

The year 2019 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.

Bucks Beautiful plants 300 Trees in Warrington

On April 12, the WEAC was fortunate to receive a donation of 275 Red Maple trees and 25 Katsura Trees from Bucks Beautiful. Bucks Beautiful contractors, Bucks County Gardens and Gale Nurseries planted 225 of the trees and Warrington Township Public Works staff planted the remaining trees. The trees are part of Bucks Beautiful RePlant Bucks Initiative. The trees were planted at Lions Pride, Barness and John Paul Parks and the Stormwater detention basin on Buttercup Boulevard. The retail value of this effort would have cost taxpayers over \$45,000. The Return on Environmental Investment will exceed over \$83,000 over 25 years



Return on the Environment 2019

The WEAC continued a program to encourage homeowners to plant native trees and shrubs and create backyard habitats for birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators. By getting your neighbors involved we can expand our natural system services and create a connected pattern of open space. This is the best way to maximize nature's ecological and financial value and maintain long-term ecological benefits. Only then can we build a foundation for a vibrant, balanced economy and a healthy, desirable community for current residents and future generations.

What we do to our land, impacts our quality of life, health, cost of living, sense of place and economy. Every resident has an important role to play. Our natural assets are essential to our everyday life.

- Reduce the size of your lawn by planting additional native trees and shrubs
- Create a pollinator garden
- Attract birds, owls and bats by installing houses
- Install rain gardens to capture roof run off
- Conserve water by installing rain barrels and water saving devises on showers
- Conserve energy by installing smart thermometers, insulating your attic
- Reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pest controls and use natural products
- Replace your blacktop driveway with porous pavers

Native Plant Sale

The Warrington Township Environmental Advisory Council (WEAC) held our 2nd annual Native Plant Sale on April 27, 2019 at the Warrington Township building from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The sale featured native plants and shrubs at wholesale prices. Plants were priced from \$7.00 to \$15.00. Over 500 trees and shrubs were sold. This event was part of a program that the WEAC is sponsoring to promote the planting of native trees and shrubs in our Township. We hope that this will educate residents and provide them with an affordable opportunity to enhance their yards. There are countless benefits to planting natives in our yards. These trees and shrubs are lower in maintenance because they are adapted to our environment. A native landscape uses less water, little or no fertilizer and there is no need for chemicals or pesticides.



Monarch Way Station Ready for Visitors

On May 4th, Eagle Scout candidate, Daniel Haschets, created a Monarch Way-station at Lower Nike Park, by building a raised bed with a naturalized area behind it. Both areas were planted with pollinator and meadow type plants, including many milkweeds with the idea of providing habitat for Monarch Butterflies, other butterflies and pollinators. The garden qualified and was registered at Monarch Watch



Osprey Nest Installed

May 8th was the culmination of two years of planning between the WEAC, Pennsylvania Game Commission and the PECO Exelon Company's Environmental Compliance Division to erect an Osprey Platform at the Bradford Reservoir. Through extensive coordination with the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Department, an acceptable site was chosen for placement of the pole. The pole was donated by PECO and the platform was constructed and donated by the Pa Game Commission. The Game Commission will also be donating an interpretative sign to be placed near the platform. Osprey have already been sighted in the area of the new platform.



Community Service Day - 2019

The Warrington Environmental Advisory Council's logo is "Think Globally, Act Locally". With that goal in mind, on Saturday May 18, 2019 we worked with our community and held our annual Day of Community Service. Volunteers worked on several projects within our township. Our keystone project occurred at the Storm Water Control Basin located on Buttercup Lane. An Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 172 and his Troop did basin naturalization and planted 100 new trees and 40 new shrubs. This is in addition to the 70 trees previously planted in this basin by Bucks Beautiful and Bucks Country Gardens. Bucks Beautiful and Bucks Country Gardens also donated trees and deer protection. Bucks Beautiful worked closely with members of the WEAC to select the best native tree and shrub species to grow in the basin. Earthborne Equipment donated an auger machine and operator. Also, many people worked at Lower Nike Park planting more native trees and shrubs adding to the 75 plants that have been installed over the last several years. Additional projects included flower planting at 8 locations at Twin Oaks, the entrances of IPW and Lower Nike Park and the Memorial Garden at IPW Park. Many volunteers constructed bat houses and bluebird boxes. The butterfly garden and rain garden in IPW Park received a sprucing up. Both gardens were weeded and received a layer of mulch. The shrubs were pruned and the perennials were thinned to promote healthy growth. Cleanup was done at Willow Knoll. The Township provided gloves, trash bags to those residents who participated. Volunteers from CB South NHS, Boy Scout Troop 172 and 137, Pack 35, Girl Scout Troop 23, members of the community, a robotics group, Township Supervisors, members of the township Historic Committee, Warrington Lions Club, WEAC members and their friends' and a Master gardener from the PA Extension. A huge "THANK YOU!" to all of the dedicated volunteers who helped with these projects!

We thank local Businesses' for their Generous Support of OUR DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, 2019. Allstate Insurance (Eric Bonella), Bound Beverage, Chickie and Pete's, County Line Fence, Earthborne, Elbow Lane Day Camp, Everything but Bundt, Hampton Greens Condominium Association, Home Depot, K.C Prime, Meeco Inc., Mod Pizza, Panera, Pete's Express Car Wash, Saladworks, Total Turf Landscaping, Walmart, Wawa, and Wegmans.





Warrington Day 2019

This year's Warrington Community Day was the best! Our booth was a buzz with activity. A representative from the Penn State Extension joined the WEAC to educate everyone about the destructive and invasive Spotted Lanternfly. Members of the WEAC gave a brief demonstration of the EnviroScape®, a three-dimensional portable landscape, at Warrington Day. Visitors were very interested in our display of wood duck, bluebird, screech owl, and bat houses drew questions from residents, and many were purchased.

Forest Trail Enhancement for a Greater Community Experience

The WEAC continues to manage 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. When these trees and shrubs mature; these nuts and berries will be available for all to feast on. Take a walk, beginning at the Morning Walk detention basin. Enjoy the educational signs 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.



Articles Written for the Links 2019

Members of the WEAC contributed the following articles to the Link: Community Service Day, EAC Annual Report, Plant Sale and Warrington Day.

Enhancements to Our Rain Garden 2019

Additional grasses and shrubs were planted in our existing rain garden in the fall to provide more coverage and help eliminate the problem of weed growth. All will provide ornamental interest and more importantly, are beneficial to birds, pollinators and butterflies. All are beneficial to birds, pollinators, and butterflies. The grasses also add visual interest with their foliage and flowers in the summer.

Information Campaign for the Spotted Lanternfly

The WEAC continued our informational campaign on how to identify and control the Spotted Lanternfly. The Lanternfly is an invasive planthopper that has great potential to impact hardwood trees, ornamental plants, fruit trees and grapes.

