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On the Slyh

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The five FLOW events at that site this year have cleared 900 feet of invasive honeysuckle and planted 22 native trees and 95 native shrubs. Most planting is on the south side of the stream, where the canopy is sparse. Plans are in place to add a prairie to an unused field on the north side of the stream.

Another focus will be on educating upstream property owners about how to care for their stream edge. This will include advising them to:

• Not mow or add rock along the edge. Grass contributes to erosion because it has short roots compared to native plants. Adding rock causes sediment in the stream and results in downstream erosion. Instead, use native trees including sycamore and river birch, and native shrubs and prairie plants.

• Keep fertilizer away from the stream, since it promotes excessive growth of the wrong kind of algae that harms fish and other water creatures. Avoid herbicides near streams.

For technical information about healthy stream edges, please see the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District website (www.franklinswcd.org). Look under Conservation Easements for a link to Protecting Your Stream.

Anheuser Busch’s Vision for Rush Run

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Anheuser Busch and FLOW now have a five-year plan to plant prairies, a variety of trees, and a rain garden. This is designed to intercept storm water.

Water runoff in Rush Run is significantly higher than deemed healthy, due to a number of factors including lack of trees and other vegetation, and lack of porous surfaces. The headwaters area of Rush Run is 43% impervious, with roadways, parking lots, rooftops, and compacted soil. More than 11% causes stream degradation.

Calling all Wet Basements

Your damp basement might finally have a friend. The City of Columbus is installing free sump pumps and addressing other drainage problems for those who live in the Clintonville area that drains into Adena Brook. This is one of the most frequent sewer overflows.

The city’s Blueprint Columbus program is designed to reduce sewage overflows into streams. In this phase, it is attempting to stop sewage dumps into Adena Brook in Whetstone Park. The upgrades are all completely free to homeowners in the target area whose houses were built before 1963. Please visit www.blueprint.columbus.gov and click View Current Projects to see if you are in the target area.

Upgrades include:

• Sump pumps: In older homes, the foundation drain connects directly to the sanitary sewer, which can cause sewage to back up into the basement during heavy rains. Residents with a single family or duplex home that does not currently have a sump pump can apply for the program if the home is located in an area where the City is implementing Blueprint Columbus.

• Rain gardens and porous pavement: Rain gardens and porous pavement, known as green infrastructure, slow the release of stormwater and keeps pollutants and trash out of the streams. This reduces roadway flooding and stops rainwater from getting into the sanitary sewers. Engineering studies have indicated where the rain gardens need to be. For the pilot project, rain gardens will be in tree lawns East of N. High St. between E. Weisheimer Rd. and Glencoe Rd. These rain gardens will be maintained by the city or a contractor.
Contact FLOW for advice-

Reduce litter

• Do not mow areas around streams

• Plant prairies to intercept water

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Back to School River Cleanup

This summer, 127 Ohio State students cleaned up mountains of trash
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Natural Resource Scholars and fraternity members were
participating in OSU’s “Pay It Forward” program.

Coffee Pods made useful

Plastic coffee pods are expensive, a major source of
non-recyclable waste, and the safety of heating up the
#7 plastic blend is being questioned. Here are two
ways to address these issues:

• Search for refillable coffee pods, easily and

inexpensively available on the Internet.

• Reuse the pods for baby plants. They are perfect

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Succulent cuttings getting their start in a coffee pod

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• To Weilands Market at 3600 Indiana Ave., which turned

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- Reduce litter
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- Plant trees
- Disconnect impervious areas from one another
- Replace unneeded parking lots with prairies and trees

Ways that your company can help:
- The Chemical Abstracts' 50-acre campus on the west bank of the Olentangy River, just north of Ohio State University, is home to hundreds of mature trees and is well known in the community. The company has participated in OSU's “Pay It Forward” program.
- Club members install new bird nest boxes at CAS for Eastern Bluebirds and other native cavity nesting birds in this important ecosystem.
- In addition to the trees, FLOW members helped CAS Green Club members install new bird nest boxes at CAS for Eastern bluebirds and other native cavity nesting birds in this important ecosystem.
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- The Olentangy River near Dodridge Bridge.
- FLOW and the CAS Green Club volunteers planted several species of oak, Ohio buckeye, American linden, and American elm. The new streamside trees at CAS will help protect the Olentangy River by stabilizing the riverbank, filtering water, and helping to prevent flooding.

This is one example of companies in the Olentangy watershed teaming with FLOW to help upgrade the quality of the Olentangy.

Ways that your company can help:
- Replace unneeded parking lots with prairies and trees
- Disconnect impervious areas from one another
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Measuring Stream Health
FLOW is engaged in a stream quality monitoring program to collect and analyze data. Some 50 volunteers, mostly high school and college students, collected stream data in 2015 and 2016. This will identify problem areas, measure how much impact FLOW projects are making, and thus help set future direction.

Volunteers from Upper Arlington High School, Buckeye Friends of Stone Lab, and TerraAqua, plus other individuals, have been taking samples three times per year. So far, the worst water quality is in Glen Echo in Clintonville and Turkey Run in Upper Arlington.

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AmazonSmile: With AmazonSmile, you can donate to FLOW at no cost to yourself. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Go to https://smile.amazon.com/ and search for Friends Of The Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW).

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• Downspouts: Redirecting rain water from downspouts away from your home’s foundation and into a pipe that leads to the street where it can easily flow into the storm sewer system.

• Your sanitary sewer pipes: Replacing your old sanitary sewer pipes connecting to the City’s sanitary sewer system. Lateral lining has minimal impact to the yard.

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Plans are in place to add a prairie to an unused field on the north side of the stream.

Another focus will be on educating upstream property owners about how to care for their stream edge. This will include advising them to:

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Plans are in place to add a prairie to an unused field on the north side of the stream.

Another focus will be on educating upstream property owners about how to care for their stream edge. This will include advising them to:

• Not mow or add rock along the edge. Grass contributes to erosion because it has short roots compared to native plants. Adding rock causes sediment in the stream and results in downstream erosion. Instead, use native trees including sycamore and river birch, and native shrubs and prairie plants.

• Keep fertilizer away from the stream, since it promotes excessive growth of the wrong kind of algae that harms fish and other water creatures. Avoid herbicides near streams.