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**Neighborhood Improvement Association and Trenton Illegal Dumping Team
Earn “Don’t Waste Our Open Space” Enforcement Award from the New
Jersey Clean Communities Council**

TRENTON – June 20, 2016 – The Neighborhood Improvement Association (NIA) and the Trenton Illegal Dumping Team has received the “Don’t Waste Our Open Space” Enforcement Award from the New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC) for its efforts on cracking down on illegal dumping in state parks.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) launched its “Don’t Waste Our Open Space” program in April 2014, working with the NIA, a non-profit organization focused on the beautification and livability of Trenton, and the city’s public works department’s Illegal Dumping Team to crack down on illegal dumping.

Since the NIA’s launch in Trenton in 2003, the city has experienced a revitalization of the Rutherford Avenue area as well as cleaner community gardens throughout the city. The NIA and the Trenton Illegal Dumping Team continue their efforts towards changing the quality of life for residents.

“We are extremely pleased with our decision to launch the program in Trenton, and proud of the commitment of the workers and volunteers for helping keep the city clean,” said Katie Ribsam, a senior environmental specialist at the DEP.

“The NIA and the Trenton Illegal Dumping Team have done an incredible job of not only cleaning our state’s capital, but protecting Trenton from illegal dumping violators” said NJCCC Executive Director Sandy Huber.

NJCCC is a comprehensive, statewide litter-abatement program that has served New Jersey residents and visitors for more than 25 years. Learn more at njclean.org.

PHOTO CAPTION: Katie Ribsam (left) a senior environmental specialist at the DEP, accepts the “Don’t Waste Our Open Space” Enforcement Award on behalf of the Neighborhood Improvement Association and the Trenton Illegal Dumping Team from NJCCC President Patrick Ryan (right).

Photo:

