

Information FLOW



Liberty Park Tackles Restoration of Wildcat Run

In the summer of 2011, construction began on a stream restoration project in Liberty Park in southern Delaware County. The work is being completed under a Surface Water Improvement Fund grant from Ohio EPA that will help to restore the function of the floodplain surrounding Wildcat Run. The Park, located at the intersection of Home Road and Liberty Road, was selected because of increased runoff from upstream development resulting in significant stream erosion problems in the park. The stream restoration of Wildcat Run targets three stream segments using three different techniques designed to restore the function of the stream banks.

A portion of the main channel of Wildcat Run was reconstructed using a “natural channel” design with meanders and step pools to gently lower the elevation of the streambed to match the surrounding land surface. Matching the elevation of the streambed to the surrounding land elevation is important to reconnect the stream and streambank for flood storage during storm events. The restoration will help promote infiltration of water rather than allowing all of the water to rush downstream toward the Olentangy River, eroding sediments along the way.

A south tributary to Wildcat Run had historically been straightened and the banks were eroding. Restoration along the southern tributary to Wildcat Run was implemented using a “natural channel” design technique called “self-forming” channel, which allows the stream to “find” its way to the confluence with Wildcat Run. Once the new channel is established and new plantings take hold, this portion will look less like a ditch and more like a babbling brook.

A northern tributary of Wildcat Run flows from a park pond,

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Local Golf Courses Join An Exciting Partnership

by Laura Fay

FLOW reached out to some of the largest landowners in the watershed, resulting in a very exciting partnership with the Ohio State University (OSU) Golf Club, the Worthington Hills Country Club, Hidden Valley Golf Course and the Josephinum Pontifical College.

At our ice breaker in January of 2011, FLOW offered a one-year membership to the Audubon International Sanctuary Program for large-parcel landowners, using funds from our Ohio EPA Environmental Education Grant. The Audubon program takes members through six steps of land management; environmental planning, water sampling, habitat management, outreach and implementing a case study. The goal is to educate golf course managers and golfers about steps they can take to improve the land that they manage. Mike Samulski of the Blacklick Woods Golf Course helped FLOW to reach out to golf course superintendents and educated FLOW on issues important to golf course land managers.

The OSU Golf Club used funds from FLOW to pay the first year of dues to the Audubon Program for golf courses, and they received certification from Audubon for Environmental Planning. Dennis Bowsher, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, and his crew implemented some exciting changes resulting in savings of time and money while increasing the quality of their habitat. OSU staff successfully naturalized 21 acres of rough, surrounding their 10-acre lake and all stream banks with tall grass buffers ranging from 8 to 25 feet wide. Initial testing of water along Turkey Run shows that water is as clean when it exits as it is when it entered. OSU reduced watering by using a moisture meter to establish exact water needs of the grass, and

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EXPLORE

Partners (continued from page 1)

implemented hand watering on the greens to get consistent moisture and consistency of play. OSU plans to remove invasive honeysuckle from the forested canopy to ensure that young native trees can grow, and 67 green ash trees are being treated for Emerald Ash Borer. The planting of annual bedding plants on the golf course has been replaced with native perennials. The crew is making and installing bird houses and planning to provide habitat for native pollinating bees. All of their good work will help improve habitat in the Turkey Run subwatershed.

Worthington Hills Country Club and FLOW submitted two grant applications in support of projects to reforest about 15 acres of out-of-play areas, and for native seeds to create plant buffers around their five ponds and two stream corridors. The crew here is starting to let the rough go rough and also is treating about 20 green ash trees. The crew takes advantage of the winter months to build bat houses and blue bird houses.

The students at the Josephinum Pontifical College have started environmental planning at their site and have prioritized the improvement of their pond habitat as their first environmental project.

The City of Delaware's public golf course at Hidden Valley is just starting on their environmental planning but has already come up with some great ideas to reduce mowing and fertilizing about 10 acres of out-of-play areas. This will save staff time, fuel, and fertilizer in addition to increasing the life of their mowers.

FLOW wants to thank all of our Audubon International Sanctuary Program partners and also wants to encourage every land owner to contribute by naturalizing 5% of their land.

Thank you

Spring 2012 Thank You List

FLOW would like to thank all of our supporters that donated to our organization during the Columbus Foundation's Big Give last fall and during our membership drive at the end of 2011. It's our watershed, and FLOW supporters and volunteers help us continue our work to make the Olentangy River safe and clean for all to enjoy.

A huge thanks to all of the Adopt-A-Spot groups and volunteers that continue to make a difference in communities around central Ohio. The Adopt-A-Spot groups made a big impact in 2011, and we anticipate more great accomplishments in 2012.

The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks deserve a big round of applause for launching their Honeysuckle Removal Program in 2011, working with volunteers to remove invasive species from our city parks. The Columbus Ecological Restoration Program is up and running for the 2012 season and we're looking forward to more great results.

FLOW would also like to thank Eagle Scouts Andy Dougherty and James Davisson for their hard work to make the Olentangy Watershed a better place to live, work and play.

Wildcat (continued from page 1)

and was redesigned as a vegetated swale with wetland pools and stone filters, where taller, more deeply-rooted plants provide roughness to slow runoff, giving water a chance to soak in to the soil.

Each restored stream bank was planted with native vegetation to help hold soils in place and provide roughness to slow water velocities during storm events. Once the new vegetation begins to take hold, barriers between the old and new stream channels will be removed so that the water can flow through the new channels, and the old channels will be filled in. Also, park personnel will no longer mow turf grass right up to the edge of the stream channel, using the roots of the stream-side plants to hold soil in place, giving Wildcat Run a softer, more natural look.

This work is being conducted by Liberty Township, but FLOW is contributing to the efforts with plans for public outreach, tours of the new park features, and park signage. The three techniques used to restore Wildcat Run provide demonstrations of available tools to reduce flooding along Olentangy tributaries where increased development contribute to increased runoff.

**FLOW Seeks Help Collecting Discarded Plastic Bottles**

FLOW will partner with Franklin Park Conservatory for a new art exhibit, Sacrifice + Bliss, coming to Columbus next September. The Conservatory exhibit will feature creations by Aurora Robson, a Brooklyn-based environmental artist, who creates works from waste materials such as junk mail, plastic debris, and excess packaging. One continuing theme of her work is to take something negative and use it to create something positive. For the Conservatory exhibit, Robson intends to interrupt the waste cycle by using discarded plastic bottles as the medium for new works.

FLOW has been asked by the Conservatory to assist in collecting plastic bottles, but it is not enough to simply raid the recycle bin because that plastic is already slated for reuse. Instead, the artist would like to use plastic bottles that have been retrieved from the environment. The bottles will be meticulously cleaned and dyed before being used to create new sculpture for the Conservatory exhibit.

FLOW hopes to reach Adopt-an-Area and neighborhood groups that are planning litter cleanup events, so that plastic bottles can be segregated for use in the Aurora Robson project. Franklin Park Conservatory volunteers will help round up the collected plastic so that the artist has materials to use for her work. For more information, send FLOW a message at info@olentangywatershed.org, or contact the FLOW office at (614) 267-3386.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2012

Spring is here, and there are more events than can be included here, so frequently check FLOW's website calendar and Facebook page for additional listings. For additional information, please contact us at info@olentangywatershed.org, or leave us a message at (614) 267-3386.

MARCH 31 – 8:30 AM TO 2 PM

Kick Butt Columbus 2012. Join Keep Columbus Beautiful in picking up litter and cigarette butts from adopted highway ramps all around Columbus. Volunteers must register at <http://kickbuttcolumbus.eventbrite.com/>. A few highway ramps are still available for groups to adopt. The Golden Ashtray award will be awarded at the end of the event, and there will be a cookout between 1-2 PM for event participants. Sign up today!



APRIL 7 – 2 PM

Rain Barrel Seminar at the Northside Library, 1423 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43201. See www.franklinswcd.org/greenspot-rain-barrel-program/ for registration and program details.

APRIL 14 – 10:30 AM

Rain Barrel Seminar at the Selby Park Shelterhouse, 358 Selby Blvd. S Worthington, OH 43085. See www.franklinswcd.org/greenspot-rain-barrel-program/ for registration and program details.

APRIL 14 – 9 AM

FLOW's Big Spring Tree Planting at the OSU Fawcett Center,

2400 Olentangy River Road. Volunteers are needed to help FLOW plant 1,500 trees along the bank of the Olentangy River. Meet at the Fawcett Center Visitor Parking Area east of the facility. Participants should bring a shovel and gloves if they can, and the Battelle Stream Team will provide a picnic lunch.

APRIL 19 – 6 PM

Rain Barrel Seminar at the Franklinton Library, 1061 W. Town Street Columbus, OH 43222. See www.franklinswcd.org/greenspot-rain-barrel-program/ for registration and program details.

APRIL 28 – 10:30 AM

Rain Barrel Seminar at Sharon Township 95 E. Wilson Bridge Rd, Worthington 43085. See www.franklinswcd.org/greenspot-rain-barrel-program/ for registration and program details.

MAY 5 AND 6 – 9 AM - 2 PM

Rain Garden Installation at Dominion Middle School from 9 to 2. Join FLOW in planting a rain garden in front of Dominion Middle School at 330 East Dominion Blvd Columbus, OH 43214. For more information, contact FLOW at info@olentangywatershed.org or call (614)267-3386.

MAY 12 – 9 AM - 12:00 Noon

Island View Park Honeysuckle Removal at Westview Avenue near the Olentangy River in Clintonville (north of Graceland Shopping Center). City of Columbus will be there with their chain saw and chipper truck. Contact Ellie Nowels for additional information at (614) 395-2196 or enowels@centipedegraphics.com.

MAY 12 – 2 PM

Rain Barrel Seminar at Whetstone Library, 3909 North High Street Columbus, OH 43214. See www.franklinswcd.org/greenspot-rain-barrel-program/ for registration and program details.

JUNE 9 – 9 AM

Adena Brook Honeysuckle Removal at Overbrook Drive and East Cooke Road in Clintonville. The City of Columbus will be there with their chain saw and chipper truck. Contact Karl Hoessle of the City of Columbus for additional information at (614) 645-2863.

JUNE – ALL MONTH – 2012 RIVERFEST ON TOUR!

Join FLOW and all of Central Ohio in a month long celebration of water, with a Grand Finale planned for Friday June 29, 2012 from 5 to 9 PM at COSI. Additional information about Riverfest activities can be found at <http://www.riverfestcolumbus.org/Home.aspx>.



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YES! I want to support FLOW for cleaner water!

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By providing your email, you will save resources and stay up-to-date on news and events.

Return this form to:

FLOW
3528 N. High St., Suite F, Columbus, OH 43214

Or give securely online at: www.olentangywatershed.org



Explore. Discover. Understand.

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Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed is a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping the Olentangy River clean and safe for all to enjoy through public education, volunteer activities, and coordination with local decision makers. FLOW is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible.

Because FLOW is a small organization, we rely heavily on volunteer participation to create positive change in our watershed. Please contact us for more information about how you can volunteer. We have a wide variety of opportunities to fit your schedule that will match your skills and interests.

FLOW is a member of Earth Share Ohio. You may donate to FLOW through Earth Share's workplace giving campaign, available at numerous private companies, state and municipal government agencies, and Combined Federal Campaigns. For more information about workplace giving, please contact us.

