

**Northside Greenspace Inc. Annual Report**  
**March 7, 2019 - March 24, 2020**

Without doubt, the most impactful change for Northside Greenspace has been the death of Skip Meinhart on May 1, 2019. Skip served on the Board of Northside Greenspace, since 2002, first as Treasurer for 10 years, then as President for 7 years until 2019. He made a big impact in many ways and he will be missed.

Skip, as many of you know, had a strong connection to the green spaces in Northside and spent countless hours volunteering his own time to improve them for us and wildlife, for now and far into the future. We can all know that the pleasure, solace, wonder and other deep feelings that many experience observing nature and walking the trails in Northside will have been inspired in some way by Skip's hard work and passion.

Certainly, this was part of the impetus behind Cincinnati's Board of Park Commissioners officially recognizing Skip and his efforts at their July 18<sup>th</sup>, meeting, which was attended by several NGI members.

NGI received memorial donations in honor of Skip. We are talking with the Cincinnati Parks Foundation about a suitable memorial in Buttercup Valley.

**Northside Greenspace Board:** Greg Torres (President), Pat Agnew (Vice President), Claire Darley (Secretary), Tim Bushnell (Treasurer), Karen Andrew, Bill Berger, Diana Boyd.

**Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting.** See attachment.

**Financial Report:**

March 7, 2019 through March 24, 2020:

Beginning balance: \$9,077.36

Income: \$2,475                    [Dues \$1,815, Donations \$660]

Expenditures: \$530.95 [Organizational memberships \$105, Grants \$225,  
Supplies: \$29.51, Miscellaneous -\$75 (negative), PO Box and mailing: \$246.44]

Ending balance: \$11,021.41

Submitted by Tim Bushnell, NGI Treasurer

## **Northside Greenspace Restoration Activity Report**

2019 Calendar Year Restoration Volunteer Hours: **267 hours.**

Includes 3 scheduled garlic mustard pulls (Buttercup Valley) and 2 honeysuckle removals (Parker Woods), and additional hours of invasive removal by individuals and small groups. Not included are meetings, walks, organization chores, etc..



**Sat. March 16:** Organized through the Civic Garden Center, and led by Greg Torres,



University of Wisconsin student volunteers cut honeysuckle and removed ivy and Wintercreeper from trees in Parker Woods. (additional 153 volunteer hours)

**Tues. April 2:** A walk and talk in Buttercup Valley. Greg Torres led four hikers.

**Sat. April 6:** A walk and talk in Buttercup Valley. Greg led ten students from Xavier University.

**Sat. May 5:** Spring Wildflower Walk, Buttercup Valley, 12 people attended.

**Mon. May 13:** With a \$225 grant from NGI, 6<sup>th</sup> graders planted and fenced 9 woody plants behind Parker Woods Montessori School where honeysuckle had been removed. They were directed by their teacher and NGI member Judy Ganance, and Bill Berger, NGI Board member and school volunteer.



**Tues. May 28:** Greg met with Cincinnati Parks officials to explore a new initiative to support nature-based programming in schools near Park properties, especially Parker Woods Montessori Elementary School.

**Sun. June 2:** Annual potluck picnic, Northside Greenspace and Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society at Keystone Flora.

**Tues. July 2:** After identifying priority projects with board members, Greg walked Buttercup Valley trails with Larry Parker and Christyl Johnson-Roberts from Cincinnati Parks. Buttercup Valley priorities include water bars to control erosion near the beginning of the two Stanford trailheads, and repair or relocation of a very degraded intersection on the Upper Stanford trail. Currently, Parks does not have a trail crew, and these repairs are beyond the ability of our volunteers.

**Thurs. Oct. 17:** Greg Torres led a walk at Buttercup Valley for eight members of the Civic Garden Center's Young Professionals.

**Sat. Oct. 26:** Honeysuckle Removal with Cincinnati Parks at Badgley Run. After receiving a pledge of assistance from NGI, Parks scheduled monthly work dates at Badgley Run with online registration.

**Tues. Nov. 12:** Claire Darley completed a survey as NGI's representative to Cincinnati Parks Advisory Committee (CPAC), with input from NGI and Northside Community Council. Trail needs in Buttercup Valley and Parker Woods, and improvements to Hoffner and Jergens Parks were outlined.

**Tues. Nov. 26:** At our request, the board received a proposal from Groundworks Ohio River Valley for construction of a low 4' x 20' bridge in Parker Woods, connecting a trail from Haight Ave. to Parker Woods School. The bridge, estimated at \$3500 would be constructed by Green Corps, a training program of Groundworks, which has completed other projects in Cincinnati Parks. Parks has agreed to provide \$500 worth of donations in-kind of locust wood and hardware.

**Fri. Dec. 6:** Three volunteers planted 2 burr oaks and numerous persimmons above the Upper Stanford Trail in Buttercup Valley.

**Sat. Dec. 7:** Five NGI volunteers cut honeysuckle at Badgely Run. The work was organized by Cincinnati Parks with a pledge of assistance from NGI.

**Sun. Dec. 8:**



Greg Torres, led a hike in Buttercup Valley for the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society, with 20 hikers participating.

**Thurs. Dec. 12:** Four Northside Greenspace members attended training for using herbicide in Cincinnati Parks. Parks intends to establish "best practices" for invasive removal on Parks property and certify pesticide applicators.

**Tues. Jan. 28:** The Board voted to provide up to \$1,500 of funding toward a bridge to be built by the Green Corps in Parker Woods. We will also apply for grants, and request support from Cincinnati Parks, and Parker Woods Montessori School.

**Thurs. Feb. 13:** After meeting individually with Jeremy Culpepper, Resource Coordinator at Parker Woods School, four NGI board members attended an initial meeting at the school to promote outdoor learning.

**Thurs. Feb. 20:** Walk and talk with Xavier University Sustainability Club, Greg Torres led, with 10 hikers participating.

**Sun. Feb. 23:** Rescheduled Winter Hike, Greg Torres led with 9 hikers participating.



**Tues. March 31:** Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) Grant Application was submitted to Northside Community Council for \$500 toward the Parker Woods Bridge.

**Tues. March 31:** A grant application was submitted to the Northside Community Fund for \$500, toward the total cost of the Parker Woods Bridge estimated at \$3500.