



The Parks Reporter

Volume 3, Number 1 The Newsletter of the Friends of Waterford Park Spring 2009

Purpose: Friends of Waterford Park, a volunteer-staffed community service organization, is dedicated to the development of Waterford Park and Rock Creek Park as passive neighborhood parks by adding to and making improvements to the park landscaping and fostering neighborhood involvement in the development of the passive neighborhood parks.

Guiding Principle: Do No Harm.

From your president...

Spring has arrived – toads (or frogs?) laying eggs in the ruts in the old sewer line, robins and cardinals everywhere, red maples flowering, the red-headed woodpecker again nesting in the big tree near the middle bridge, geese visiting in the park, bluebirds checking out our birdhouses – what a great time of year. We continue to work hard and have fun doing it. Thanks to the City, the MD Dept. of Natural Resources and to our members for making this group thrive. I look forward to enjoying the rewards of the efforts to date. When you look at the parks, you know people care!

Ginny



“Poop Blitz”

Even though campaigns to stop littering have been around for decades, it remains a huge problem along roads and in public places. Our biggest problem is irresponsible dog owners. Last

year we created and posted about a dozen signs about the poop problem. That “blitz” of signage seemed to work, so we are trying again. If you have a catchy idea for a sign, or any other ideas for getting through to these owners, send it to us.

Mowing

The City will no longer mow at the east end of the park (along Carroll Creek) where we planted trees. A path along the existing trees (at the



back of the buffer) will be mowed to maintain a walking path and to give FWP access for future clearing and planting near Carroll Creek. The goal is “to have a natural establishment of trees and other associated forest vegetation.” In addition, [m]anagement strategies for dealing with exotics and invasive vegetation shall still be a priority...” so the City will not allow this area to be overrun with honeysuckle, Johnsongrass and multiflora rose while a natural forest develops.

Park Projects Fall & Winter 2008

We have had a great winter in the park. FWP volunteers, aka “worker bees”, began working in the woods during the winter months of 2007. In 2008 and 2009, the tradition of winter work continued. We now have a crew of younger men and women in the park regularly who think nothing of working hard in the cold for two or three hours. We have three men who are quite adept with chainsaws, so we make quite a difference each time we work. This winter we have cleared the entire wooded area between the old sewer line and Rock Creek, about 1200 feet.

What do we do with all of the dead wood we clear? We pile some of it into 5-6 ft. mounds that become homes and shelter for wildlife. We coordinate with the City when we anticipate making huge piles; the City brings a truck and hauls that brush away. The map included in this newsletter shows the progress we have made.

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On April 6th, in cooperation with the MD Dept. of Natural Resources, the City of Frederick and the MD Conservation Corps, 270 trees and shrubs were planted, focusing on the Rock Creek streambank area. The City has provided 5 piles of mulch so we can protect the new plants. We will also continue to care for the over 1200 trees, shrubs and flowers planted in the past 3 years. This summer, volunteers from the SummerServ program will help us with maintenance four Mondays, July 13 to August 3.

The parks received a generous donation from Ruppert Nurseries last fall. The nursery donated eight 20-ft. sugar maples. City arborist Tom Rippeon suggested appropriate sites for the trees and dug the huge holes necessary for these trees. Ruppert's crew planted, mulched and staked the trees. We will water them during this first full growing season.

We will be purchasing two additional benches – these will have backs – thanks to two donations from members specifically for this purpose. We will also purchase more wildflowers for the woods edge along the path. We are also gradually planting the entryways at Baughman's Lane and at Meadowdale with trees and wildflowers.

FWP Board Members

Ginny Brace
President

Lynn Leathery
Vice-President

Ellen Dean
Secretary

Linda Berkheimer
Treasurer

Bobby Rickman
Administration

Chris Judd
Liaison to the Friends of Baker Park

Kathy Fay
member of the board of the Friends of Baker Park, our fiscal agent. Kathy attends our board meetings as the liaison from FOBP.

We meet the 3rd Wednesday of most months. Meetings are open. Please contact Ginny at info@friendsofwaterfordpark.org or (301) 682-6135 if you would like to attend a meeting to confirm time and place.

Key to Aerial Map of the Parks

Rather than writing paragraphs about the status of the progress of the parks, each area on the aerial map is keyed as follows:

1 – areas of greatest progress: initial spraying completed, dead invasives removed, native plantings begun or completed, main tasks are controlling small invasives that return and caring for native plantings.

2 – areas we are working on: initial spraying complete, clearing done or nearly done, no plantings or only a few native plants introduced.

3 – areas for future work: these contain exotic invasive plants as the bottom level (the understory) of the forest. After the large invasives are sprayed by Frederick County Noxious Weed Control, we will clear the dead plants and introduce natives.

4 – areas that we planted that didn't require major clearing first – the butterfly garden, the meadow, the buffer along Carroll Creek. We do have to consistently monitor these areas for "weeds".

Special thanks to:

Nancy McCartney (donation of re-bar), Doug Reedy (Map development and trailer wheel jack), and to Chris Judd, the Leathery's, Lesley Cristol, Michelle and Adam Friedman, Marilyn Reedy, Nick Berluti and Brad Rowland, the 2009 star "worker bees"!

FWP Online

Visit www.friendsofwaterfordpark.org to keep up with our latest events, view pictures of past projects, download a membership form for a friend, and much more.



Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" - Robin Williams