



NEWSLETTER

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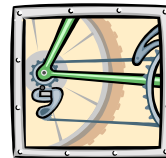
Healthy Neighborhoods

Dorchester's residents suffer more than their fair share of health burdens like asthma, diabetes and obesity. To reduce these health inequalities, DEHC works to improve environmental conditions and promote increased physical activity in Dorchester. Safe and clean sidewalks and streets help encourage walking, safer cycling conditions will promote bicycle riding. Even small lifestyle changes - like walking or biking instead of driving short distances to do errands - help us get more active and translate into reduced health risks, plus the added benefit of cleaner local air quality. Please consider getting involved!



Biking

DEHC works closely with DotBike, Dorchester's own grass-roots bicycle advocacy group, to push for bicycling improvements. Things like new bike racks at libraries and schools, and bike lanes along Talbot Avenue, help to grow biking all over Dorchester and connect us with other Boston neighborhoods. DotBike is working with the Neponset Greenway Council and elected officials on building a safe off-road bike path behind Boston Bowl, to connect the HarborWalk on Morrissey Boulevard and the Neponset River Greenway.



Walk Dorchester

Four major intersections along Dorchester Avenue - Andrew Square, South Boston, Glover's Corner, Fields Corner and Peabody Square at Ashmont - will be getting new sidewalks and traffic reconfiguration patterns designed to improve traffic flow and ease congestion. The project will also improve pedestrian access and safety and will install new bicycling amenities. Please visit <http://www.dotavenueproject.com> for ongoing information.



Air Quality Banners

DEHC is still looking for help finding prominent locations in Dorchester, in the Savin Hill/Columbia Road area and in the Neponset/Ashmont area, to post our air quality notification banners. The 3 foot by 6 foot fabric banners are either green = Good, yellow = Moderate or red = Unhealthy, and are indicators of the day's air quality. People who see a banner changed regularly become aware of changes in local air quality. The banners are marked with DEHC's logo, and are designed to hang outdoors. Volunteers who help with this program receive a stipend. Please call DEHC for more information, 617-474-1478.

Get Active! Events Calendar

April is *National Earth Month*

Wed. Apr. 1, 7-8:30 PM
Neponset Greenway Council meets, at 249 River St, Mattapan

Sat. Apr. 4: *Environmental Action '09*, Wentworth Institute

Thu. Apr. 9, 6-9 PM
DotBike Celebrate & Kickoff, at Dot2Dot Café, 1739 Dot Ave

Sat. Apr. 11, 10 AM
Spring Cleanup, at the Valley Gates Parking Lot, Franklin Park

Wed. Apr 22: *Earth Day*

Thu. Apr 23, 5:30 PM
Environmental Summit, at Codman HealthWorks, 450 Washington St

Fri. Apr. 24: *Arbor Day*

Sat. Apr 25: *Boston Shines*, and *Shiny Green Dot Bike Ride*

Thu. Apr 30, 5:30 PM
Boston Parks Advocates launch, Copley Boston Public Library

May is *National Bike Month*

Wed. May 6, 7-8:30 PM
Neponset Greenway Council meets, at Milton Yacht Club, 25 Wharf Street

May 11-17
Bay State Bike Week
Visit www.dotbike.org to participate!

Sat. May 30, 9-12
MyTown Youth Summit, at the Dorchester House, Fields Corner

June is *National Rivers Month*

Sun. Jun. 7, 1 PM
Annual Dorchester Day Parade, meet in Lower Mills to ride with DotBike!

Sat. Jun. 27, 11 AM
Elmhurst Street Park Ribbon-Cutting
See www.codmansquareparks.org

This is a sampling of events, for details and lots more activities, please check the DEHC calendar at www.dehc.org.





DORCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION

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DEHC's newsletter issued four times yearly—on the web at www.dehc.org, via email to subscribers, in hardcopy at local libraries. Submit content for inclusion by the 15th of the month before the target issue. The editor (Rosanne Foley) reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. Post your ideas and comments online at www.dehc.org - check often for up-to-date event listings.

Neponset River Clean Up

The Neponset River Restoration Project will clean up toxic chemicals in the river and bring back the migratory fish now blocked by the historic dam in Lower Mills and in Hyde Park. Would you like to learn more about this project? Let us know at www.dehc.org.

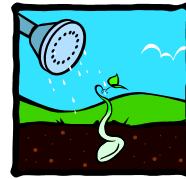


How to Cut Energy Costs

A great way to keep your house cooler in the summer, and reduce your carbon footprint, is to plant a tree in a location that will shade your house. Deciduous trees have leaves that fall in wintertime - sunlight will then help to warm your house. Free trees will again be available from Grow Boston Greener this year so please get in touch so we can sign you up! Arbor Day is April 24! Select a tree with smaller leaves for lower raking-maintenance. While you wait for your tree to grow tall and cast shade, plant a vigorous, climbing annual vine like morning glory.

Youth & Green Jobs

DEHC works in close partnership with the Park Patrol, a Codman Square area youth advocacy group based at a new park on Elmhurst Street. The youth will develop planning and sustainable landscaping skills, and help organize the park's programming efforts. Call for info, 617-474-1478.



Recycling & Other Ideas: Being Green

- ◆ Install rain barrels to store and reuse rainwater for gardens.
- ◆ Why should you care about where your food comes from? Eating locally grown food has less of an impact on the environment, and supports local growers.
- ◆ Non-toxic organic cleaning supplies are healthier for your children.
- ◆ Local artist Shane Ruff recycles discarded fabrics into hand-made toys and beautiful rugs.
- ◆ Learn how to be a bicycle mechanic at Bikes Not Bombs.
- ◆ Save vegetable waste in a pile outside with shredded leaves and newspaper to create garden compost.
- ◆ Walk or bike to shop at Dorchester's farmers market this summer.

DEHC Partners

ACORN
 Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow
 Alternatives for Community & Environment
 Annapolis Neighborhood Association
 Arnold Arboretum
 Ashmont-Adams Neighborhood Assoc.
 Ashmont Hill Association
 Boston Climate Action Network
 Boston Green Justice Coalition
 Boston Public Health Commission
 Boston Urban Asthma Coalition
 Boston's Urban Forest Coalition
 Bowdoin Street Health Center
 Breath of Life: Dorchester (BOLD) Teens
 Civic Health Institute, DotWell
 Clam Point Neighborhood
 Clean Water Action
 Codman Square Health Center
 Codman Sq. Neighborhood Dev. Corp.
 Conservation Law Foundation
 Dorchester House Multi-Service Center
 Dorchester Park Association
 DotBike
 DotWell
 Earthworks
 Fields Corner Civic Association
 Fields Corner Main Street
 The Food Project
 Four Corners Main Street
 Franklin Park Coalition
 Friends of Ronan Park
 Greater Bowdoin/Geneva Neighborh. Assoc.
 Greater Four Corners Action Coalition
 Grow Boston Greener
 Hub on Wheels
 John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
 Lead Action Collaborative
 MassBike
 MassCOSH
 Neponset River Watershed Association
 New Ecology Inc.
 Park Patrol
 St. Marks Area Main Street
 SCI Dorchester
 Trust for Public Land
 The Urban Ecology Institute
 Viet-American Initiative for Development
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 And city and state elected officials—please contact DEHC for more information on our partners.

*Dorchester's Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC) is a community-led network that tackles urban environmental health and justice issues such as air quality and open space, to improve the health of those who live, work, play and learn in Dorchester, MA.
 ~ DEHC is funded by an Anonymous Foundation. ~*

About DEHC's fiscal partner: **DotWell** works with Dorchester House Multi-Service Center & Codman Square Health Center to provide integrated clinical and community services to address health disparities, build social capital, and meet the complex needs of the dynamic Dorchester community.

