

The year 2016 was once again a productive year for the Warrington Environmental Advisory Council (WEAC). With the support of active members, and many other volunteers, we were able to obtain two grants to support our programs, hold a highly successful Community Service Day, naturalize detention basins and enhance one of the Township Trails.

Warrington Community Service Day April 30, 2016

Saturday April 30th, over 170 volunteers participated in our annual Community Service Day, donating their time to work on many great environmental projects for Warrington. Their service saved tax payers over \$21,000. Activities were numerous and challenging. The keystone project this year was led by Woods of Plenty LLC. The project sites were the forest areas adjacent to the trail between Morning Walk Drive and Igo-Porter-Wellings (IPW) Park and in John Paul Park at Lower Nike, just past the bird blind.

The Morning Walk basin and several other previously naturalized basins in the township were maintained. These basins at Morning Walk & Evening Walk, Billingsley & Stump Roads, Guinea Lane & Green Ridge Drive, Guinea Lane and Warwick Road and Hidden Court were all weeded around the previously planted native trees and bushes. Weed barriers of newspapers and mulch were placed around them.

Other projects included weeding and planting around Twin Oaks Park's main building. Girls from Brownie Troop #21873 & Cadet Troop #23 based out of Bridge Valley Elementary school as well as some parents, planted annuals in three gardens at Twin Oaks Park. Students from the Central Bucks South National Honor Society helped with the weeding, mulching, planting and watering the War Memorial garden at IPW Park, under the signs at IPW Park's entrance and both sides of the entrance to John Paul Park at Lower Nike.

Also, in IPW Park a group of volunteers weeded, mulched and planted in our butterfly garden. We also maintained the rain garden. One of our members who worked with the volunteers on the butterfly garden project said, "My group was amazing. They were all such great girls and really motivated to do a good job. We first weeded the whole butterfly garden then edged around it with a shovel. We then planted all of our beautiful plants and laid down all the compost. After lunch we cleaned up both the butterfly and rain gardens and laid down the compost on the rain garden making sure it was higher on the edges than in the middle. We also maintained around the art building, pulling out all the weeds, planting ornamental grass and plants and laying down mulch everywhere. These volunteers worked so hard, and were so pleasant to be around, it wouldn't have been possible to do all of that work without 100% effort on their part." Alyson, who supervised the rain garden maintenance said, "The group of C.B. South boys and girls that had helped us work on the rain garden were the best group yet. Weeding, raking,

cutting and mulching were done to the best of our ability. Robyn, who supervised the Memorial garden project said, "I, like Brianna, had an awesome group of students. They were so creative with the memorial garden and it came out amazing"

Volunteers also picked up litter at the Bradford Dam and at the Willow Knoll development. In addition, they cleaned, sanded and refinished the trail signs from Morning Walk to the Bradford Dam. They built 12 bat houses, 16 screech owl houses and 6 rain barrels. The efforts of our young people were supported by donations from many local businesses. A special thank you to businesses supporting our effort included AAA, Allstate Insurance of Warrington, BJ's, Bound Beverage, Carmel Kitchen, County Line Fence, Bar Louie, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chickie & Pete's, Elbow Lane Day Camp, Home Depot, Lowe's, Panera Bread, Soprano's Pizza, Starbucks, Stutz Candy, Teds Montana Grill, Wawa and Wegmans. Thank you, Warrington's merchants!!





Forest Trail Enhancement for a Greater Community Experience

The keystone project at this year's Community Service Day was led by Woods of Plenty LLC. The project sites were the forested areas adjacent to the trail between Morning Walk Drive and Igo - Porter - Wellings (IPW) Park and in John Paul Park at Lower Nike, just past the bird blind. Woods of Plenty provided Warrington with the expertise to establish our forests as a resilient long-term source of food for both humans and wildlife. With their intimate knowledge gained from studying and observing the forest, woods of plenty staff removed invasive plants and created bio habitats. They worked with Central Bucks South National Honor Society students to plant native fruit and nut producing species that increase biodiversity and food production. When these trees and shrubs mature; these nuts and berries will be available for all to feast on. Take a walk, begin at the Morning Walk detention basin. Enjoy the educational sign that describes the naturalized basin. Walk down the trail towards IPW Park where many of the trees and shrubs have been identified. This is our first edible forest. Step off the trail and enjoy the forest. Continue down into John Paul Park at Lower Nike, just past the bird blind, and you will enter our second edible forest.





EAC Participates in Eagle Scout David Schmidt's Court of Honor

We were proud to attend David's Eagle Scout Court of Honor on July 23rd. This was the third Court of Honor we have attended for scouts that have earned this prestigious rank in conjunction with the Warrington Environmental Advisory Council. David contacted the WEAC and asked for a project that would benefit the community. The project involved removing wires and wooden stakes that were placed several years ago by PENNDOT around newly planted trees. The area was designated as a naturalized riparian buffer by the Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the construction of the 202 Parkway. The project area was located adjacent to the 202 Parkway Service Road, off of Stump Road. Many of the trees had grown very large and the wires were restricting their growth and some of these trees were in jeopardy of dying. In addition to removing the wire around the trees, the scout troop removed invasive vines that could choke the trees. Invasive plants were also removed from the ground surrounding these trees. Boy Scout Troop 24, members of the Central Bucks South National Honor Society, the PENNDOT Environmental Manager, as well as family friends worked under the direction of David Schmidt to complete his project.



National Honor Society Assists in Maintaining Habitat Gardens

On August 9th, the WEAC got a lot of help from some Central Buck South National Honor Society student's. They helped us clean out the butterfly and rain gardens at IPW Park. The butterfly garden was inundated with invasive plants. These two gardens took 15 volunteers 3 hours to clean up.





Warrington Community Day (WCD) 2016

The Warrington Day event of 2016 was as spectacular as the weather that day. The WEAC set up our booth with a lot of educational pamphlets, fun activity books for kids and lots of free giveaways. During our Community Service Day in the spring of this year we made rain barrels, blue bird houses, bat houses and screech owl houses, with the help of the Central Bucks South National Honor Society. There was a lot of interest in the children's activity books and brochures. Another kid's activity that got a great response was our Enviroscape. The Enviroscape is an awesome interactive lesson on point source and non-point source pollution to the watershed. Kids and grownups were able to see a visual depiction of where various forms of pollution are derived from farms, industry, cars, people and locally. While the WEAC was performing the demonstration, you could honestly see their little inquisitive minds at work. Most of the adults were inquiring about what WEAC stands for and our purpose. The answer is: "We work through Warrington Township to make our community more environmentally friendly through education, activities and volunteerism."

Early in the morning, at Warrington Day, two of our council members took part in the Bike and Hike committees' Family Hike. On that hike there were several families who brought along kids and grandparents of all ages. It was evident that these were the people who have genuine concern for our community. They asked a myriad of questions about terrain, plants, and conservation projects along the way.

Quite a few people were very interested in the bat, blue bird and screech owl houses. Many of them shared stories with us about the wildlife that have in their backyard and the houses they already have put out in their yards. We also had a lot of people interested in the free willow oak trees that we gave out. The WEAC wants to provide a special thank you to Bartlett Tree Company for providing bare root native trees as giveaways.



Eagle Scout Plants Habitat Clusters and Shade Trees

Charles (CJ) Robinson's, Eagle Scout Candidate from Scout Troop 172, completed his Habitat Cluster and Shade Tree project during two work days this fall. His project consisted of planting 26 shrubs and 12 trees along a path in John Paul Park at Lower Nike Park. The WEAC secured a grant from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society-Tree Vitalize Program which subsidized the cost of the trees. This project will provide substantial benefits to the ecosystem by providing habitat and food to birds and wildlife. In addition, the trees will reduce air pollution and sequester carbon, reducing our impact to climate change. The shrubs will also provide habitat for pollinators. In the summertime, small reptiles will hide under the plants because it is very cool. These plants also give food and habitats to late season animals which are animals that don't

migrate or hibernate during the winter months. Also, the trees will provide shade to the path, and the shrubs help the aesthetics of the path. In order to complete the project he recruited approximately 26 volunteers that included family, neighbors, fellow boy scouts, girl scouts, and other school students.





Additional Projects

- The WEAC has been working with the Doylestown EAC to extend the existing Bluebird trail from Doylestown Township, through Warrington, along the 202 Parkway. The Blue Bird houses will extend along the Warrington trail portion and will be installed in 2017.
- A total renovation was made at the bird blind. New fencing was placed along both sides of the bird blind, four new feeders were purchased and secured on new supports, including a feeder placed on an in ground pole. We also added an additional type of seed and suet for diversity.

Articles Written for the Links in 2016

Members of the WEAC contributed the following articles 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 Test for Lush Green Gardens and Lawns, and Protect Your Trees, etc.

Show Your Support for the Warrington Environmental Advisory Council

The WEAC works with our township to make our community more environmentally friendly and in turn help the environment globally. With that goal in mind, we have created a removable (magnetic) bumper sticker that reflects our belief.

