



# Friends of Sligo Creek

Newsletter October 2021



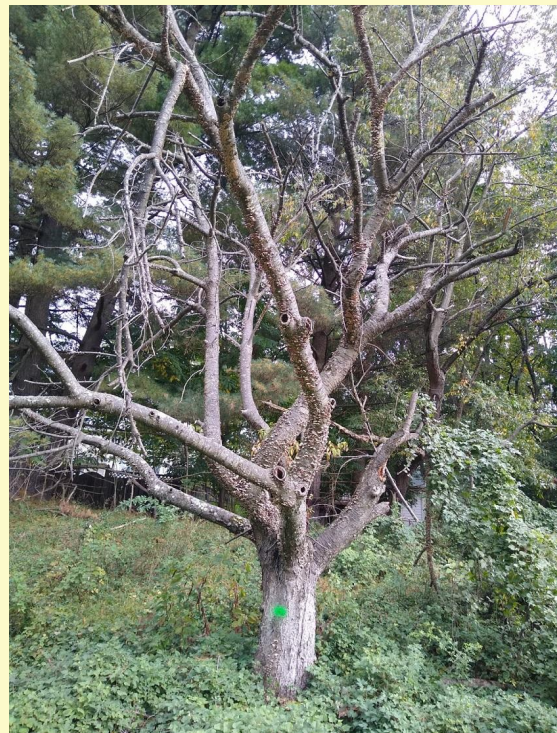
*Photo by Ellen X. Silverberg*

## Talk on Tree Removal in Sligo Oct. 27

Learn more about the tree cutting that is currently underway in Sligo Creek Park to remove 87 dead or dying trees considered by Montgomery Parks to present safety hazards along the Parkway and the paved hiker-biker trail.

Join Parks' Senior Urban Forester Colter Burkes on Wednesday, October 27, at 7:00 pm for a discussion of "Urban Forestry and Tree Removal in Sligo."

Use this [Zoom link](#). The Meeting ID is 867 2751 1835 and the Passcode is 533240.



*Right: One of the trees marked for removal (with*



green dot at base) along the Parkway just north of  
Dennis Ave. (Wilpers photo)

The work is scheduled to take place Mondays through Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm, through the first week of November. To accommodate the crews, the Parkway will be closed between Maple and Piney Branch on Thursday, Oct. 28, from 9 am to 3 pm (weather permitting). Individual lane closures may occur all along the Parkway so stay alert for signage.

The hiker-biker trail will remain open throughout the work period, but short sections of the trail may be closed intermittently as needed. For more information, contact [advocacy@fosc.org](mailto:advocacy@fosc.org).

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## Fall Sweep Draws 300 Volunteers

Thanks to the efforts of more than 300 neighbors who came out for our fall Sweep the Creek, our natural areas are looking great! These includes Sligo Creek Park, Long Branch Park, and the stormwater ponds on Wheaton Branch (which were part of the Sweep for the first time this year).

Everywhere things are a lot cleaner -- in fact, 270 big bags of trash cleaner.

An additional 30 bags of invasive plants were pulled by Weed Warriors to give more space, light, and soil moisture to the native plants struggling to compete with our non-native invasives.

FOSC Stewards and other volunteers staffed 15 tables throughout Sligo and Long Branch providing trash bags, gloves, and other supplies for the Sweep participants.

A big, big thanks to Valeria Espinoza of Parks and, especially, to FOSC's Ed Murtagh for stepping up to coordinate this very complex event and enabling us all to pitch in and make our parks ever more beautiful.



*Girl Scout troop 34039 celebrates their haul of trash at Becca Lilly Park in lower Long Branch.*



*Ed Murtagh (right), who coordinated this fall's Sweep, staffs the welcome table in the Kemp Mill section of Sligo.*





*Above: Eric Calarier balances on a log to remove plastic bag near the Park Valley bridge between Maple and Piney Branch. (Burson photo)*



*Above right and below: More than 30 volunteers collected more than 30 bags of trash at the Wheaton Branch ponds, including students, young families, and longtime residents. This was our first collaboration on a Sweep with the Dept. of Environmental Protection, which manages the ponds. (Hoang and DeFord photos)*

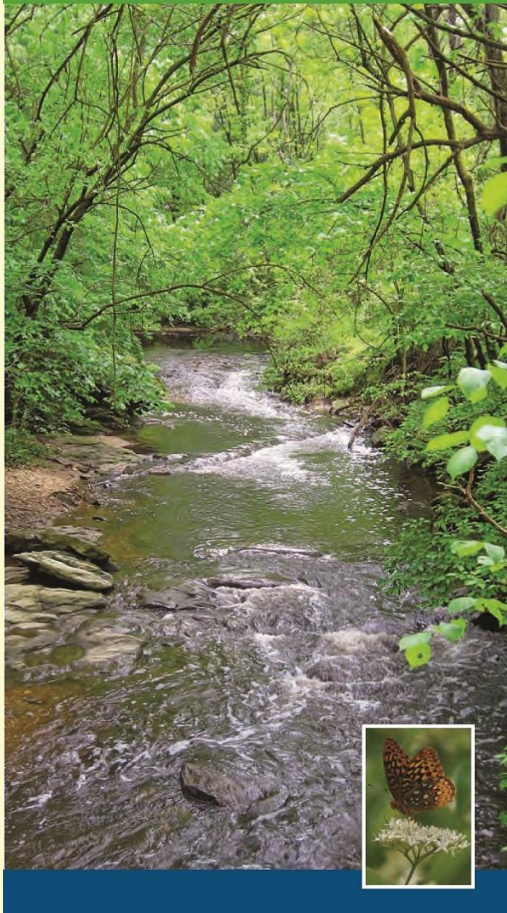


## FOSC Awarded Grant for Spanish Brochure

We are very pleased to report that our Spanish-language brochure (found in kiosks all along the Sligo mainstem) will be reprinted thanks to a grant from Constellation, an



## Amigos del Arroyo Sligo



Exelon company.

In their announcement, Constellation noted, "We are excited to support your project – Reprint Friends of Sligo Creek brochure in Spanish – with a Community Champions grant of \$500. We . . . are proud of your dedication and efforts to improve our community!"

Our first two printings of the Spanish-language brochure have nearly all been picked up, meaning that word of FOSC's work is spreading to a wider community as is our eagerness to engage a broader range of participants and beneficiaries.

Thanks to our Advocacy Director, Kit Gage, for spearheading the effort to translate and produce this valuable outreach tool and to obtain additional funds to print it once again.

For more information, contact [advocacy@fosc.org](mailto:advocacy@fosc.org).

### ¿Qué es lo que hacemos?



#### Limpieza del Arroyo Sligo Creek

Dos veces al año, cientos de voluntarios – incluyendo familias, y varios grupos – limpian la basura del parque para mantenerlo hermoso. Revisa nuestro calendario en [fosc.org](http://fosc.org) o contáctenos a través del correo electrónico: [litter@fosc.org](mailto:litter@fosc.org).

#### Remoción de Plantas Invasoras

Todo el año, voluntarios remueven plantas invasoras que causan daños en los árboles, los arbustos, y convierten el parque en monocultivos. Coordinamos con el programa de Weed Warrior de los Parques de Montgomery. Contáctenos: [invasives@fosc.org](mailto:invasives@fosc.org).



### FOSC (Amigos del Arroyo Sligo)

Amigos de Sligo Creek es un grupo comunitario dedicado a proteger, mejorar y apreciar la salud ecológica del Parque del Arroyo Sligo y la cuenca alrededor



#### Aguas de Lluvias y Calidad de Agua

El Comité de Aguas Pluviales educa a los residentes acerca de los efectos de las aguas de lluvia, aboga por mejorar las regulaciones e instala jardines de conservación como proyectos educativos. El Comité de Calidad del Agua monitorea e informa sobre la salud del agua del arroyo y coopera con otros socios para compartir información y mejorar su salud. Contáctenos [stormwater@fosc.org](mailto:stormwater@fosc.org) o también: [waterquality@fosc.org](mailto:waterquality@fosc.org).



#### Abogacía

Somos defensores del arroyo y examinamos las políticas públicas que le afectan. Damos seguimiento de las normas pendientes, la legislación y los presupuestos de ciudad, el condado y los gobiernos estatales, servimos en paneles y grupos asesores, testificamos en las audiencias, y escribimos y nos reunimos con los funcionarios. Contáctenos [advocacy@fosc.org](mailto:advocacy@fosc.org).



Amigos del Arroyo Sligo



# Another Planting for Our Newest Meadow

More than 600 native wildflower seedlings were planted October 15 in our newest meadow project along the Parkway between Dennis and University.

Twenty-five volunteers from Sligo and beyond joined three staff from Montgomery Parks for the planting. Thanks to Corinne Stephens, Bob Servis and Dianna Loescher of Parks for coordinating this effort.

Earlier this fall, Parks contractors planted 1,500 additional plugs of wildflowers. These plantings followed a seeding of the meadow with native grasses in 2020.

*Right: Parks staff distributes flats of plant plugs to volunteers*



*A group of 25 volunteers, plus three Parks staff members, planted 600 seedlings in this new meadow along the Parkway between Dennis and University. (Parks photo)*

Parks started this new meadow project in spring of 2020 by putting in a native grass seed mix and installing coconut fiber matting to hold the soil and seeds in place.

Earlier this year, Parks applied herbicides to control non-native invasives and

then mowed in late September. The recently planted seedlings all came from Pope Farm, the nursery for Montgomery Parks.

The species planted this fall (which may be of interest to readers creating garden meadows) are giant yellow hyssop, nodding onion, common milkweed, wood oats, beaked panicgrass, roundseed deertongue, Virginia wild rye, purple love grass, roundleaf thoroughwort, white wood aster, coastal joe pye weed, purple sneezeweed, woodland sunflower, great blue lobelia, wild bergamot, spotted mint, narrowleaf sundrops, golden ragwort, roundleaf ragwort, mountain mint, orange coneflower, cutleaf coneflower, brown-eyed susan, early goldenrod, grey goldenrod, wrinkleleaf goldenrod, Indian grass, New England aster, aromatic aster, purpletop, and golden alexanders.

For more information, contact [naturalhistory@fosc.org](mailto:naturalhistory@fosc.org).

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## Support FOSC

**It's fast, secure, and funds FOSC activities**

**Donate**



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## Nature in Sligo

A selection of recent observations from the iNaturalist project titled  
"Fauna and Flora of the Sligo Creek Watershed"  
(photographers' names are those provided to iNaturalist)







*Two insects that, in the larval stage, plaster themselves with plant material as a disguise. Left: Wavy-lined Emerald moth on October 7. Above: Lichen-carrying Green Lacewing on October 21. Both in Chillum by Kristin Zimmer*



*Two gorgeous birds at the Wheaton Branch ponds: Common Yellowthroat (above) and Northern Flicker (right) on October 2 by Stephen Davies*



*Above: Mushrooms in the genus Trichaptum near Highland & Alton on September 27 by lauriedkr*

*Right: American Persimmon in Jessup Blair Park on October 7 by Advait Iyer*



*Eastern Red-backed Salamander near the Parkway at Park Valley Road on October 9 by Li Grabenstetter*



*Northern Two-lined Salamander near Sligo Bennington Park on September 30 by kellyrushing*





*Above: Goldentop Pedicellate Gall Midge in the powerline meadow below NH Ave on October 2 by Katja Schulz*

*Right: Pink-spotted Hawkmoth at the Takoma Park Library on October 11 by A van den Beemt*



*Lady Ferns near Woodside and Alton on September 27 by lauriedkr*



*Black Swallowtail caterpillar near Woodland and Grace Church Rd on September 27 by eckane*



*Spider near Wayne and Cedar on October 15 by Maragay (possibly Northern Yellow Sac Spider)*



*Blue Jay carrying two acorns at the Wheaton Branch ponds on September 29 by Stephen Davies*





*Left: Migratory Grasshopper in the powerline meadow on October 10 by Kristin Zimmer.  
Above: A katydid in the genus Common Coneheads near Long Branch Wayne Park on September 30 by brcevans*



*Crowned Beggarticks in the powerline meadow below NH Ave on September 15 by M. Wilpers, looking southwest from the ridge at 16th Place (Also called Tall Swamp Marigold, the scientific name is Bidens trichosperma, formerly B. coronata.)*

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## Upcoming Events

**Talk and Discussion: Urban Forestry and Tree Removal in Sligo,** with Colter Burkes, Senior Urban Forester, Montgomery Parks, Wednesday, October 27, 7 pm. See top article for details.

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# Need to Reach Us?

President (Mike Smith): [president@fosc.org](mailto:president@fosc.org)

Invasive Plants (Walter Mulbry): [invasives@fosc.org](mailto:invasives@fosc.org)

Litter (Ed Murtagh): [litter@fosc.org](mailto:litter@fosc.org)

Advocacy (Kit Gage): [advocacy@fosc.org](mailto:advocacy@fosc.org)

Natural History (Bruce Sidwell): [naturalhistory@fosc.org](mailto:naturalhistory@fosc.org)

Stormwater (Elaine Lamirande): [stormwater@fosc.org](mailto:stormwater@fosc.org)

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*Friends of Sligo Creek is a nonprofit community organization dedicated to protecting, improving, and appreciating the ecological health of Sligo Creek Park and its surrounding watershed.*

**Join FOSC**