



Hickory Ridge Village Watershed Advisory Committee

2019-2020 Accomplishments

May 15, 2020

MEMBERS: Leah Donovan, Iris Mars, Etarae Weinstein, Deborah Wessner

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

The following seminars were sponsored by the Watershed Advisory Committee:

May 8, 2019 Pruning Workshop

Presenter: Joe DiGiovanni, University of Maryland Extension

Attendees: 21

Attendees learned how to prune trees and shrubs and learned about the different types of pruning tools to use. Attendees were provided with several pruning handouts from the presenter.

Sep 16, 2019 Eco Landscaping Workshop

Presenter: Dr. Sara Via, University of Maryland Extension

Attendees: 47

Attendees learned how to create and maintain beautiful landscapes that require less mowing and fewer chemicals, reduce erosion and flooding, and also filter water and remove pollutants, making these kinds of landscapes increasingly important as heavy rainfall becomes more frequent in Maryland.

- Attendees were each provided with real examples of alternatives to grass

Nov 4, 2019 Recycling Bootcamp

Presenter: Mark Deluca, Chief, Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services

Attendees: 35

Changes in recycling policy have made things confusing for even the most conscientious recyclers. Residents were advised about amounts and types of recycling done across the country and specifically in Howard County, reviewed the latest guidelines about what can be recycled and in each type of bin, or at the landfill.

- Attendees were each provided an item when they arrived and were asked to place it on the appropriate re-cycling table (recycle, compost, trash, Alpha Ridge.) Later, Mark reviewed the tables and told everyone which items were misplaced and where they should go.
- Attendees were each provided with a HRV reusable shopping bag.

Feb 27, 2020 The Plastic Problem

Presenters: Patricia Hersey and Alisa Niefeld-Batiz

(Co-Founders of Less Plastics Please Howard County),

Attendees: 35

From large packages that end up in our landfills to tiny particles that pollute our waterways and even our food - plastic is a problem that's not going away on its own. Residents were provided with statistics on plastics, plastic pollution, and approaches that each person can use to minimize their contribution to this issue.

- Attendees brought old T-shirts that Less Plastics Please can convert into re-usable shopping bags. Over 50 shirts were collected.
- Attendees were each provided with a HRV reusable shopping bag.

EDUCATIONAL REMINDERS

The Watershed Advisory Committee provided articles for publication in the LOG regarding:

- Tips for Recycling Glass
- Reduce Your Use of Plastic (so it doesn't add to the ocean gyres of pollution)
- Dealing with Clogged Storm Drains
- Removing Dog Waste (to keep it out of the streams)
- Earth Day Suggestions (for personal ways to keep earth friendly)
- Weed in Focus (to identify specific invasive weeds in the yard and what can be done about them)
- Reduce Greenhouse Emissions from Your House

ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE THE WATERSHED

The Watershed Advisory Committee conducted the following activities:

Invasive Species Removal and Native Species Planting Events:

- July 30, 2019: pulled weeds at Hawthorne Center near native plant area
- August 30, 2019: pulled Wavy Leaf Basket Grass in Clemens Crossing near Atholton High School.
- September 21, 2019: pulled invasive species above the native plant garden at the Hawthorn Center.
- October 17, 2019: planted additional native plants in our native plant garden area at the Hawthorn Center.

"Walk with the WAC" outings to remove trash that may otherwise blow into storm drains or streams; conducted walks in September 2019, October 2019, and January 2020.

Worked with CA Open Space to obtain support for watershed improvement projects on CA Open Space and were included on a grant proposal for CA-wide Pull and Plant activities. The grant was awarded, and these plants are scheduled to be obtained and planted by Fall 2020.

ACTIVITIES TO ASSIST NEIGHBORS

The following was provided by the Watershed Advisory Committee:

Reviewed watershed impacts on property at HRV Office request March 27 2020 (Sixpence Circle)
Reviewed watershed impacts on property at HRV Office request Jan 2020 (Loventree)
Reviewed watershed impacts on property at HRV Office request Nov 2019 (Millet Seed)
Reviewed watershed impacts on property at HRV Office request Oct 2019 (Snuffbox)
Reported multiple downed trees to Open Space Management for action April 2020 (Schoolmaster Place)
Reviewed Property & provided advice on water issue mitigation April 2020 (Satinwood)
Reviewed Property & provided advice on water issue mitigation April 2020 (Lightfall)
Reviewed Property & provided advice on water issue mitigation April 2020 (Lightfall #2)
Reviewed Property & provided advice on water issue mitigation early-May 2020 (Launcelot)
Reviewed Property & provided advice on rain garden issue early-May 2020 (Launcelot #2)
Reviewed property & provided advice on water issue mitigation early-May 2020 (Kiteline Court)

Iris' site visits 2019-2020 for rain garden issues:

May 2019, Snow Crystal
May 2019, Middlewater Court
June 2019, Bright Plume

ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS

The Watershed Advisory Committee is reviewing all RAC Guidelines to see if wording could be added to support keeping the watershed clean and healthy. Results will be presented to the RAC for their consideration in 2020-21.

Ongoing invasive species removal projects at the discretion of the WAC team members.

Ongoing trash walks at the discretion of the WAC team members.

Pull and Plant, supported by the grant received in 2019, to remove invasive species and plant approximately 100 native plants in Hawthorn Open Space.

Reviewing and completing the storm drain stenciling projects in Clemens Crossing and Hawthorn.