be able to offer our assistance to them as we partner to make the City an even better place to work and to live”.

Bob Varady, an attorney with LaCorte, Bundy, Varady and Kinsella, and current Groundwork Elizabeth President is very proud of the student’s efforts. “Reaching out to the youth of our City is a way to protect and improve our future”, said Varady at a recent public appearance.

Doug Evans, Groundwork Program Director from the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Assistance Program stresses that Green Teams cover a lot of issues regarding the mission and goals of the GW concept. “The Green Teams use local community members to transform neighborhoods, provide employment, and fulfill an educational role for youth associated with this program.”

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Within the 20 page guide are many colorful photographs of plants, animals, insects, and birds. At the end of the brochure there is a very interesting section regarding tracking animals. The guides are being distributed at no cost to residents and interested parties at various points throughout the City of Elizabeth. If you cannot find one, you may pick one up at 288 North Broad St., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, the home of Groundwork Elizabeth.

The Elizabeth Green Team was started in the Autumn of 2006, and funded through a grant from the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Assistance Program, and the City of Elizabeth's CDBG Program. The Annual Program will continue beginning Autumn 2007 in Elizabeth High School. Interested students may contact Mr. David Wiener in order to participate.

For more information on Groundwork Elizabeth, its Green Team program, or on its overall mission, please log on to [www.groundworkelizabeth.com](http://www.groundworkelizabeth.com), or call Executive Director Jonathan Phillips at 908-289-0262.