

SPRING 2020

A Partnership that Works

The City of Worthington owns a lot of land with streams that empty into the Olenangy River. These areas, so important to the water quality of the watershed, have been upgraded during the past few years, thanks to a partnership between Worthington and FLOW.

Because of this partnership, FLOW has directed most of its recent efforts to Worthington sites like Park Blvd., Snouffer, and Perry parks, and the Moses Wright nature area. Projects have included a rain garden installation, wildflower seeding, native tree planting, and prairie reestablishment.

The biggest project is an ongoing multi-year effort to replace honeysuckle with native plants at Perry and Snouffer parks. People can now flow between the two parks, find a previously-hidden stream, and enjoy a newly-opened area with picnic tables.

Knowledge and Volunteers

According to Parks Supervisor Shawn Daugherty, the FLOW partnership lets the city do projects that they do not have manpower or time to do. “We have worked with groups before, but no one with expertise and structure of FLOW. We bounce ideas off each other. They are good with bringing in volunteers and are very professional to work with, and they have vast knowledge.”

The city helps in any way that they can, Shawn explains. “We bring equipment, trailers for debris, and equipment to till the ground. We remove hazardous dead trees. We complement each other.

Lasting Effects

FLOW’s Laura Fay has a lot of praise for Worthington Parks. “They are great partners. They make it easy for us to get work done. We have had some good response from the community in regards to volunteering and we hope to continue to get more involvement from the community in upcoming projects.”

Deirdre Donaldson has been FLOW’s Outreach and Education Chair for the past 2 years. In that time, she has lead or worked on several big projects including FLOW’s tree nursery on

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FLOW’s Danielle Johnson and Khava Morris load brush into a trailer supplied by Worthington Parks.

FLOW Native Tree Nursery

The 1,200 little trees growing in the nursery by the dog park on Godown Road will be part of the future tree canopy in the yards and parkland of Worthington.

FLOW volunteers have been planting and tending about 20 kinds of tree saplings and shrubs for the past 2 years. The trees are planted and cared for by volunteers and will be given to homeowners and planted in woodlands and parkland once they get large enough.

The purpose of the nursery is to increase the size and survivability of trees that FLOW plants and gives to the community. FLOW plans to have a tree giveaway in the fall. Residents who want a tree now can contact FLOW.

The nursery gives FLOW more native plants at a better size. The nursery includes native species like sycamore, oaks, dogwood, spicebush, elderberry, filbert, black cherry, hickory, river birch, and bald cypress.

Learning by Trial and Error

It has been a learning experience for Deidre Donaldson, FLOW's project manager for the nursery. "Not in a million years did I think I was going to be in charge of a tree nursery. It has been trial and error."

Some things they are learning:

Place tubes around the plants to protect against deer. They have an 85% survival rate overall, with tube-less plants having a high mortality rate.

Leave weeds around the base of the plants to cool the roots and preserve moisture.

Find out which plants survive best. Sycamores are thriving and hickory trees are not.

For the most part, they did not amend the soil, hoping that this will aid the transition after transplanting.

Stronger Together

Their partners in this project include Green Columbus, which provided trees, soil, and mulch; some sponsors who provided tubes and wish to remain anonymous, L Brands



Masked volunteers use social distancing while planting new trees. The tubes protect the trees from deer.



Volunteer Gregg Peace expands the size of the nursery to accommodate more trees. "I love digging in the dirt. It is a stress reliever. It is rewarding to plant trees and hope that they have a long life."

and other volunteers, and Worthington Parks Department.

"Worthington Parks has been phenomenal," according to Deidre. "They helped with tilling, let us use the land, let us tap into a water supply, and generally try to provide what we need. They are lending us an air spade to help with transplanting."

Email FLOW at info@olentangywatershed.org to join in the fun, or call 614-267-3386.

A Partnership that Works *(cont. from front page)*

Worthington property, Park Blvd., and the Snouffer-Perry restoration, plus the installation of over 1500 tree seedling along the Olentangy trail in Worthington.

Future plans, virus permitting, are to plant large trees at Galipault field. This will provide instant shade for those watching sporting events and using the bike trail.

“The benefit of working together is that we will have a more lasting effect in keeping the watershed where we want it to be,” Deirdre says. “Invasives have to be repeatedly removed to have an effect. Shawn is out in the parks every day and alerts about what he sees. He is our eyes.”

It is indeed a partnership that works.

Park Blvd. Coming up Native



A massive honeysuckle stump shows the challenges faced by those who have been clearing invasives from Park Blvd. park.



Encouraging sign: native plants added to Park Blvd. are sporting green this spring. There is now plenty of space for them to grow.

Revised Watershed Action Plan Expected this Summer

FLOW is awaiting approval of the revised Watershed Action Plan from the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water. When approved, it will be posted on the FLOW website (<https://www.olentangywatershed.org/>) for public use. It is expected to be available this summer.

Meanwhile, FLOW has submitted grant applications to support restorations proposed in the new watershed action plan:

- Revise Huntley Bowl (a 27-foot deep stormwater retention basin) near SR-161 and Huntley Rd. The revision will allow retention of more water to reduce stormwater damage downstream.
- Fix a landfill in Rush Run preserve that dumps trash when it rains. FLOW will do a bioengineering approach to protect the toe of the terrace using existing woody debris. This should block trash, trap sediment, and slow the flow of runoff water.

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:

- Ruscilli Construction Co. Inc.
- Schorr Architects Inc.
- Cardno Nursery for their generous donation of pollinator plugs for Granby School and Hudson Prairie.
- Gladys Avery Foundation and Energility for their generous donations.
- The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station, for their donation of surplus planting materials for restorations along Rush Run at Park Blvd Park, Moses Wright Nature Preserve and Carmack Woods.

All the corporate and individual volunteers that were planning to help us for Earth Month before the COVID pandemic:

- OSU’s Undergraduate Student Government, Society for Ecological Restoration, Fisher Cares and Pay it Forward students, Franklin County Environmental Court, Nationwide Green Team, Green Columbus, Verizon, Studio 35, Crest GastroPub, White Castle, State Farm, EarthShare, LBrands, US Green Building Council, Kleingers, GPD, Friends of Sawmill Wetlands, Village of Willowbrook and Vernacular Yoga.
- OSU Environment and Natural Resources and Food Agriculture and Biological Engineering Students that helped us with Capstone projects on Antrim Park, Sawmill Wetlands, OSU Stormwater Trash Trap design and Green Roof design.
- Wolf’s Ridge Brewery for creating a charitable Indian Pale Lager (IPL) and donating 5% of the proceeds to FLOW. (And thank you to those who are ordering it and having it delivered!)



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).

FLOW events are also posted on the POINT volunteer app for Columbus.

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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



Kroger Plus Card

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 you. Use your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count. Go to www.kroger.com, select **Savings & Rewards**, and then **Kroger Community Rewards**. FLOW's new code is AU317.

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>.



One Little Thing

Pollinators are pretty and interesting, and they are essential to our food supply. Here are a couple of very easy projects that don't take up much space but help these small workers:

- Set up a hydration station for pollinators. Put out a shallow dish of clean water with some stones in it.
- Plant parsley. It is pretty and edible and you might be rewarded with Black Swallowtail butterfly larvae that come to eat it.
- Give a home to those little flying teddy bears – the bumblebee! Look up how to make a nest out of a clay flowerpot, straw, and a short tube or section of old hose.



These enjoyable family activities are one little thing that we can do for our planet.