

## The year in review

2016 was a watershed year for the park. The shared-use path construction took months, but the path is being enjoyed by many new people. We get many positive comments about this newly discovered area of the City. The new downstream bridge should be in place by early spring. Because of the generosity of our members and several corporate and foundation donors, there are impressive additions to the path area. Friends of Larry Key purchased a beautiful granite bench in memory of Mr. Key, a runner who collapsed and died on the path. Dozens of people attended the dedication of the bench. Next year perennials will surround that area. FWP purchased a wayside sign that the City installed near the new bridge over Carroll Creek. Our most complex project is the seating/planting area along the path. This was a joint effort by the City (slab, two teak benches, holes for trees, installation of benches), Bartlett Tree Experts (three B&B trees: elm and crabapple), and FWP Berkheimer memorial donations (native grasses, topsoil, edging, children's seats).

The worker bees have put in almost 600 hours as I write this at the end of November. We have had help from the Astrazeneca Green Team, the Hood Environmental Advocacy Team and Frederick County detention center workers. Our biggest event was an Earth Day planting of 50 container trees in the understory of the woods. We had 37 people turn out including many children. In two hours we had the trees planted, watered, papered and mulched! As I review the volunteer hours sheets I keep, I see that the usual tasks dominate. We continually maintain fences, clip, spray or pull invasives, mulch and water. This unusually dry fall caused us to water into mid-November. The snowy winter and wet month of May put us behind on our invasives control efforts, but we will get on with this neverending task as weather permits. The optimal times for this are early spring and late fall because the invasives green up early and stay green into December.

In November I was honored by the Community Foundation of Frederick County with The Wertheimer Fellow for Excellence in Volunteerism Award. I tell you this because I was allowed to set up a \$25,000 fund at the Community Foundation to benefit Waterford Park. Going forward our group will receive 5% of the fund value each year. You now can donate either to FWP or to the Community Foundation of Frederick County (put Waterford Park fund in the memo line). Our future



*Frederick County Master Gardeners recognized Waterford Park as a Bay-wise property after reviewing our detailed application and touring the park.*

renewal forms will show you both options. This award is really for all of us who have transformed the park over the last 11 years.

Let's keep up the good work!

Ginny Brace  
FWP President

## The Worker Bees

As you know, volunteers are out in the park every week when the weather permits. This year Fran Hostetler, Sara Malec and Joe Ganley joined the team and have contributed many, many hours. Now that Kathy Soria has retired she is out there regularly. Other regulars include: Susan and Brad Stokes, Lesley Cristol, Peter Brehm and Kevin Jaramillo-Jimenez (our Eagle scout who has stayed with us!). When you see these folks, thank them for all they do. We would like to get more of you involved, so if you have a time slot that would work for you, let us know. Our schedule is flexible: weekday evenings, weekends, daytime sessions are all possible.

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## Other notes

We received two generous donations this year: Frederick County Bank sponsored a tree along the path and the William E. Cross Foundation donated to our general fund. The Cross Foundation donation allowed us to purchase the wayside sign. We have one more tree along the path that is waiting for a sponsor. The base to the plaque is already in place waiting for a donor. Let us know if you are interested.

To honor the past donations of Charlie and Bobby Rickman, we are placing a plaque on one of the trees along the path. It was not until we purchased the poles, flanges and wood for our new birdhouses that we realized what a donation Charlie gave when he constructed a dozen birdhouses many years ago. He also constructed the sides to our trailer, making it usable for the mulch and brush hauling we do. Bobby donated generously for benches and trees. Thank you to the Rickmans.

For the Earth Day planting, a Brownie troop joined in with one adult working with each girl. Also several FWP families contributed. We have so little that children can do; it was great to have this opportunity for them. The Gregory's 4 also came out to plant the native grasses in our area along the path.

We have had great communication with City personnel. Bob Smith, Deputy Director for Parks and Recreation, and Scott Geasey, Park Maintenance supervisor, have both met with us and listened to our concerns on several occasions. Jim Twigg "made it happen" when we asked for slabs, for the planting area to be dug out for our grasses, for the wayside sign and the bat houses to be installed. They even donated two of the bat houses.

The City also allowed us to have the leftover river stone from the path project. We used these stones to edge a couple of planting areas and to mark the entryways to the woods paths. Tim Davis, the person who oversaw the path construction, was consistently in touch with us regarding details of the project. For example, Dan Yates and I gave input regarding trees/shrubs that the contractors will plant to replace trees they removed; the species to be planted were revised based on our suggestions. The triangular area near the green benches (newly painted by



*The completed path in the fog - 2016*

the City) will be planted with a viburnum and perennials. The wayside sign is now installed near the new Carroll Creek bridge. This sign and other smaller ones contain a QR code that takes people to our website. Dave Maloney has done a terrific job of updating the site with photos and news about the path construction and other park happenings.

The area from the Meadowdale entrance down to the path is in bad shape. The contractors planted grass seed where the trucks had compressed the soil and killed the grass, but with no rain and little loose soil, the grass did not grow. They will try again next spring. The contractor will improve the section that goes down the hill so it is easier to navigate.

The pet waste stations and trash cans are being used as intended. There are very few, if any, dog droppings now in the grass. We see almost no trash. Cleanliness is one of the things people appreciate about this park.

Our total expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 2016 were \$5,453. A little over \$3,000 was for the 2015 treatment of close to 30 ash trees, a task that will be necessary again in spring, 2017. The MD Urban and Community Forest Committee grant of \$725 reimbursed us for the expense of the 50 trees planted on Earth Day. We purchased a battery-powered weed whacker that has earned its keep. The concrete turtle and mushrooms that are in the seating/plants area accounted for close to \$500. Berkheimer memorial funds were used for those. We keep track of ash tree donations, Berkheimer donations and general funds. The support of our membership has been amazing over the years.

### FWP, Inc. Board of Directors

Ginny Brace, president  
Rachel Zigler, vice-president  
Kathy Soria, secretary  
Alice Meiners, treasurer  
Karen Berkheimer Morton, director  
Dan Yates, director  
Kathy Fay, liaison, Friends of Baker Park

[www.FriendsOfWaterfordPark.org](http://www.FriendsOfWaterfordPark.org)

# Photo Album



*Worker bees preparing to install the edging around the seating area.*

*The seating and planting area was completed in November.*



*Friends and family of Larry key attended the dedication of the bench purchased in Larry's memory.*

**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.  
FWP is a 501(c)(3) MD Corporation. Guiding Principle: Do No Harm.



*Three bat houses are now installed in the park.  
Begone, mosquitos!*



*The wayside sign is near the new bridge over Carroll Creek.*



*Scott Geasey and Dan Yates installing the 'Princeton' elm near the seating area along the path. Scott is the City's park maintenance supervisor. Dan, FWP board member, is an arborist with Bartlett Tree Experts.*



*The construction of the shared-use path was a major undertaking*



*The Earth Day planting was great fun and a huge success*