



Dana Johnston
Community Affairs Officer
302-366-7020
djohnston@newark.de.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bamboo Removed along James Hall Trail near Lewis Park

Newark, DE (March 30, 2012) – Newark’s Parks and Recreation Department and Water and Wastewater Department entered into a joint venture to contract out the removal of Bamboo from an area behind Lewis Park, the Ivy Hall Apartments and around the Academy Street water treatment building. Residents enjoying the James Hall Trail in that area will notice there is no longer any Bamboo, which was causing damage to the asphalt surface of the Hall Trail and the tennis courts in Lewis Park. The City was awarded two grants to complete the project; one from the Delaware Forest Service for invasive species control and the other from New Castle County Conservation District. The project was funded in full with the grants.

Bamboo is a very invasive and aggressive plant. Once the roots are established it readily spreads underground and can cause extensive damage to any surface it uproots. It was also raising concerns about possible damage to the Academy Street water treatment building that would cause safety and building security issues.

The process of total removal and control of the Bamboo will take several years. After the initial cutting, two herbicide applications are needed in the first year to control any re-growth. One application will be made in mid to late May and the other in mid to late September. Thereafter, spot sprays will be needed for one to three additional years to eliminate the Bamboo. During this time the native grasses and wildflowers will be encouraged to reclaim the area.

After the Bamboo has been totally removed, the Parks and Recreation Department will reforest both areas adjacent to the Hall Trail. Along with the native grasses and wildflowers that reestablish, we will add evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs to the area.

Concerned residents may contact the Parks and Recreation Department with any questions at (302) 366-7060 Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Attached photos: 1) James Hall Trail near Ivy Hall Apartments before Bamboo was removed. 2) Bamboo beginning to shoot up through tennis court at Lewis Park causing damage.

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