

## The Year in Review

What a year! As we prepare to bid 2019 adieu, we look back on the highs and lows of the last months. Surely 2020 will be more fun!

The streambank construction was supposed to end by March but continued until early May. We didn't work our usual winter hours; in addition to the difficulty getting around in the park, it was cold and/or wet. In March we prepared the birdhouses for spring, cut and treated walnut sprouts in the meadow and did some invasives removal. In April the invasives greened up early as always, so we patrolled the woods, pulling invasives while they are easy to see. We also did trash pickup and early weeding of our planted areas. Jen Willoughby brought replacement plants for the area near the Baughmans end bridge where the pawpaws washed out last year. By early summer we had relocated the hibiscus to the Key memorial bench area and were into our regular tasks of attending to fences, weeding, weedwhacking, mulching, etc.

Then came the storms and flooding in July.

We spent hours cleaning up trash, getting debris from trees, straightening and staking trees/shrubs and finding fences from planting done by the contractors. The good news is that the rocks remained in place on the creek banks and erosion control appears to be working.

After the storms we experienced almost two months of very little rain. Worker bees watered plants that were new in 2018 or 2019, including the food forest plants on the dry north side of the path at the east end. We were so far behind with our regular work that we hired a vendor to mulch all the trees in the open spaces. Well worth the money. In September we hired a tree service for a day to prune lower branches from trees in mowed areas. The City came soon after and finished all the pruning our vendor could not accomplish.

Thankfully, October was a fine month for park work. Good rains and pleasant temperatures. On October 19 we planted 30 trees and shrubs. Nineteen of them are near the middle bridge, including several oakleaf hydrangea and 'Henry's Garnet' sweetspire, very attractive native shrubs. We also planted at the Baughman's end bridge where the two dead locusts had fallen in the spring. The City and FWP had combined to clear all the debris from that area. Finally, we planted trees at the last curve of the creek at the Rt. 15 end. The City had cleaned up and stabilized that curve with rock once it was finally dry enough for their equipment.



And then the rains came...



and straight-line winds followed!

We are almost finished with a project across from the turtle/bench area that we had worked on as time permitted for several months. Until now we had no native azaleas in the park because they are a favorite deer snack. This year we decided to try a few in a protected place. We fenced a long row of the food forest plants. We grew out 10 small azaleas in pots near the shed over the summer. The azaleas are now in the ground and should be wonderful in a few years.

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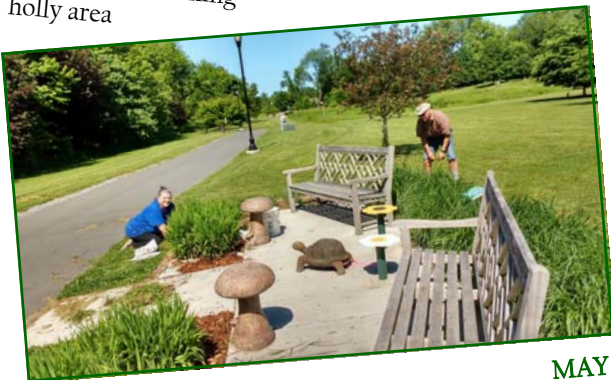
**SEPTEMBER**  
Picking Pawpaw's  
Shannon, Jen, Ann and  
Dan reaping the harvest



**APRIL**  
Dogwoods in bloom



**JUNE**  
Volunteers mulching  
holly area



**MAY**  
Donna & Joe weeding  
planted area

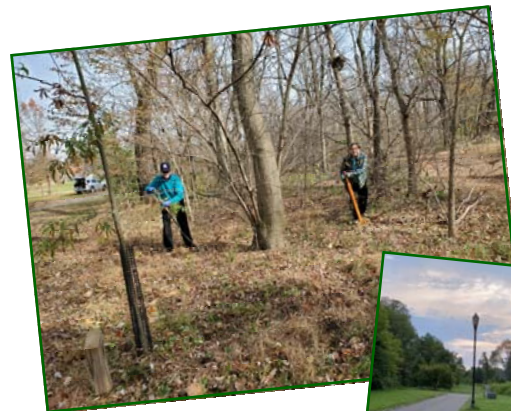
## Looking ahead to 2020

2020 will be our 15th year of working in the park. It is rewarding to look at the accomplishments: the large trees, planted areas, benches and Eagle Scout projects. It is also rewarding to look over our membership list and see that many of you have been with us since the beginning, with new folks joining every year. Years ago, Carol Gutwalt nicknamed the workers the "grey-hairs" – for good reason. As in many communities, older people have more time to devote to non-child-oriented volunteer work. We have new worker bees to take over the heavy lifting, thank goodness. This year one of our members asked what her children could do to help. We provided brushes and water so they could clean off the benches. Children could also clean the tree signs or do some weeding (around the turtle area, for example). Let us know and we will provide the tools or supplies needed.

Our top priority in 2020 is to locate vendors willing to do park work. We have a real need to establish ongoing relationships with vendors who can mulch and maintain trees, mow areas that the City does not mow, and keep the planted areas in decent shape.

Areas like the turtle bench area, Meadowdale entry, kiosk, etc. need about three weeding a year. In addition, the task of invasives control will never end. As we were told by the DNR early on, this is not a project, it's an ongoing process.

We will continue to do our maintenance work; after all, the "bees" are a group that enjoys working together. We do not anticipate any large plantings, but we may purchase a few trees and shrubs to fill in areas as needed. But - if you have suggestions for landscape vendors, please get names to us.



**NOVEMBER**  
Susan and Ann pulling  
honeysuckle



**JULY**  
Susan weeding

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The stream project contractors should be back before year end to replant all the trees/shrubs that were ripped out of their holes in July and also to plant additional smaller species on the banks above the rocks.

Our hours are about half of our usual number. We had only one large planting activity, we were restricted in the park for several months, and we did not have outside groups coming to work. As I write this Nov.10, we are at 380 hours: we will be at about 400-450 hours by year-end. Early winter is a perfect time to again patrol the woods, controlling invasives, fixing fencing, etc. Working fewer hours is not necessarily a bad thing.

Looking forward, we hope to continue to hire a company to do tree mulching, we anticipate no more large plantings, and we want to find a vendor who will help keep the planted areas weeded.

Ginny Brace  
President



From decades ago, before there was a Waterford Park. Carroll Creek on the right side, Shookstown Road in the center, Rock Creek at the bottom.

Photo Credit: *Ann (Harnwell) Ashmead.*

FWP, Inc. Board of Directors

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Heron in Creek

*Shoutout to those who help make the park great*

First, this is a team effort between the City and FWP – Bob Smith, Scott Geasey and Tom Rippeon always listen and provide as much assistance as they can.

Second, we have tremendous financial support. This year we received funding from the Cross Foundation, MD Urban and Community Forest Committee, FWP Fund at the Community Foundation of Frederick County and of course from our generous members. The Berkheimer Memorial funds at Morgan Stanley had a good year as well. That fund is specifically to finance long-term park maintenance.

Next, we have many worker bees, but I'll name a few. **Joe Ganley** – He walks the park picking up trash regularly, does a lot of the heavy work, volunteers regularly and makes suggestions for improvements. **Hunter and Erin Riley** – They watered the 6 trees on the Waterford side purchased by **Mrs. Lancaster** to improve the creek area, and took over regular watering of the food forest. Hunter also weedwhacks, does heavy work and provides his truck when we need to haul brush or mulch. **Lesley Cristol** – One of the original worker bees. In addition to regular park tasks, Lesley plays the role of Cinderella and cleans the shed top to bottom each year. She also has gone to the nursery to pick up trees for our plantings for many years. **Kathy Soria** – She serves on our board and volunteers regularly, working specifically with **Rachel Zigler** to keep the birdhouses sparrow-free in the spring – a weekly chore. **Fran Hostetler** – also volunteers regularly and brings her chainsaw when needed, a huge help.

Several other people come as often as they can, making our worker bee team an ongoing success. Special thanks to **Sara Malec, Brad and Susan Stokes, Ann Andrex, Donna Kuzemchek, Susan Cooper and Allen Beard.**

**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.*



# *Photos*



Sara weeding Triangle Area



Late April blooms in bench area



Completed streambed project



Fall Color



Mulching the Key Bench area



October planting near Middle Bridge