

## **CITF Grant Project Report June 2022**

**Solar Bench.** I messaged Safety Services Director Steve Wetz about the status of the Lock One Park Project and the bench placement, intending to follow up with a phone call. Unfortunately, I neglected to do so. I will call him next week to ask about alternate placement if the park project continues to be stalled.

### **Pollinator Habitat**

Good news:

- Most of the plants are thriving, though we did lose some of the young plugs over the winter.
- Support from the city, which has brought mulch and will be bringing at least another dump truck load
- The addition of two Harmar residents to the coordinating committee (which is still finding its feet)
- An offer from Morning Rotary to help create a mowing edge border above the slope. Bricks have been salvaged and stored for the project.
- We have space behind Gilman Methodist to store materials, currently bricks and hoses.

Bad news:

- Thus far, we do not have enough volunteers for what is still the habitat's establishment phase. In particular, we need volunteers with plant recognition skills to help with weeding out invasive plants and overly-enthusiastic natives while avoiding the poison ivy that keeps returning to the site. Few of the non-UUs who signed up for the habitat volunteer list at last year's Harmar Days have been responding to calls for help this year.

Where we are going at the moment:

- Two coordinating committee members and I are meeting with Jennifer Tinkler of Marietta Main Street this week to discuss our status as a project on city land. After discussions with Geoff Schenkel of City Council and board member Jackson Patterson, it seems likely that we should be able to access MMS and Marietta College volunteers for at least big work days.
- We have been lucky with rain but should still set up a regular site-checking and watering schedule; thus far, coordinating committee members have been handling the task, but additional help would be a good thing. The drip irrigation system is working well, but the plantings north of the Fort Street staircase need to be watered by hand.

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips. June 25, 2022