



The Parks Reporter

The Newsletter of the Friends of Waterford Park

Winter 2013/14

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

2013 was another good year for the park and for our group. The plants loved the abundant moisture that we had all summer. Deer and vole damage was minimal. Our group remains strong: good membership numbers, good donations, a core of volunteers who enjoy doing the work, support from the City and outside groups who choose us for their community service. The Year in Review details our projects for the year. I also have great news about 2014/2015. First, the attached sheet about the shared use path (written about six weeks ago) tells us that in the spring of 2015 we will see the connection between Baker and Waterford Parks. Yes, it IS happening. The surveyors have left tape on trees and stakes in the park, and the permitting process is underway. Second, Waterford and Rock Creek Parks will see about 100 trees planted through City of Frederick grant funds. FWP is included as part of the planning for our park trees, and I have toured the tree farm with the contractor – we will be getting some very nice trees, including hollies on the hill. Finally, a scout troop is planning to come work with us next year to plant shrubs in between some of the large trees along the path; we'll fill in three areas between trees with mulch and make nice beds for people to enjoy. Thanks as always for your interest and support – a couple of busy years are coming up!

Ginny Brace

FWP - A YEAR IN REVIEW

In January we completed the clearing of the strip of woods on the hill behind the co-ops, an area approximately 30 x 70 feet. The invasive creeping euonymous and fall clematis were particularly difficult to remove, but with about 50 hours of manual labor, we accomplished the task. In prior years we had made some effort to rid this area of invasives, but we realized we had to devote a lot of energy to this project. After checking for any regrowth for a couple of months, we put 11 trailer loads of mulch on the area, did periodic spot removal of sprouts and added native shrubs and wildflowers to those previously planted. We'll continue to monitor the area and add plants. We charted 49 volunteer hours for this project this year.

Our main planting this year was along Carroll Creek. Preparing the area required the removal of dozens of large bush honeysuckle and other invasives. Fortunately, after we cut the large ones and pulled or dug the smaller ones, the City of Frederick converted these plants to mulch for us. Tremendous MD donated 20 trees to the Hood College Environmental Club; the students planted them in April. With a grant from the MD Urban and Community Forests Committee, we purchased an additional 52 trees and shrubs. We also purchased silky dogwood and elderberry bare-root plants for the areas closest

to the creek. Fifteen employees from Wells Fargo doing community service joined FWP volunteers for the May planting. We re-mulched the plants in late summer, but we only needed to water these new plants 5 times because of the consistent and abundant moisture through August of this year. Qualified personnel recut and applied herbicide to the honeysuckle stumps to prevent regrowth and regularly surveyed the area for invasives. As of this fall, we have had only one tree not survive. We charted 156 volunteer hours for this project, with 36 volunteers contributing.

Ongoing tasks

We continue to improve the park. As of November 30 we had 31 volunteers who contributed over 300 hours on projects other than the Carroll Creek and co-op area projects. We are replacing tree shelters with 4 ft. galvanized fences as the trees outgrow the shelters. We monitor our plantings in the wooded areas, clearing wineberry, grape, etc. from around them. The Mt. St. Mary's Mens' Rugby Club helped us clear honeysuckle. Our meadow thrived this year; we had only minimal ragweed and Johnsongrass to deal with. We picked trash from the creek, pulled hops and mile-a-minute, re-mulched all of our large trees, and planted additional wildflowers and shrubs, including 35 trees along Rock Creek this fall.

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.

THE SPECIAL PEOPLE WE THANK...

Rachel Zigler for working, for taking pictures and for planting the area behind the coops that borders the tree area in the park that we all cleared.

Bill Thomas for donating the plants that Rachel put in.

Bill Einloth for doing all the heavy lifting when we worked together and for the 85 hours he clocked working on his own. He has done an enormous amount of invasives removal.

Buck Wisner for continuing to take our cans to the recycling center, and to all the people who bring those cans to his driveway and my carport.

Friends of Baker Park for continuing to be our 501c3 fiscal agent.

The worker bees – you know who you are – who love being out there with me making the parks look great.

FWP members who email and talk to us, telling us how much they appreciate the work we do.

