



Promoting education, protecting the environment and providing enjoyment of our watershed.

Coldbrook Creek Community Newsletter

Volume 7, March 2023

Welcome!

Feel free to share the word about us!

Web: <https://www.lgrow.org/coldbrook-creek>

Email: coldbrookcreek@gmail.com

FB: Search 'Coldbrook Creek Community'

Upcoming Dates
All are invited...join us!

Creek testing:

Saturday, March 25, 2023

10am: Highland Park

(meet in parking lot at SE corner of park, off Grand Ave.)

11:30am: Aquinas College

([meet in small lot](#) between gym and St. Joe dorm, accessible via campus Fulton entrance)

If there are weather concerns, watch our [Facebook page](#) for updates.

Aquinas College Workday, Wilcox Park Trail:

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

9am-11am

1:30pm-3:30pm

(2 work sessions to choose from...or choose both! Signup info [here](#))

Earth Day Event sponsored by EGReen Sustainability Initiative:

Saturday, April 22, 2023

11am-2pm: Manhattan Park, EGR

(more info [here](#))

Hope to see you there!

Aquinas College Partnership

Coldbrook Creek Community representatives were recently invited to meet with staff and educators from Aquinas College and members of the Plaster Creek Stewards. The meeting was organized by Jessica Eimer Bowen, Director of Sustainability for Aquinas, with the goal of starting a conversation about how the different groups could learn from each other and work together to create a vibrant Coldbrook Creek watershed. An energetic discussion ranged from environmental stewardship, to student and citizen education, to non-profit administration, and to community enjoyment of the creek.

A partnership with these two groups makes a lot of sense. The [Plaster Creek Stewards](#) have a long history of successful watershed work to share, and the [Aquinas Sustainability Initiative](#) has been an embedded part of campus life since 2006 and includes projects such as the zero waste initiative and the urban forest initiative. In addition, there have been many Aquinas student projects focused on different creek attributes and concerns. The Aquinas campus also sits wholly within the Coldbrook Creek watershed.

We were excited to be part of this initial discussion. It was the first step in what all three organizations hope will be an ongoing fruitful collaboration. It has already led to a Wilcox Park Trail project that you can read about below.

AQUINAS
COLLEGE
Center for Sustainability



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Wilcox Park Trail Project Beginnings

A while back neighbors had informed us that the area around Coldbrook Creek on the eastern edge of Wilcox Park had become overly tangled with down trees and brush, and that the informal paths down there had become less usable.



At the same time, due to our recently developing partnership with Aquinas College, we were invited to work with Professor Jim Rasmussen's Advanced Environmental Studies Class (EL 301). This project based class has taken up the project of creating a dedicated creekside trail. The project has gained the approval of city officials and it meshes well with the [Wilcox Park Improvement Plan](#). In addition, the students recently held a public meeting to get community input. Neighbors, teachers and students, and others brought up both ideas and concerns, and these were talked about in what will be an ongoing discussion. But overall, there was a definite sense of commitment to the project by all!

Wilcox Park Trail Project Progress to Date

The EL 301 class has put a lot of work into this project. Highlights include:

Project goals:

- Create pathway
- Create signage
- Promote and inform the community regarding our watershed
- Promote service and volunteer opportunities

Students are currently working on:

- Mapping the path
- Measuring the slope of areas that may require [waterbars](#).
- Recruiting volunteers and equipment
- Website and video
- Creating a long-term timeline

Events:

- Hold a community meeting (past)
- Project work day (April 19, more info [here](#))

We look forward to seeing this phase of the trail project unfold by semester's end, and anticipate more creek collaborations in the future.

