

Fort Street Pollinator Habitat Report August 2023

- The habitat is healthy but in need of redesign to make it easier to maintain. After consulting with designer Andrew Clovis, the plan is to transplant the smaller species from the hillside, where they are being overtaken by larger, more aggressive plants, to the top or bottom of the slope, where they will be more visible and easier to weed around. This work is likely to take place in late September, after the weather cools.
- The habitat is now part of Marietta Main Street's envisioned C4 District pollinator zone. Habitat coordinating committee member Dylan Holdren and I met with Main Street executive director Jen Tinkler on August 14 to begin developing plans for media outreach, volunteer recruitment, and additional work on the site itself.
- Volunteers Andrew Clovis, Jim Grecni, Dawn Hewitt, Dylan Holdren, Debra Miller, Squish Rector, Joey Thomas, and I staffed a table at the Harmar Days Festival, where we distributed native plant seeds and information and held good conversations with a number of people. Eighteen names were added to the list of those willing to be contacted for work days.
- Work on the Hoffart-Henderhan garden has been delayed. Several sections have been planted, but unwanted vegetation has returned to other parts of the site and needs to be eradicated. A donor would like to add to additional apple trees to ensure pollination of the one planted by the Girl Scouts in the spring. More plants will be added after the weather cools. Marietta College's Sigma Kappa sorority has indicated interest in that project.
- Because of a late start with concrete work on the part of the city, the staircase has not yet been replaced. I will be following up with Steve Wetz regarding a date as the current staircase has deteriorated further and is unsafe.

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips