

**Grant funding For Naturalizing a Detention Basin**

The WEAC was successful in securing a grant from the Tree Vitalize Watersheds program under the supervision of the Bucks County Conservation District to naturalize a detention basin on County Line road near Elbow Lane. This grant enabled the WEAC to purchase approximately 100 native trees and 20 native shrubs to plant in this basin. These trees and shrubs will absorb the rainwater runoff that enters the basin and will help to clean the polluted water that enters the basin, as well as reduce flooding downstream.

**Valley Square Earth Day Event April 26th**

The Warrington Environmental Advisory Council partnered with The Valley Square Shopping Center and held an Earth Day event. This event gave us (The WEAC) the opportunity to educate the residents of Warrington and residents of surrounding townships of some environmental issues like protecting the watershed, the danger of honeysuckle and other vines growing on trees and how invasive bamboo is. We sold bat houses, blue bird houses and rain barrels. We handed out environmental informational pamphlets, activity books for the kids and other giveaways. Valley Square Shopping Center supplied plant kits for the kids. The big hit of the day was the rock painting for the kids. It was a great day!

**Warrington Community Service Day May 31st**

It was a great day for the young people of Warrington as well as the Township. Activities were numerous and challenging. The younger kids and some parents planted annuals at Twin Oaks, Upper Nike Park, and Igoe-Porter-Wellings Memorial Field. They made

everything look beautiful! About 175 volunteers from the Central Bucks South National Honor Society, the Central Bucks South Environmental Club, the German Honor Societies of Central Bucks South, East and West along with local residents brought their energy and enthusiasm. Their accomplishments were awesome as they took on various, large projects in multiple locations. Accomplishments included weeding and planting around the Twin Oaks main building, and maintenance of the rain and butterfly gardens in IPW Memorial Field by these terrific kids. The previously naturalized water retention basin at Morning Walk Drive and Evening Walk Lane had 30 dedicated teens weed, mulch and tend to about 140 trees and shrubs. This was no easy task. They did it thoroughly and they did it well. The water retention basin off of Orchard Place was the site of a huge project. About 50 teens planted 120 trees and shrubs to naturalize this basin. It was a lot of digging, hauling, planting, driving stakes and building wire cages to keep the deer away from the plants. The National Honor Society students completed the work on the following weekend. to spread soil and secure the plantings. Along with the basins, Warrington youth built 10 rain barrels, 30 blue bird houses and 5 bat houses, plus they cleaned several other previously naturalized basins. Parents, be proud of them! The efforts of our young people were supported by donations from Chickie & Pete's, Warrington Dunkin Donuts, Illg's, Lowe's, Soprano's, Herr's, WAWA, Home Depot, Warrington Allstate Insurance Agency, Wegmans, Chick-fil-A, Stutz Candy, Ted's Montana Grill, Chipotle, and A & S Custom Furniture.

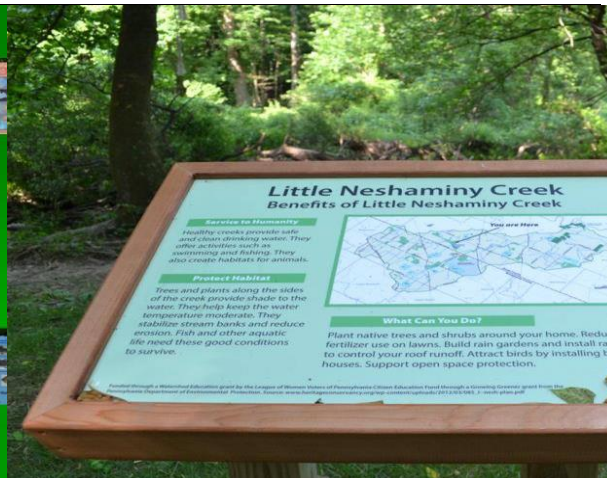






## WREN Grant Completed

In 2013 the Township received a \$3,900.00 Watershed Education grant funded. This was funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through a Growing Greener grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The grant application was written by members of the Environmental Advisory Council with support from the following partner organizations: Villanova University Sustainable Engineering Program, and the Warrington Open Space Committee. The goal of the project was to inform Warrington municipal officials and residents about green infrastructure and the benefits of maintaining it, in both public and private spaces. Ten Interpretive signs were installed in June 2014 that transformed the existing trail in Lower Nike Park into an outdoor learning experience.



## Open Space Priority Parcel Ranking System

The WEAC was assisted by the Environmental Protection Agency developing an ecologically based open space prioritization system. The system is based on clustering land into hubs based on forest cover, size, and adjacency to existing open space, proximity to existing or planned trail and streams. The ranking system was presented to the Bike and Hike Trails Committee and Park and Recreation Board as it was

developed and in its final form. Both advisory groups approved this objective method of identifying open space for possible consideration. The “Priority Parcel Ranking System For Open Space” that was presented to the Board of Supervisors by the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) at the September 9th Board of Supervisors meeting.

### **Open Space- Green Infrastructure**

The WEAC secured the University of Maryland Environmental Financial Center (EFC) to leverage additional grants and to widen the scope of Warrington open space initiative. The EFC produced a report titled “A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE APPROACH TO LEVERAGING LOCAL PRIORITIES IN WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA”. The EFC presented the findings to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) at their September 23, 2014 meeting. The report was developed by the Environmental Finance Center; and guided by the Environmental Advisory Council and Open Space & Land Preservation Task Force. The focus of the report was: 1. Identify and prioritize funding sources; 2. Develop partnerships with existing local organizations and 3. Integrate green infrastructure into land conservation planning and project site design. The report also includes the “Priority Parcel Ranking System for Open Space” that was presented to the BOS by the Open Space & Land Preservation Task Force at the September 9, 2014 BOS meeting.

### **Consulting Group Hired to Maximize Open Space Funding**

In order to accelerate the acquisition of open space parcels, the OSTF recommended that a specialized consulting group be hired to implement the approach proposed by the EFC. The selection of a consulting group was a difficult but rewarding process. After attending presentations from two possible candidate organizations (the Natural Lands Trust and the Heritage Conservancy), our Task Force deliberated and examined the strengths and limitations of both groups. Each would provide unique talents and strengths and offered different strategies and methods to reach our goals. The OSTF found that either group might have been a good choice. We reached a decision after gathering additional information and focusing on objective information from the Township. After an extended period of deliberation, the Task Force members felt that partnership with the Natural Lands Trust would be the best fit for the Township needs. The decision was based on strategy, marketing, interpersonal attributes, alignment with Warrington Township goals, depth and breadth of history and experience in protection of open space and past record of leveraging open space funds to acquire more acquisitions by seeking grant funds. The Board of Supervisors accepted our recommendation and approved securing the services of the Natural Lands Trust at the September 23rd Board of Supervisor’s Meeting.

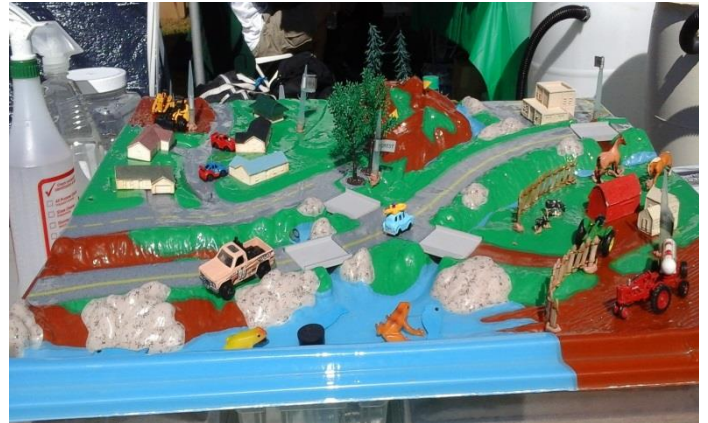
### **Warrington Community Day September 27, 2014**

The Warrington Environmental Advisory Council (WEAC) exhibits at Warrington Community Day (WCD) featured displays on blue bird houses, bat houses and rain barrels. The WEAC gave out freebies for children of all ages and had an outdoor theatre displayed for the smaller children to watch videos on Biodiversity, Invasive Species, Endangered Species and Climate change. The council also demonstrated the effects of



pollution to the Watershed using an Enviroscape. It was another fun and educational activity for the children. Candy sprinkles, colored sugar and soy sauce were used to demonstrate the different pollutants. Then, the children got to use spray bottles to emulate rain on the watershed. The children got to witness what we put on the land, ends up in the watershed and how that affects the aquatic life and our drinking water.

In addition, WEAC and the Bike & Hike Trails Committee partnered to make the newly initiated Family Hike on the Bradford Dam Trail a great success. Under leadership of hike organizer Jennifer Gilbert, thirty (30) participants hiked as far as the Bradford Reservoir and Dam. Points of ecological interest along the way were described by EAC members Ivy Ross and Fred Suffian.



### **Outdoor Classroom Trail Ribbon Cutting**

During the Warrington Day festivities, members of the Board of Supervisors, Environmental Advisory Council (WEAC) and the Bike and Hike Trails Committee cut the ribbon to our new Outdoor Classroom Trail. The 2.45-mile trail begins at the

intersection of Morning Walk Drive and Evening Walk Lane and continues past the Bradford Dam. On this trail over 10 signs explain the natural features, their benefits and how they control non-point source pollution to keep our streams and rivers clean.



### **WEAC Grant Applications**

Grants included: One (1) to naturalize the Hidden Court detention basin. This would be the seventh storm water basin in the township to be naturalized by the WEAC. If we secure this grant, native trees and shrubs will be planted for the purpose of developing extensive root systems which slow down and filter pollutants associated with storm water runoff. These types of projects also improve wildlife habitat and increase recharge of surface water to the ground water. The planting will be done in the spring of 2015, during our annual Community Service Day, with the help of local high school students, volunteers and members of the WEAC. Funding for these grants is provided by the Bucks County Conservation District as part of the Tree Vitalize Watersheds Grant. Other basins that have been naturalized in the township are located in front of the Township building, Morning Walk Drive, Billingsley Dr. and Stump Rd., Guinea Lane and Warwick Rd., Guinea Lane and Green Ridge Drive, and Orchard Place. The other two (2) grants were both offered through the Green Region PECO Open Space Program. The first proposed project is a demonstration garden which will be located at the entrance of John Paul Park at Lower Nike. This garden will consist of five raised beds specifying plants for pollinators, butterflies, host plants for butterflies, bats and moths, and herbs. The corners of the garden will have larger shrubs and habitats for animal displays. The back of the garden will have a grow house. Bird houses and a bat house will also be installed. This demonstration garden will be an informative garden geared towards children. The second grant will help to fund the WEAC's annual Community Service Day, in the spring of 2015. Over 200 student volunteer will weed, mulch and plant native plant materials and flowers at over 12 publicly owned gardens, butterfly and rain garden, detention basins and flower beds throughout the township. We will also be building bird houses, bat houses and rain barrels

### **Articles for the Link:**

Members of the EAC contributed the following article to the link: Compost Your Leaves, Fall Is Ideal For Planting Trees, Manage Water On Your Property To Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Areas, Healthy Natural Lawns, Turn AC Off When You Leave Your House,

Blue Bird and Bat Houses, Rain Barrels, Tips for a Healthy Yard, Soil Testing for Lush Green Gardens and Lawns, Protect Your Trees.

