

Latta Park Accomplishments – a detailed timeline of the ongoing progress of the Dilworth Community Association’s Latta Park volunteer group

FALL 2015

- *Presentation to Dilworth Community Association (DCA)
- *Meetings with multiple stakeholders and volunteers at the park

WINTER 2016

- *Multiple volunteer workdays to clear invasives, primarily ligustrum
- *Park and Rec staff cut ivy growing up many trees
- *Design guidance from Larry Mellichamp and Ed Davis

SPRING 2016

- *Multiple volunteer workdays to clear invasives and spread mulch
- *Planted 30 native shrubs purchased with DCA funds – calycanthus, Florida flame azalea, oakleaf hydrangea, fothergilla, hearts a’burstin

SUMMER 2016

- *DCA contracted with Heartwood to water new shrubs
- *Applied for multiple grants – NC Native Plant Society, Charlotte Garden Club, Women’s Impact Fund
- *Park and Rec extended a water line from the Rotary Garden to serve future watering needs

FALL 2016

- *Received grant NCNPS to purchase native plants over next 2 years
- *Volunteers planted 36 native trees donated by TreesCharlotte and private citizens
- *Volunteers created 2 brush piles to enhance wildlife habitat
- *Multiple volunteer workdays to clear invasives and spread mulch, band trees
- *Park and Rec hired Mogensen to clear “Wisteria Gulch” and “Green Guardrail Gulch”
- *DCA approved an additional \$2000 toward efforts in Latta Park, with possibly more in future

WINTER 2017

- *Multiple volunteer workdays to clear invasives and spread mulch
- *Eagle Scout candidate James Barkley led his troop to put down load of gravel on an eroding path between Romany and the “Bridge to Nowhere”
- *Park and Rec installed a concrete path leading to the “Bridge to Nowhere”
- *Park and Rec put down load of gravel on eroding areas along creek
- *Dilworth resident donated \$500 toward efforts in Latta Park
- *Charlotte Hornets revamped basketball court
- *Park and Rec replaced playground equipment and mulch and installed fitness equipment

SPRING 2017

- *Multiple volunteer workdays to clear invasives, spread mulch, remove bands
- *Planted 12 beautyberry seedlings and 6 sumac seedlings
- *Parks and Rec installed coir logs in 3 erosion-prone areas

*4 copies of *Bringing Nature Home* by Doug Tallamy were placed in Little Free Libraries around Dilworth with note requesting that it circulate among neighbors

FALL 2017

- *Volunteers worked with Mogensen to clear 2 tons of ligustrum from creek area
- *Volunteers removed ligustrum, ivy, blackberry vines, etc from an upland area
- *Volunteers planted 240 native tree and shrub seedlings in cleared area along creek
- *Volunteers added to established brush piles
- *Charlotte Garden Club volunteers planted approximately 2 dozen shrubs
- *Volunteers assisted Park and Rec to install a new pollinator garden
- *Park and Rec installed 12 birdhouses donated by Charlotte Woodworkers Club

WINTER 2018

- *Park and Rec renovated amphitheater due to our advocacy
- *Multiple volunteer workdays to plant additional seedlings, grasses and forbs
- *Volunteers pulled ivy, honeysuckle, and ligustrum seedlings and cut ivy from trees

SPRING 2018

- *Multiple volunteer workdays to spread mulch on eroding areas
- *Volunteers removed invasive vines around seedlings planted in Fall 2017
- *Volunteers removed invasives from upland slope to encourage natives present in seed bank such as Solomon's seal, St. John's wort, beggar's lice, goldenrod, broomsedge, etc.
- *Volunteers cut back grass and weeds around native trees and shrubs with weedeater
- *Park and Rec contracted with Mogensen Mitigation to spray area along stream to combat invasives such as porcelain berry and English ivy threatening to overtake native shrub saplings
- *DCA board members advocated for increased Park and Rec funding at BOCC budget hearing

FALL 2018

- *Volunteers worked with Mogensen to clear invasives in Kudzu Corner
- *Volunteers worked with Mogensen to clear almost 2 tons of ligustrum from creek area
- *Volunteers planted 30 trees donated by TreesCharlotte
- *Multiple volunteer workdays to remove invasives in uplands
- *Volunteers planted 30+ tree and shrub seedlings along creek and Wisteria Gulch
- *Park and Rec contracted with tree service to remove tree that fell in April and several other dead or dying trees – 2 8' trunks were left standing for habitat
- *Park and Rec bushhogged several brushy areas choked with ligustrum seedlings, porcelain berry, blackberry and multiflora rose
- *Ruth Ann presented need for increased Park and Rec funding at Mark Jerrell's D4 Summit
- *Ruth Ann created "97 Reasons Why" a Facebook group highlighting examples of why Trust for Public Land's ParkScore consistently ranks Mecklenburg County's parks at the very bottom of its annual list

WINTER 2019

- *Volunteers cleared invasives from uplands along Romany
- *Volunteers planted oakleaf hydrangeas and witch hazel near Lexington entrance

*Volunteers planted 25 tree and shrub seedlings from Mecklenburg Soil and Water Conservation District

SPRING 2019

*Volunteers planted native azaleas near Lexington entrance, sweetshrub at Park and Park, butterfly weed in pollinator garden, and common milkweed, obedient plant, joe pye weed

*Volunteers weeded shrub border at Park and Park, gulch and slope to creek

*DCA provided funding for new educational signs

*Ruth Ann and Nancy spoke at BOCC meeting and BOCC budget hearing

*Park and Rec awarded grant by Women's Impact Fund to hire NCYCC for two 3-week sessions to remove invasives and maintain trails in several parks and nature preserves

SUMMER 2019

*NC Youth Conservation Corps removed ligustrum and built trail

*volunteers watered shrubs during prolonged drought

FALL 2019

*volunteers watered shrubs during prolonged drought

*planted 40+ trees and shrubs along creek and removed invasives during November workday

*volunteers weeded and cut back pollinator garden

*Ruth Ann and Nancy received Chapman Community Award from Park and Rec Commission

WINTER 2020

*volunteers held additional workday in January to weed, remove invasives and install ferns, cardinal flower and blue mist flower.

*Park and Rec rebuilt picnic areas near playground and near the creek, in part due to our advocacy

SPRING 2020

*April and May workdays canceled due to coronavirus

*volunteers worked in March and June to weed and remove invasives from pollinator garden, shrub border at Park and Park and areas we've planted along the creek

*volunteers planted donated perennials along creek (including blue mist flower, obedient plant, common milkweed and jewelweed) and donated shrubs (including maple leaf viburnum, clethra, swamp rose, bottlebrush buckeye and oakleaf hydrangea)

*Park and Rec hired Mogensen to remove invasives in the section near St Pat's.

*Mark Jerrell requested meeting with Ruth Ann and Nancy to discuss budget issues

*Ruth Ann and Nancy met with an Eagle Scout candidate to discuss his interest in doing his project focused on removing invasives and replacing them with native plants in Latta

SUMMER 2020

*volunteers worked with staff person from Youth Conservation Corp to address problems with bluestone gravel path

*enlisted neighborhood resident Doug Ehmann to provide two of his crew members from North American Landscaping to weed-eat the slope around new trees at Romany and Carlton –

maintenance that was then continued by Park and Rec contract mowers – a great example of public-private partnership!

FALL 2020

- *volunteers removed invasives from several areas during Sept, Oct and Nov workdays
- *volunteers planted dozens of new trees, shrubs and ferns that were either donated by volunteers or procured with funds from DCA
- *Ruth Ann and Nancy continued to advocate for additional maintenance funding
- *Eagle Scout candidate Christopher Beaman led his troop on three workdays to remove invasive vines between Romany and sidewalk, from playground area to Carlton
- *Scout Troop #33, led by John Henry and John Phares, worked for 6 hours on a cold, December day to clear invasives from area adjacent to St Pat's Church
- *Two large trees donated by neighbors via Park and Rec were planted near playground
- *Three 7-gallon trees donated by Liz Lewis were planted – a red oak near Park and Park and river birches near creek

WINTER 2021

- *Ruth Ann and Nancy spoke at BOCC budget hearing
- *Ruth Ann and Nancy to have phone call with Leigh Altman and Mark Jerrell in January

SPRING 2021

- *Neighbor Myron Greer donated and planted two large black gums at Park and Park
- *added many new shrubs and perennials donated by volunteers and purchased with DCA funds, including bottlebrush buckeye, oakleaf hydrangea, ninebark, ferns, jack in the pulpit, ginger, etc
- *added many shrub and tree seedlings from Meck SWCD sale, including dogwood, redbud, American hazelnut and blackhaw viburnum
- *installed a planting of cutleaf coneflower, obedient plant and mountain mint on slope by steps down to bridge in an effort to address erosion
- *added new educational signs addressing erosion, caterpillars
- *continued to remove invasives
- *tidied up pollinator garden

SUMMER 2021

- *watered new trees and shrubs during dry periods
- *maintained shrub plantings – removing ligustrum seedlings, microstegium, porcelain berry, etc

FALL 2021

- *Park and Rec hired Invasive Plant Control Inc. to remove invasives in the section by St Patrick's Cathedral, between Dilworth Rd and Kenilworth
- *Park and Rec installed orange fencing and signs to help address erosion in a few areas
- *volunteers spread mulch provided by Park and Rec at November workday

WINTER 2022

- *Myron Greer donated and planted 5 sweetbay magnolias
- *also planted ten 7-gallon trees obtained by volunteers at a TreesCharlotte event – 8 river birch, 1 shumard oak, 1 chestnut oak

- *volunteers planted 300 tree and shrub seedlings purchased from NCFS with DCA funds – river birch, sweet gum and silky dogwood planted along stream – about half in the St Pat’s section where IPC had removed invasives and the rest between amphitheater and playground
- *volunteers planted more shrubs and perennials donated by volunteers – Viburnum dentatum, swamp rose, Virginia sweetspire, cutleaf coneflower, obedient plant, mountain mint, ginger and ferns
- *volunteers planted shrubs purchased with DCA funds – ninebark, calycanthus, blackhaw
- *volunteers planted native hibiscus donated by Park and Rec
- *volunteers installed picket fencing around new trees
- *volunteers spread mulch around trees and shrubs at November workday
- *volunteers continued to remove invasives as time allowed – February workday was rescheduled and scaled back due to Omicron
- *Meck Audubon volunteers cleaned out birdhouses

SPRING 2022

- *Park and Rec beginning to address some areas of erosion – scattershot approach with coir logs, grass seed matting (plastic netting), rip rap
- *volunteers removed invasives in shrub areas along stream and at Park and Park

SUMMER 2022

- *volunteers watered new trees and shrubs during dry spells
- *NC Youth Conservation Corp reworked eroded area near Romany – 2 weeks
- *hired New Beginning Landscape (Shavaris Daniels) to water trees near Romany
- *hired Newport Landowner Services to consult with Park and Rec on erosion issues

FALL 2022

- *volunteers watered new trees and shrubs during dry spells
- *volunteers pulled stiltgrass in shrub areas along creek and at Park and Park
- *volunteers spread mulch and planted donated river oats and shield fern at Park and Park
- *volunteers spread mulch between Park Ave and amphitheater
- *volunteers planted donated cherry laurels, shield fern along stream
- *volunteers added donated plants to Pollinator Garden – monarda, baptisia, rattlesnake master
- *volunteers planted more donated cutleaf coneflower and other species to streamside near middle bridge
- *Park and Rec arranged for volunteers from a Veterans group to install coir logs and spread mulch to address erosion on Romany side