



McFarlane Nature Park News

Sharing with those who work and care for the Park

September 2024

McFarlane Future Fund Endowment

Thanks to additional donations from previous donors, and investment in money market funds, the Future Fund has grown to over \$55,000, toward our goal of \$100,000. The endowment is intended to protect the Park into the future. When the goal is reached, only a percentage of the increase will be used to help fund the needs of the Park.

A gift in your will or trust is another simple and effective way to donate to McFarlane in the future. It is the easiest and most flexible way to support this asset to our community.



Hello McFarlane Nature Park,

We wanted to thank you for allowing us to camp at your park on the evening of April 21st, 2024. We had 24 campers at that event. We enjoyed a nature hike, nature scavenger hunt, Flag retirement ceremony and field games. Both the kids and adults had a great time. Your park is absolutely beautiful.

As Scouts we did our best to leave the camp as we found it. We picked up our trash, replaced firewood we consumed, cleaned the grill, and did our best to freshen up the restrooms upon our departure.

We are making a \$150 donation to your park as a thank you for the great time and to help defer any costs you have. Thank you, and have a great day.

Fan Mail

So good to hear back from those who use
and enjoy the Park.

"We have graciously been allowed to utilize your amazing park quite often over the years for family campouts, water fun days, various cookout activities, and frankly as just a safe space for all the kids to run around and enjoy nature while learning how to be good stewards of the outdoors. "

"I proposed to my soon to be Wife on the day we met at the park."

Money is always a difficult subject. Transparency into the functioning of McFarlane should answer questions about why we are always encouraging donations to the Park. Questions are welcome.

Every year, just when things have run smoothly for awhile, we run into expenses, as any property owner does. Seemingly annual repairs to the outdoor pump stand near the pavilion always bring surprising plumbing bills and maintenance to the public restrooms is the same.

This year, we had significant repairs to the slate roof at the farmhouse with the accompanying bill for \$5,230. Renewal of our Post Office Box was stunning at \$200 per year.

Effective July 1, we began renegotiated property and liability insurance, and added D&O coverage, resulting in annual savings of \$649, and leaving an annual expense of \$3,016.

We are grateful for the service of board members and others who have provided maintenance at no cost.

THE MEADOW

Fall is the season of a big display in the Meadow. Two varieties of goldenrod (*solidago*) planted there come into their own during this part of the year. Dr. Doug Tallamy, a professor at the University of Delaware in the Dept of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, in his book *Nature's Best Hope*, wrote, "*Solidago* is the top-ranked genus in terms of hosting the ecologically valuable caterpillars that feed our breeding birds and fall migrants, including 181 species of caterpillar...". The purpose of the Meadow is to grow insects, what naturalist E.O Wilson called "the little things that run the world".

So important are insects and other land-dwelling arthropods that if all were to disappear, humanity probably could not last more than a few months.

E. O. Wilson

Solidago is among the keystone plants identified by Tallamy and his peers as being the most productive in supporting insect life and the other species that rely on that production.

Among the trees, the Oaks are the keystone plants that support the most biodiversity. These *Quercus* deliver "more ecosystem services than any other tree genus," according to Dr. Tallamy, locking carbon drawn from the atmosphere within their tissues, their huge canopies break the force of falling rain preventing erosion, their extensive root systems provide "channels that encourage rainwater infiltration instead of runoff", and their leaf litter provides habitat for hundreds of species. Fourteen types of oak live at McFarlane.

Why would we want bugs?

- ◆ Insects pollinate 87.5% of all plants and 90% of flowering plants
- ◆ They convert plant sugars and carbs into protein and fats that support complex food webs. Most vertebrates eat insects, not plants.
- ◆ Insects rapidly decompose dead plants releasing their nutrients
- ◆ Many are predators that provide pest control

The number of insects globally has declined 45% since 1974.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Literature Box Be responsible for keeping literature boxes full. Tri-folds supplied.

Need volunteer with Constant Contact experience to manage quarterly NEWS.

Neighbors are welcome to join the Master Gardeners on Tuesday mornings, usually about 9 a.m. or contact Kate Mason 404.983.8033 who leads the crew. The crew is planting in the woodland and adding fall-blooming azaleas.

VOLUNTEERS WHO WISH TO FOLLOW UP ON THESE OPPORTUNITIES MAY

CONTACT KARIN at karinguzy@gmail.com, or 678-860-4445

www.cobblandtrust.org

What each of us can do

Stop pesticide and herbicide spraying.

Shrink the lawn.

Be generous in planting.

Install a small water feature.

Embrace fallen leaves.

If you do not wish to receive quarterly newsletters from McFarlane, please send an "unsubscribe" message to

karinguzy@gmail.com