

# FOWWOS NEWS



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

[www.fowwos.org](http://www.fowwos.org) • [joinFOWWOS@gmail.com](mailto:joinFOWWOS@gmail.com)

## The Mission of the Friends of West Windsor Open Space (FOWWOS) includes:

- To promote and work for the **preservation** of open space and the **conservation** of natural resources;
- To encourage and assist local governments in their open space and conservation programs;
- To raise funds for financing the **acquisition of land for open space** and **recreation** purposes;
- To foster knowledge and study of ecological and natural resources conservation;
- To encourage **farmland preservation**; and
- To engage in other charitable and **educational enterprises** related to the above goals.



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WE WILL SHARE UPCOMING EVENTS  
AND NEWS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.  
@FriendsOfWestWindsorOpenSpace**

In addition, FOWWOS's private nonprofit 501(3)(c) status makes it eligible for 100% matching grants from the state Green Acres Program, while the Township is eligible for only 50% matching grants. Therefore, the additive grant partnership with FOWWOS has enabled West Windsor township to minimize contributions from the local taxpayers for purchasing Open Space land throughout our community.

*Visit the FOWWOS website [www.fowwos.org](http://www.fowwos.org) for the latest news, pay your dues, join our e-mail list, and more.*

## Turning Bags into Benches

FOWWOS member Yan Mei Wang runs the Plastic Bags for Park Benches in West Windsor program. In 2019, FOWWOS was the 2<sup>nd</sup> sponsoring organization, and together we collected the needed 500 pounds of plastic bags within a short 4 months! The green FOWWOS bench is located at Nash Park near the corner of Princeton-Hightstown & Alexander Roads. The other bench from the collection program is located at the 911 Memorial within the Ron Rogers Arboretum. The benches are provided by Trex.

The plastic bag collection for more WW park benches continues. Drop off your clean grocery bags, plastic wraps, Ziploc bags, deflated air packs, and bubble wrap at the collection bins around town: Art Council, municipal building, senior center, and farmers' market. To find out more or assist, email Yan Mei Wang at [gwangym@gmail.com](mailto:gwangym@gmail.com).

## Turning Lawns into Meadows

Converting areas covered by grass to meadows can be financially rewarding and relatively simple on both public and private land. It can also deliver substantial environmental and aesthetic benefits. In Spring 2020, FOWWOS is starting a new project – a lawn to meadow project at Duck Pond Park on Meadow Road. We will document our progress.

FOWWOS volunteers will turn a 800 square-foot patch of grass, that has to be mowed, fertilized, and watered, into a self-sustaining butterfly meadow. Not only will the new meadow reduce greenhouse emissions from lawnmowers, lessen fertilizer run-off into the Duck Run creek, and prevent flooding from stormwater runoff, it will provide flowers and shelter for pollinators and other wildlife. To volunteer or find out more, please email Becky Marks at [joinFOWWOS@gmail.com](mailto:joinFOWWOS@gmail.com).

# JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP WITH FOWWOS

## 2019 FOWWOS Annual Spring Cleanup



### **Plant a Tree** *Help alleviate global warming and purify the air you breathe.*

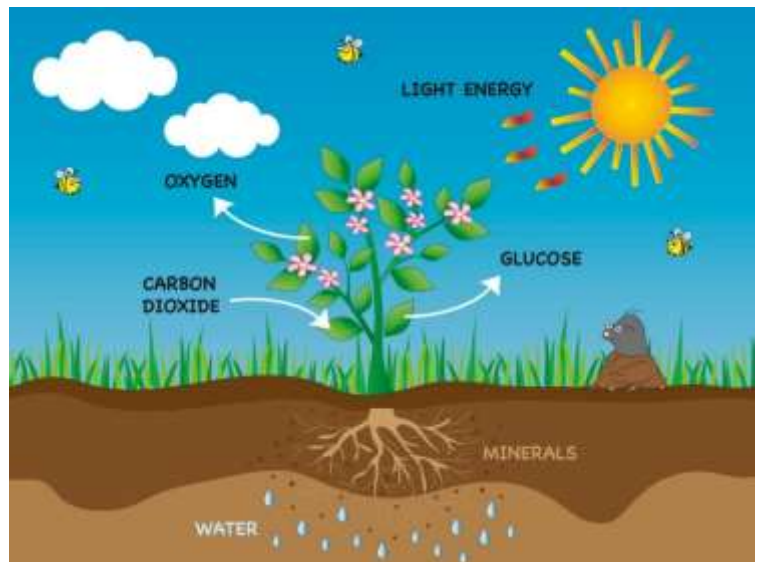
by Sylvia Kay

Science tells us that our current climate crisis and global warming results primarily from an excess of greenhouse gases created by burning fossil fuels and deforestation. They also tell us that our cars are a major source of fossil fuel pollution.

Trees make major contributions to stabilizing our climate by reducing GHG (greenhouse gases). It is, of course, the large accumulation of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and methane which has been identified as a primary force behind our current climate crisis. Trees stabilize our climate by sequestering CO<sub>2</sub>. Trees act as lungs which metabolize CO<sub>2</sub> and expire Oxygen while also pulling specific pollutants from the air.

#### ***Did you know?***

- One tree will absorb approximately one ton of carbon dioxide over its life span.
- One acre of mature trees can produce an oxygen supply for eighteen people.
- Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.
- Forests can offset 10 to 20 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions annually.
- One acre of mature trees absorbs an equal amount of CO<sub>2</sub> as is produced from driving a gasoline powered car 26,000 miles.
- California's 173.8 million urban trees absorb an amount of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent to the amount released by 1.8 million vehicles.



*So, if you can't buy a shiny red Tesla or a lush rainforest in 2020 – plant a tree.*

# JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP WITH FOWWOS

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

### 1. Join our Meadow Club

FOWWOS will convert a section of grassy lawn at Duck Pond Park on Meadow Road into an actual meadow. The meadow will include perennial flowers, rocks for warming, logs for shelter and other features to create a haven for butterflies. Prep work is scheduled for March, seeding and planting in May and June, and invasive species removal throughout the summer. Assistance is also needed in creating fencing (to prevent accidental mowing), signs, informational brochures, and coordinating volunteer events.



### 2. Clean up Parks and Trails with FOWWOS

FOWWOS hosted two litter cleanup events in 2019, and is planning more for 2020! Please suggest areas in need of TLC to us at [joinFOWWOS@gmail.com](mailto:joinFOWWOS@gmail.com). Look for emails and flyers advertising the events. They are lots of fun and a great way to help keep West Windsor beautiful. Come join us!

### 3. Pick up Debris and Let FOWWOS Know About It

Not only does it provide exercise and well-being, groups and individuals who collect trash in and along WW parks and roads can log and submit their time to benefit FOWWOS. FOWWOS will receive \$ through the NJ Clean Streets Program for every hour of time spent cleaning West Windsor. To submit, visit [fowwos.org/clean-streets/](http://fowwos.org/clean-streets/)

### 4. Propose a Project for Volunteers or Funding

Do you have an idea for project that will benefit open space in West Windsor and meets one or more of the goals of FOWWOS' mission? Email us. Include a brief description of the project, your timeline, and amount of money you are seeking. [joinFOWWOS@gmail.com](mailto:joinFOWWOS@gmail.com)

### 5. Plant Native Species

Native species are easier to maintain as they are more acclimatized to our zone AND wildlife such as birds and butterflies are adapted to them. Think of plants that will provide shelter and food year-round. Don't take down dead trees or remove dead logs unless they are a hazard. Try not to rake your leaves as many pollinators winter in the debris. Convert some of your grass to meadow. Reduce or eliminate pesticides and fertilizers.

### 6. Become Educated about Open Space in West Windsor

Join us at our monthly meetings. Hear about latest happenings related to open space and share ideas. See the full list of 2020 dates on the enclosed Annual Meeting announcement. We also encourage you to attend Township Council Meetings and speak during public comment period about issues that you care about. Township Council meeting dates are listed here: [www.westwindsornj.org/councilpastagendas.html](http://www.westwindsornj.org/councilpastagendas.html).

### 7. Shop with Amazon Smile

If you shop at Amazon.com, designate "Friends of West Windsor Open Space" as your charity of choice. By using the special link to [smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) when you shop, Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase price to FOWWOS.



# JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP WITH FOWWOS

## Annual Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 7:30

## West Windsor Township Municipal Building

We urge you to attend the upcoming FOWWOS Annual Meeting or any other meeting find out more about the positive impact of FOWWOS on your community, and voice your thoughts about the future of open space in your town. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to get involved, as well. Open space issues affect us all.

### Additional 2020 Meeting Dates (all open to the public):

March 17, 7:30 PM

June 16, 7:30 PM

October 20, 7:30 PM

April 21, 7:30 PM

August 18, 7:30 PM

November 17, 7:30 PM

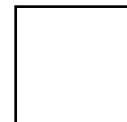
May 19, 7:30 PM

September 15, 7:30 PM

December 15, 7:30 PM



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## MEMBERSHIP

*Please join or renew your membership in FOWWOS and help preserve and maintain open space in West Windsor.*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Select Membership Type:

Student \$15

Adult \$25

Family \$40

Supporter \$50

Benefactor \$100

Make checks payable to "FOWWOS" and mail to: FOWWOS, P.O. Box 73, West Windsor, NJ 08550.  
To pay by credit card, visit [www.fowwos.org/membership](http://www.fowwos.org/membership).

