

L.A. Parker: Trenton students hitch learning experience to Howell Living History Farm plow



Ian Ferry handled Howell Living History Farm horses Jack (l) and Chester during Isles Garden Plow Event on Chestnut Ave. in Trenton. L.A. Parker - The Trentonian

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Jeffrey Thompson, an International Charter School of Trenton third-grade student, used assistance from Howell Living History Farm's Kevin Watson. L.A. Parker - The Trentonian

An annual Isles Spring Plow event brought two Belgian workhorses from Howell Living History Farm to help turn over soil at Trenton's Garden of Three Points.

Several city schools visited the Chestnut Ave. garden as students enjoyed outdoor activities that included lessons about honey production by bees, composting and plowing.

This hands on outing allowed students an opportunity to operate a plow behind Jack and Chester, two beautiful Sorrel-colored horses that weighed 1,700 pounds each.

Students received help from horse handlers Ian Ferry and Kevin Watson.

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“It’s a lot of fun. I wish we could have stayed longer,” said Allison Carranza, an International School of Trenton fourth grader. Her school visited during an afternoon event while Washington Elementary students were morning guests.

Students, horses and handlers succeeded in soil preparation in the large community land area as local gardeners ready for another growing season.

Pete Watson, director of Howell Living Farm, agreed that the annual activity allows students an opportunity to learn about history and farming.

“Howell Farm has been coming here for more than 20 years. It’s like an outdoor classroom,” Pete Watson said.

Isles currently supports more than 60 community gardens across the city of Trenton by providing technical and organizational assistance to local residents and other community-based organizations.

Contact Urban Agriculture Manager Jim Simon at jsimon@isles.com or (609) 341-4724 or Urban Agriculture Associate Brandon Ritter at britter@isles.org or 609-341-4773.

Check out the full schedule of garden events here: bit.ly/garden2016

About the Author

