



## **Hanson Park Conservancy Summary of 2007-2008 Fiscal Year**

2008 was another great year for the HPC. We are proud to report another successful year with continued progress towards our goals. The improvements to Hanson Park continue as we explore new ways to attract supporters and funding. The Woodland Theatre feature is on the way as well as some new plantings and host of events.

- Continued maintenance of the park through the efforts of HPC's own weed warrior, Terri McManus. Terri oversaw volunteers, including a team of dedicated HPC students who weeded and mulched the park throughout the hot summer.
- A grant from Merck & Co. through their Champions of the Environment Program that enabled the planting of over 30 species of native perennials in a Biodiversity Garden. This is an ongoing effort, and HPC will continue to add plants in 2009
- The planting of 500 additional ferns using the donated labor of Novartis employees through their Community Partnership Program. 2008 was the third consecutive visit from the Novartis team. We continue to fight the invasives by replacing them with ferns and other native species.
- Collaboration with the employees of "Renewal by Andersen" who spent a spring Saturday to celebrate Earth Day working in the park. They also donated \$500 for the blueberry and viburnum shrubs that were planted at the corner near the fireplace.
- The restoration and stabilization of the historic fireplace which is an important focal point for the park. HPC was assisted with a historical preservation grant from Union County Open Space Trust Fund.
- Two successful fundraisers-- a Spring Tea held at Lora's Tea Room and a fall Beer Tasting. Both provided much fun and camaraderie while raising funds for HPC.
- Partnership with the Rahway River Association to provide a series of educational programs such as bird watching and native plant gardening.
- Ongoing fundraising through the sales of: Canoe Club Holiday cards & prints, Canoe Club T-shirts, new HPC T-shirts, natural bird houses, and the Woodland Plant Fund.
- Continued collaboration with The Garden Club of Cranford for the Butterfly Meadow which is maintained by Garden Club members at no expense to HPC
- Collaboration with an Eagle Scout candidate to identify and catalog the trees in Hanson Park
- Partnership with Spencer Savings Bank to provide "Movie Night in the Park", an evening under the stars at Hanson Park with a first-run movie showing.

We have the pleasure in sharing laughter, making new friends and learning more about our environment, and we invite you to join us.