

## The Year in Review

2021 has been a transition year for FWP. The worker bees are still out in the park regularly, but FWP is now in a financial position to hire vendors for some of the larger tasks – and we located reliable vendors!. This spring Bartlett Tree Experts did some much-needed pruning of lower branches in the east end in addition to treating trees for rust. MC Lawncare did quite a bit of weeding and mulched all of the planted areas and trees. This fall the Wright Environmental crew spent a day treating invasives. We had toured with Matt Wright and prepared a detailed map of areas to be addressed. They will return this winter to address issues along Carroll Creek. Donnie DeWitt is mowing two areas at the east end regularly.

With pandemic restrictions easing, we also benefitted from four volunteer events. In March McClintock Distillery volunteers along with several MD Dept. of Natural Resources personnel and Forestry Board volunteers planted trees in the southeast corner and along the creek. The trees were donated by the State. (This is an area planted several years ago by a contractor, and many trees died.) I have been helping the Frederick High Eco-Services Club in Baker Park, and this spring students came to Waterford and cleared invasive groundcover from around trees in the west end woods. In the summer, Mike Burke (husband of board member Angela) and fellow arborist John spent a day examining trees and cutting crossed roots that cause long-term issues for trees. This fall, members of the Astrazeneca Green Team planted sedge plugs and mulched the fenced area across from the turtle/bench area. Having these outings with lots of enthusiastic workers is a real boost for us.

The mainstay of FWP's park efforts remains the hundreds of hours devoted each year by worker bees. This year we installed several new birdhouses and monitored them in the spring, trying to stay ahead of the sparrows' nesting efforts.



One of many excellent frosty fall mornings

We did a lot of prep work to get the southeast corner ready for the McClintock planting. There is always weeding to be done, especially in the holly and turtle areas along the path. We empty and clean the shed yearly. This year we had to patrol the flooded areas and set trees upright – again! We evaluate fencing and get trees protected before fall deer rub. In August we had to do some intensive watering. In November we planted 12 new trees (same southwest corner and also the food forest area). Joe and Jerry are especially vigilant, alerting us to issues they find during their morning walks and often handling those issues on their own. As some of us long-time “bees” age and get involved in other volunteer efforts, new folks join us. We always seem to have enough folks willing to work so the park stays in pretty good shape, but we are always looking for new workers.

*Ginny Brace, FWP president*

## Finances

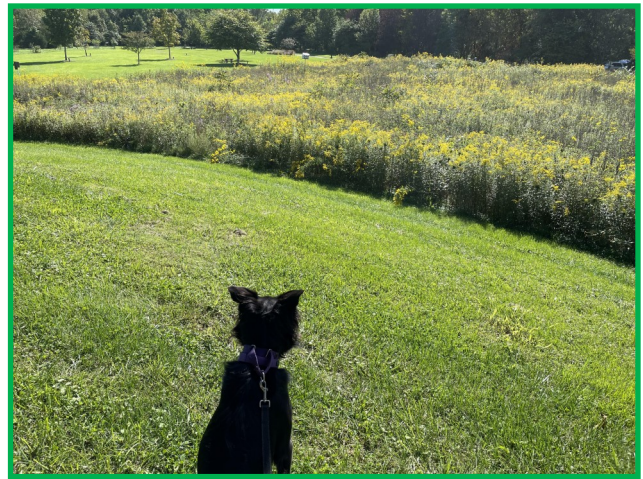
Our members continue to support this group and this park with dues and donations. This year your donations totaled more than \$3,000. A special thank you to Carol Zehnacker for her generous contribution (not included in the above total). Our Community Foundation FWP fund has really grown. It started at \$25,000 and is now over \$37,000. Members in 2021 added \$785 to that fund. This year we received over \$1,800 as the annual distribution. The CF money goes into our ash treatment; the 2021 treatment was a little over \$3,000 to treat about 3 dozen trees. We will need at least one more treatment scheduled for 2023. Each year the Cross Foundation supports our work. For long-term maintenance, the fund at Morgan Stanley is now approximately \$30,000. FWP is in sound financial shape and should stay that way as we continue to transition to more maintenance done by vendors.



Jerry spotted sandhill cranes overhead in November.



This critter eats Catalpa leaves .



Everyone enjoys the meadow

## Special Mentions

Our newest worker bees: *Kay Dicharry, Sean & Stacy Bartlinski, the Strasser family.*

*Dave Maloney* – webmaster extraordinaire

Board members *Rachel Zigler* and *Kathy Soria* for hours of birdhouse monitoring

*Greg Rausch* for building 3 beautiful oak birdhouses to replace ones destroyed in the vandalism of late summer. We will put them up early spring 2022.

*Lesley Cristol* for continuing to be the shed cleaner and water jug filler whenever needed.

*Joe Ganley* for tackling the jobs that require lots of muscle, AND for getting FWP on Facebook.

*Pat Lloyd* for taking great care with FWP's treasurer duties.

*The McIntosh's* on Rock Creek Drive who grew out maples and poplars and donated them to us.

*The City* for promptly removing a diseased poplar and leaving us a great planting spot for our new Southern Hackberry.

*Jerry Warner* for continuing to document the birds in the park. He has now seen 107 species.

*The Vause family* for doing a trash pick-up outing and for washing the teak benches at the turtle area – now we need to get those benches oiled! (We have the oil. Any volunteers??)

*Susan Stokes, Jerry Warner, Anne Kenny and Ann Andrex* for taking photos in the park and during work sessions. Several of the photos in this newsletter are theirs.



# Photo Album



Hollyberries will be eaten soon



Susan and Kay tackled the crabgrass in the native grass area



Planting along old sewer line



City removed diseased poplar





Les has helped with watering for years



Magnolia on the hill



Flooded park - again!!



One of many in the park this year



Wildlife in Waterford





Helping the monarchs



Gray dogwoods, not showy but important bird food



Golden ragwort - great groundcover

### FWP, Inc. Board of Directors

Ginny Brace, *president*  
 Rachel Zigler, *vice-president*  
 Kathy Soria, *secretary*  
 Pat Lloyd, *treasurer*  
 Dan Yates, *director*  
 Angela Burke, *director*  
 Kathy Fay, *liaison to Friends of Baker Park*

**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.*





FHS students clearing groundcover



Astrazeneca volunteers