

SPRING 2017

Pollinator Pathways

Three important things about pollinators:

- (1) We cannot live without them.
- (2) They are in trouble.
- (3) We must help them.

FLOW and a number of other groups are doing that. They have joined together to set up pollinator stations every half mile through Columbus.

Some parks with pollinator stations will be:

- Antrim Park
- Anheuser Busch Sports Park
- Harrison West Park
- Sharon Meadows Park
- Tuttle Park
- Clinton-Como Park (adding a second one)

In addition, some good drive-by viewing areas will be:

- The Olentangy Bikeway at Henderson Road
- SR 315 and SR 750 (early spring planting with seeds donated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- 3 acres on the Anheuser Busch property at I-270 and Schrock Rd.

In addition, FLOW has applied for a grant to seed a 17-acre pollinator station along I-270 between SR 315 and Interstate 71. Partners in the pollinator station project are Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT), Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD), United States Fish and Wildlife Service,

Anheuser- Busch, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and Columbus Recreation and Parks Department.

A Pollinator Patch for You

An Internet search for pollinator gardening in Ohio will provide lots of information. Basic needs are a variety of native plants with various colors and bloom times, nesting sites, and water. To help pay for your patch, sign up for \$50 rebate through the Community Backyards Rebate Program offered by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.



Recycling Survey



Tillie Fountain has been interested in the environment for most of her life. She is considering a future as an environmental lawyer. So it's no surprise that her senior project at Upper Arlington High School includes a survey of people's use of plastic bags. This informal study

was done via Facebook, including the FLOW page, plus personal acquaintances. 239 people responded by email and 97 by paper mail.

Some of her findings:

- She was shocked at how frequently people go to grocery stores – some people go every day, but most go 1-4 times a week.
- Many use plastic bags for trash liners or dog waste, so they are used more than once.
- 81.4% said they recycle their plastic bags. More than 10% said they don't know where to recycle them.
- About half take reusable bags sometimes; about a quarter said always; about a quarter said never.
- 81% said they think of the long-term effects of using plastic bags.

Why Trees Matter

Because trees benefit a city's economic well-being and quality of life, Columbus is attempting to shore up its sparse 21.8% tree canopy by adding 300,000 trees in the next five years.



Some areas have less than 15% tree canopy cover and are in desperate need of new plantings. Neighborhoods with especially low tree canopies are shown in light colors in the map.

Tree benefits are substantial to you as well as the community: trees cool your yard, reduce sound, provide privacy, and block unattractive views. They help you financially too: If your yard has

trees, you can have reduced heating and cooling costs, and faster and more profitable resale. If the whole street is tree-lined, your house can be worth up to 25% more.

A Tree for Free

You have a couple of options.

Branch-Out Columbus is offering 1,000 free trees and compost to Columbus residents to plant on their property. The trees are seedlings, in two-gallon pots. To register for one or two trees, go to <https://www.columbus.gov/branch-out/>. Pickup is on Saturday, April 15

For a bigger tree, consider registering at <http://www.communitybackyards.org/>. After taking a workshop or online class, you can get a rebate of up to \$100 towards native trees or plants, a compost bin, or a rain barrel. This program restarts each year, so you can register for another conservation method each year.



Is Raking not for you?

What if you don't want to rake?

No problem, you can still have all the benefits of trees:

- Mow the fallen leaves
- Plant trees with small leaves, like this Honey Locust, that don't need to be raked
- Plant evergreens

Treat yourself, your community, and your planet – plant a tree this year.

FLOW calendar of events

FLOW has a variety of activities throughout the year.

Please join in! Check FLOW's calendar at

www.olentangywatershed.org or see the Facebook page Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW).

Family-Friendly Activities during Earth Month

- FLOW will be starting Earth Day events by planting 2,100 tree seedlings behind the Fawcett Center on April 8. The entire family is welcome. Bring a shovel if you have one. Lots of help is needed to plant at this enjoyable event, which will be from 9 a.m. to noon.
- FLOW and Lucky's Market are sponsoring a cleanup of Glen Echo Ravine near Lucky's at 9:00 a.m. on April 22. This area gets a large amount of litter from I-71.
- We will be helping Indianola Informal on Weber to give seedling trees to students during class.
- Look at the Google calendar on the FLOW website for additional events during Earth Week (April 8-15).

► ACTION ALERT

Friends of Sawmill Wetlands

Friends of Sawmill Wetlands is asking for help in protecting the Sawmill Wetlands Education Area from being taken over by a developer. The state-owned 18-acre wetland is in the midst of a legal battle between the state and developer JDS So Cal Ltd. Those who want to see the wetland preserved are asked to:

- Contact ODNR Director Jim Zerhinger and Deputy Director Fred Shimp at 614-265-6565.
- Contact Attorney General Mike Dewine at 614-466-4986 and ask him to help.
- Contact media members – ask them to come to Sawmill from 10-noon on April 1.
- Contact officials from the City of Columbus and Columbus Recreation and Parks and ask for help.
- Request to visit the Wetlands in March by contacting wildlife.permits@dnr.state.oh.us.

Thanks to our Watershed Partners

Thanks to all of FLOW's watershed partners. Please consider visiting these businesses that help to support water quality where we live.

A special thanks to:

- ▲ **Outdoor Source** in Kingsdale and Patagonia for a grant
- ▲ **Columbus Foundation** for \$10,000 grant for a bridge over Slyh Run to help our neighbors in Cranbrook
- ▲ **Aqua Doc**, a stormwater treatment company with expertise at removing invasives, for helping to remove invasives along tributaries
- ▲ **Scott's Miracle Grow** and the **Columbus Foundation** for a \$500 dollar grant to build a pollinator garden on I-71
- ▲ The many **volunteers** who come to workdays and otherwise stand up for a clean environment in the Olentangy watershed

Blueprint Columbus

Columbus is starting construction on its Blueprint Columbus project to eliminate sewage overflows by keeping rainwater out of sanitary sewers. One site being targeted is the sewage overflows into Adena Brook in Whetstone Park.

In Clintonville, you will be seeing rain gardens, curb bump outs containing rain gardens, and pervious pavers in the colored areas on the map.

Rain gardens, shown in red on the map, are being prepared and covered with grass mats until planting this spring or fall. These will be maintained by the city.

Bump outs that include rain gardens will be used in areas with sidewalks, right-of-way issues, or other obstacles.

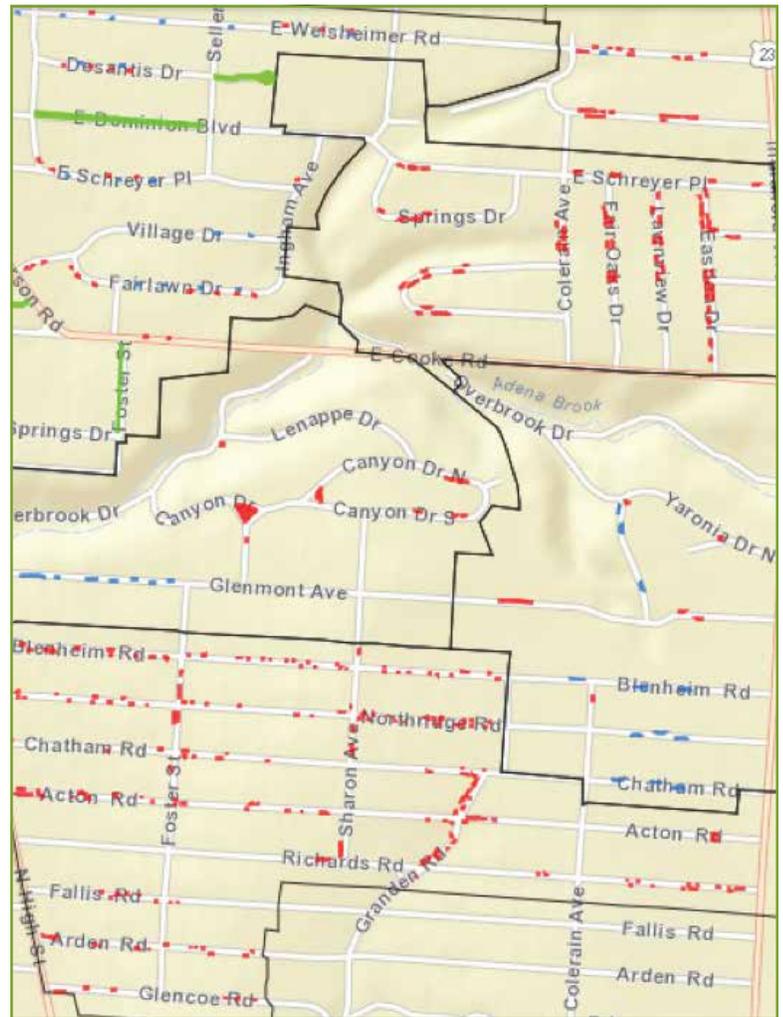
Pervious pavers will replace sections of road in green areas on the map. They will allow water to seep through and will slow down runoff.

Currently, all work is scheduled to be completed this year. The Glenmont area is now being done. Next is the Schreyer-Springs area, which will also have 50 homes that have their downspouts redirected to the street, and have a new lining installed in the pipes that connect the home's plumbing to the city sewage lines.

Sump pumps are also available to qualifying homes throughout Clintonville.

There will also be a new pond at the West end of Hollenbeck Drive in Whetstone Park.

For an overview of the Blueprint project, see <http://blueprintneighborhoods.com/>. To see a map of the discharge spots, go to <https://eapp.columbus.gov/ssocso/> and select SSO Discharge Number 30.



■ Rain Gardens ■ Bump outs with Rain Gardens ■ Pervious pavers

Stream Quality Monitoring

If you love to be hands-on and outdoors, you might like to help monitor the health of streams in the Olentangy watershed. Volunteers gather pollution and macroinvertebrate data from 13 streams and use it to create scorecards for small tributaries and to observe long-term trends.

A main goal is to use the data to create better educational material for those who live near the streams. This might include information about lawn fertilizers, green infrastructure, and the benefits of trees. Currently, water quality is poor in most streams in the Olentangy watershed.

Volunteers are trained in water quality testing, identifying pollution, and sampling macroinvertebrates. They are then ready to sample their locations three times a year. To volunteer, email info@olentangywatershed.org and mention that you are interested in stream quality monitoring.

The program is sponsored by the Ohio Environmental Education Fund of Ohio EPA in partnership with the Ohio Chapter of Sierra Club, FLOW and Ohio Water Resource Center at OSU.



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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.

FLOW relies heavily on volunteer participation to create positive change in our watershed.

Please contact us for information on how you can volunteer. We have a wide variety of opportunities to fit your schedule and match your skills and interests. To be added to the FLOW email list, please send a request to info@olentangywatershed.org with a subject line of "Email list".



Free ways to Donate to FLOW

Re-register your Kroger Plus card during May:

By registering your Kroger Plus card, you can help FLOW receive a donation of 5% of qualified purchases under the Kroger Community Rewards Program at no cost to shoppers. Use your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com during May and select FLOW by typing group number 84562 or searching for Friends of Lower Olen and then clicking the circle in front of the correct line. Note that "Olentangy" is not spelled out. Visit our website at www.olentangywatershed.org for more instructions.



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.

Thereafter, start your Amazon sessions at <http://smile.amazon.com>.



To Bee or Not to Bee

The Rusty Patched Bumblebee was once common in the midwest and was an excellent pollinator of wildflowers and crops. It has rapidly declined and now is endangered in Franklin and Lucas Counties.



NOW Festival June 10

On June 10, join the celebration at the Northern Ohio Watershed Festival at Mingo Park in Delaware. From noon to 3 p.m., the park will be alive with exhibits, kayaking, food, raffles, and other experiences that celebrate the Olentangy River. While you're there, visit the FLOW table and play with their enviroscape model, which is hands-on fun for children and adults.

FLOW Monthly Meetings

FLOW has public educational meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month except during the summer. They are currently held at the Worthington Library.