

The Year in Review

2020 was, for our group, a fairly routine year. In this, our 15th year, we are settling into a maintenance routine. We did install a few new plants, but the emphasis is on keeping the park looking good. I count as major successes no flooding as well as no wasp stings or poisoning ivy for the worker bees. Some worker bees did not participate because of the virus, quite understandable, but others worked with masks and social distancing. We logged as of the end of November a little over 400 hours, similar to last year.

One big change in the park this year was the number of people who visited. Families, runners, walkers and cyclists were present in large numbers. Many people left the path and looked at the tree and butterfly signs or played in the open spaces.

Our board met in person only a couple of times outdoors once the virus was in MD. We did not send out renewal forms and a spring newsletter. Everyone who paid dues in 2019 is still a member. Karen Morton moved from the area and we welcomed Angela Burke to the board. Prior to moving, Karen set up a Paypal account for us, an option that many people have used. Angela has done tree pruning and alerts us to plant problems.

Jerry Warner, a new member, just completed one year of birding in the park. He recorded 101 species, some migrating and some year-round residents. He records all sightings on Cornell's ebird website. In November he spotted bluebirds in the old sewer line and also checking out a birdhouse; it appears that they are staying here for the winter.

Kathy and Rachel monitored the birdhouses all year, evicting sparrows on a regular basis. Fortunately the tree swallows were able to grab a few boxes at the meadow's edge. This fall and winter we are replacing damaged or worn boxes, placing new ones nearer the creek where sparrows are not as likely to congregate.

The shed needed extra attention this year. Lesley (aka Cinderella) cleans it regularly. Hunter did some much needed repair to the back side.



Our hearty turtle doesn't mind the snow

Bartlett Tree Experts were in the park for an entire day early in the year, doing some paid work and some pro bono. They removed many dead willows along the creek at the west end and dealt with several dead trees in the woods. Last year's straight line winds did quite a bit of damage. We continue to make wildlife piles in the woods for the birds and other critters.

In early April we did plant trees and shrubs, mainly between the path at the green benches and the creek. Joe, Kathy, Hunter, Erin and the Lee family participated. Joe walks almost daily in the park and alerts us to any issues. He also does everything from planting to weedwhacking and birdhouse work. He weedwhacked the paths in the woods this summer, and they have stayed in good shape, great for walking in the hot months.

Bonnie brought bricks for edging the holly area near the path and did a lot of that install. The female hollies are loaded now with berries and the area looks

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much better with an edge on it.

Throughout the growing season, volunteers try to keep the weeds at bay in the planted areas. We did have dry periods in the summer and early fall. Hunter, Erin, Bonnie, Fran, Kathy and Joe watered plants in drier soil several times.

This fall we focused on the area between the path and the creek, removing the small honeysuckles and spot treating rose and other invasive vines. Brad, Susan, Peter, Joe, Jerry, Stephanie, Bonnie, Allen and Lesley all contributed. It is quite rewarding to see the native species regenerating; we found areas with wild ginger as well as many young hickories, box elders, hollies and spicebush.

Thanks to continuing support from members, the Cross Foundation and the Community Foundation, we are able to hire vendors to mow the east end, to mulch dozens of trees and to have funds set aside for the two remaining ash tree treatments (2021 and 2023).

Jerry donated funds and helped plant ferns in the fenced area across from the turtle. Don Massey donated bluebells that we planted at the woods edge. Chris Lash donated a bench and butterfly sign in memory of her sister.

On to 2021. FWP continues to have dedicated workers and ongoing financial support. We appreciate all the kind words that park visitors extend as they see us out there. We hope you are able to enjoy the sights and sounds of the park.

Ginny Brace, FWP *president*



A task that never ends. 2 Susans and Bonnie papering and mulching to keep down weeds.



Spring - Carolina Silverbell bloom

A few special notes of thanks

Dave Maloney keeps our website up to date. There are several new videos.

Check out www.friendsofwaterfordpark.org.

Brad Stokes spent hours filming our submission to the City virtual garden tour

Dwight Moser mowed the east end at a discounted price for 10 years.

Jim Twigg and his crew installed the new bench and sign.

Kathy Soria loans her drill and helped with replacing tree signs the squirrels had munched.

Bonnie Key, Hunter Riley and Lesley Cristol bring their trucks to haul water, deliver trees, haul brush, etc.

Jerry Warner spotted Japanese knotweed near the creek and pulled it before it could get established in the park.

Dan Yates and Angela Burke contribute their extensive knowledge of plants.

The biggest thanks goes to the 24 worker bees who came out during this most unusual year to keep our mission going. What a great group of volunteers.



Spring - Cucumber Magnolia bloom

Photo Album



Winter - The meadow is left tall all winter so the birds can eat the seeds



Spring beauties flourish by the middle bridge.



Susan, Brad and Joe making a wildlife pile.



Hunter and Kathy planting a Hornbeam last spring.



Bartlett crew clearing dead willows



You can see the difference between the woods where we control the invasives and the south side of the creek where honeysuckle flourishes.



Butterfly resting as it waits for the sun to warm the air.



Butterfly sign and bench donated by Chris Lash.



Joe digging up the field grass that invades the turtle area plants. Ginny cheering him on.



Fall - At the edge of the meadow in the early fall light



Ragwort, a great native groundcover, getting established along the path to the downstream bridge.

FWP, Inc. Board of Directors

Ginny Brace - *president*
 Rachel Zigler - *vice-president*
 Kathy Soria - *secretary*
 Pat Lloyd - *treasurer*
 Dan Yates - *director*
 Angela Burke - *director*



One of the many pawpaw patches in the park



Winner of the 2020 photo contest!



Flicker near the downstream bridge.

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.



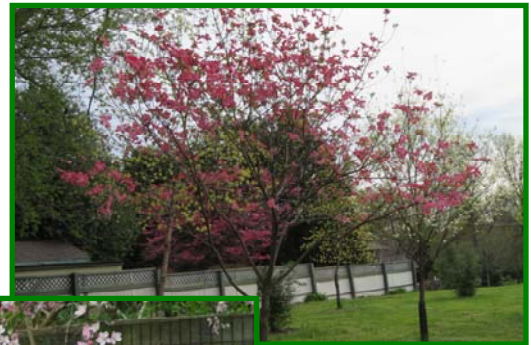
The meadow was colorful for months.



Monarchs laid eggs on milkweed near the shed and also in the meadow.



In March, the stream project contractors replanted trees where flooding washed out last year's planting.



Pink Dogwoods on the hill.



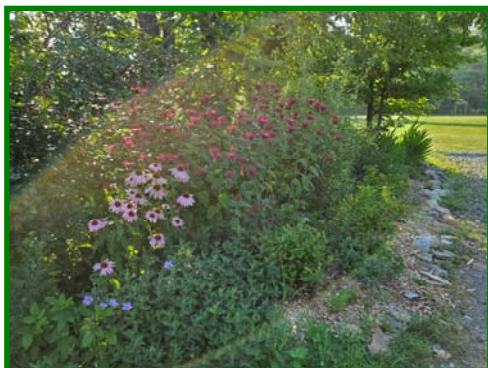
Crabapple on the hill.



Elderberries fruited profusely and were eaten as soon as they ripened.



Cranberry Viburnum fruit, one of many that provide winter food.



Wild petunias, Coneflowers and Beebalm at the Meadowdale entrance.

April bloom of red buckeye with redbud in background.

