

## **Arboretum Update - April 2023**

On April 20<sup>th</sup> the Arboretum Committee conducted a walk through with Mike Van Clef of FoHVOS to discuss what is needed to move forward with the installation of an enclosure in the Arboretum. The area that we focused on was around Enclosure 1 which is located on the Curlis Avenue side of the Arboretum. At the last committee meeting it was decided to focus this year's activities in and around Arboretum 1. And to work on Enclosure 2 next year.

Mike and Kit re-staked out the Enclosure 1 location and Rick Smith also marked the location with tape around trees and on branches, high enough up to avoid being taken down by deer, etc.

- 1) It was identified that in and around this enclosure location that all bushes and growth (other than trees) was invasive and should be removed.
- 2) If you walk this area now, you will see that it is heavily covered with Lesser Celandine. However, it was strongly recommended by Mike that we do not attempt to dig it out as disrupting the soil would only encourage other invasives. For those who don't know, the Lesser Celandine will go dormant by June and "disappear." Mike also felt that if our native plantings in the enclosure are quart sized or larger, they should be able to grow through the Less Celandine in the spring with no problem.
- 3) It was recommended to plan four community-based volunteer mornings to clear the area in June. Saturday June 3rd, Saturday, June 10th, Saturday June 17th and Saturday June 24th from 9:00am-11:00am.
- 4) It was recommended that a work group size of 1 "captain" and 10 volunteers would be best. We will need knowledgeable people to volunteer as captain.
- 5) A big thanks to Joann Held and the Pennington Borough Environmental Commission for taking the lead on organizing the volunteers. Joann and the Environmental Commission will have a sign up sheet at their table at Pennington Day and will also provide an email contact for volunteers, etc.
- 6) It was recommended that the volunteers be told that they needed to bring their own supplies: gloves, clippers, shears, handsaws etc (NO power tools) also no shovels, hoes as we don't want to disturb the soil.) In addition volunteers need to know to provide their own fluids (water, Gatorade, etc) as well as any other supplies such as insect repellent, sun block etc)
- 7) If after the end of these four clean up days, there is additional work to be done, Dan Pace has offered a group from the Sourland Conservancy to come in and help.

- 8) It was recommended that everything we want to clear out of the exclosure area should be spread throughout the rest of the Arboretum; not piled up and not taken away. It was felt that anything we spread will decay away within the year.

### **Exclosures and tentative schedule**

Rick is still gathering quotes for the Exclosure and will also work on lead times. A tentative schedule moving forward is:

- 1) preparing the exclosure 1 location June/July
- 2) Exclosure installation July/August.
- 3) Native plantings within the exclosure September.

After walking the site, it was recommended that the exclosure 1 location be moved slightly toward Curlis Avenue, so the current path actually runs along side the exclosure and not through it. That adjustment does not really impact any of the above, only final exclosure installation.

Further discussion on the exclosure - gates versus access is needed.