

FOWWOS NEWS



Friends of West Windsor Open Space, P.O. Box 73, West Windsor, NJ 08550
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Princeton Junction Park

By Alison Miller

On Alexander Road behind the Valero gas station and the new 7-11, and across from the revitalizing Windsor Plaza Shopping Center, is a 1.4 acre pocket park. The West Windsor Master Plan considers this park as an integral part of the Route 571 downtown corridor, which is envisioned to be a walkable destination for shopping, business, and leisure. The park is being developed now because as a requirement of the Valero station's expansion, the area had to be graded, bermed, and planted with initial landscaping. But more work is needed before people can enjoy the park. The park will have a path around the open lawn in the center, decorative landscaping, and tables and benches (and trash receptacles) for people who have purchased food at Windsor Plaza and 7-11 and want to eat outdoors. Mayor Hsueh has taken advice from expert landscapers from China, India and Japan, to create a unique look for the park, and the final plans are being developed with input from the West Windsor Shade Tree

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Commission. The first planting phase will consist of pine, plum and bamboo, which in a few years will provide winter blossoms and greenery. The cost to develop this park will not come from the public funds. FOWWOS has been asked to help solicit private donations, which of course will be tax deductible, to cover the costs. We will set up a special fund for the purpose. So if anyone wants to donate for the park's construction or to specifically sponsor a bench, a flower bed, or even a picnic area, please let us know. FOWWOS is pleased to be able to contribute to the beautification of West Windsor in creating this delightful and practical use of open space.

Check out our new website - www.fowwos.org

Property #45

By Alison Miller

One of the original goals of West Windsor's open space acquisition program has been the creation of a preserved corridor along the Millstone River. We are well on our way toward this goal, with the past preservation of the Millstone Preserve East and West. Another property, #45 on the Open Space Preservation map, should be part of this corridor. The property consists of 18 acres bounded by the Millstone River, Millstone Road, Joanne Street, and the Millstone West Preserve. As is clear to any traveler along Millstone Road, most of this property has recently been cleared of trees. The reason for the clearing is found in the property's checkered history as a dumping ground for road

construction waste from several neighboring municipalities for several decades in the mid-twentieth century, making it a contaminated site according to the DEP. Now the owner and the liable townships are paying for site remediation. Once the site is cleaned up, it can be developed and, according to the West Windsor Community Development Department, it would yield three lots for single-family houses. In addition, the Planning Board would be able to require the donation of a significant amount of this property as open space along the river, which would allow a new trail to be built so that people could enjoy even more of the spectacular views of the Millstone River.

Trees

By Ron Slinn

People tend to have a love/hate relationship with trees; they love them in the spring and summer when their leaves brighten the landscape and provide shade, but they hate them in the fall and winter when they drop their leaves and their bare branches make the landscape bleak, and they hate them especially during the stormy season when they fall on power lines and houses, and even kill people! In the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy, remembering the role trees played in the resulting damage, and while clearing up is still continuing, particularly in parks and preserves, let me say a few kind words about trees and their principal positive attributes:

- Through photosynthesis, their green leaves absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, generate oxygen, and sequester carbon in their wood;
- They provide a habitat for wildlife;
- They are an esthetic enhancement to the environment

- They provide shade and shelter from the wind (most of the time) for houses;
 - Their roots stabilize the soil in hilly topography.
- Trees are indeed our friends, and ought not to be condemned.



Please join us at monthly meetings held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7:30 in Town Hall Room B

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 Preserving Land in West Windsor Since 1996

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Our Hidden Gems: Small Parks of West Windsor

By Becky Marks

As a new resident to WW my husband and I spent the spring and summer checking out all of the wonderful open space in our new town. Wow do we have a lot to choose from. As transplants from NYC what really drew us to this township was the massive amount of open space and the policy of preserving that space. Our days were spent with endless choices for walking, biking, water sports and so much more. Recently we joined FOWWOS so we can help with the great tradition of preserving open space in WW and we learned about the theme for this month's newsletter. Most people know about the large parks in West Windsor- but is there more? People who enjoy sports know about the athletic fields, hikers know about the nature preserves with hiking trails, but there are also a number of smaller

gems, all under 10 acres, preserved for public enjoyment. We urge you to visit these hidden gems, which we will say more about in our next newsletter, and we encourage you to share your thoughts on your favorite park and how your family uses our open space. In the coming months we will be developing an electronic newsletter as well as a Facebook page to help strengthen our community and our commitment to our open space.

