

CITF Project Report for Green Sanctuary July 2022

Solar Charging Bench

Safety Services director Steve Wetz has confirmed that the city has no firm date for moving ahead with the Lock One Park project and has asked for ideas on where to place our bench. Placement near the pollinator habitat is not recommended as council member Geoff Schenkel and others have noted concerns about drug deals and other undesirable behavior in this area, which is basically deserted after dark.

Pollinator Habitat

- The plantings are doing well, though the rich soil is requiring frequent weeding. I spoke once with Marcus McCartney about Master Gardener involvement and will do so again as a reminder.
- The drip irrigation system donated by Chris Hoke and Al Tuttle is working well. Fourth Ward council member Geoff Schenkel has expressed appreciation for this asset on city property.
- Due to its siting on city property, the pollinator habitat now reports to Main Street West and Marietta Main Street. For large projects such as planting days, Jen Tinkler of Main Street will announce the needs to her volunteer base, which during the academic year includes Marietta College students.
- The city has agreed to expansion of the habitat from the decorative light posts along Fort Street to the bottom of the slope; this configuration will pretty much eliminate mowing confusion and improve safety. Grass on the lower portion is already being smothered by the cardboard and mulch method. Marietta Morning Rotary has offered assistance with creating a brick mowing edge to border the flat area along the street though the design is still in process; the target date for this project is sometime after the Harmar Days festival ends on August 1. Volunteers rescued bricks from a building slated for demolition; they are currently being stored behind Gilman Methodist Church. The city will provide mulch for the site.
- After consultation with Soil and Water, the coordinating committee has decided to use a state-approved aquatic herbicide on the site's poison ivy, manual control proving inadequate. Mark Krivchenia, who has extensive experience using herbicide to control invasive plants in prairie and wetland restoration, has offered to supply the chemical and assist in treating the site.