

CREEK VOICE



A PUBLICATION OF THE RICHLAND CREEK WATERSHED ALLIANCE | NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Work on new MNP West Precinct underway

By Steve Swartz

With a crash and a bang, down came the blue and white Ford sign at the old Charlotte Avenue dealership which is now busy with construction equipment and workers. The redevelopment of the auto dealership as the new West Precinct for the Metro Police Department is in full swing.

The project now under construction looks very different from the one conceived two years ago. RCWA was very active in objecting to the original plan which crowded parking and other development onto the creek bank and left little room for the restoration of the much needed natural buffer required for a healthy Richland Creek.

Years of encroachment by development has led both to pollution of the creek and also aggravated flooding and

creek bank erosion. RCWA's goal is to restore the creek buffer to a depth of 75 feet on each creek side. This Metro project was seen as an opportunity to redevelop in an environmentally responsible way to stand as a good example for private developers.

The strong input from RCWA and community activists along with some timely help from the May 2010 flood led to a major redesign of the project to include a change in the plan to locate the Metro Police Crime Lab at West Precinct. Not including the Crime Lab in the West Precinct reduced the required parking and greatly improved the creek buffer.

Continued on pg 2

Gunner's Glass Recycling is an inspiring story

By Shawn Sweeney

When my wife and I taught our five-year (at the time) old son, Gunner, about recycling we used fun facts to help him understand. Gunner helped find these facts available through the Glass Packaging Institute's website:

- Glass bottles and jars are 100% recyclable and can be recycled endlessly without any loss in purity or quality.
- A glass container can go from a recycling bin to a store shelf in as little as 30 days. An estimated 80% of recovered glass containers are made into new glass bottles.
- Recycling just one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours, power a computer for 30 minutes, or a television for 20 minutes.
- Glass container manufacturers have set a goal to achieve 50% recycled content in the manufacture of new glass bottles by 2013.

- Using 50% recycled glass to make new glass containers would save enough energy to power 21,978 homes for one year and remove 181,550 tons of waste from landfills every month.

Gunner took what he learned and ran with it. We estimate that he has helped recycle more than 10 tons of glass in the past 18 months. Our rough math estimate is that he has saved 216,000 hours of light bulb usage. Not bad for the (now) seven-year old!

Gunner's story is quite inspiring. He created Gunner's Glass Recycling to provide curbside glass recycling in Nashville. For \$6 per month, his company picks up your glass twice each month, sorts it and delivers to the recycling center. To learn more about how you can join his mission to get everyone to recycle more, please email service@gunnersrecycling.com or visit www.gunnersrecycling.com.

Editor's Note: Gunner Recycling will be picking up the glass collected at the Spring Creek Clean Up on Charlotte Avenue that the Richland Creek Watershed Alliance will be hosting on April 9th this year! Thanks Gunner.



Drawing of Revised W. Precinct Plan. Dark gray parking is pervious pavement and will filter-out pollutants

West Precinct from pg 1

Thanks to John Gore, Project Civil Engineer with Barge Cauthen, we have some details on the redesign. The square footage of the buffer is now 54,408 square feet to an average width of 94 feet and a total length of 575 feet. This revised buffer is 2.5 times larger than what was proposed by Metro at the March 2010 meeting of the Storm Water Management Committee. Construction on West Precinct will continue throughout the summer with completion by September 2011.

Should a May-type flood revisit the West Precinct, the flood waters will encounter a decorative wall which is actually a planter which doubles as a sea wall to break the force of the flood waters. Access to the floor of the building is being raised two feet to protect the utilities and the police property. Water levels reached almost two feet in the building during the flood.

This project is a splendid example of how RCWA can make a difference. Of course, credit is due to a Metro Government which listens to its citizens and project engineers who believe environmentally friendly development is cost effective and in the public interest.

Flow 2011 Conference in Nashville

By Monette Rebecca

An important conference is coming to Nashville at the Millenium Maxwell House Hotel on May 2-4, 2011. The conference topic is "Instream Flow Valuation in Public Decision Making". More information is available at: www.instreamflowcouncil.org/Flow2011.

The Richland Creek Watershed Alliance has been partnering with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources for the past two years, collecting information for the flow study on Richland Creek. This study, and ones like it, is important because they gather scientific information for protection of aquatic and wildlife habitats.

As cities grow, so does the demand for water. It is important that our water-use policies are renewed and balanced with the many water uses we have: drinking, agricultural, industrial, energy production and aquatic life. RCWA is preparing a wall poster to display at the May conference that will stress the importance of public understanding about and participation in Metro Nashville water use policy development and how this goal is supported by our partnership study on Richland Creek.

Creek cleanup at West Park a massive success

By Monette Rebecca

A beautiful February day rewarded 63 hearty volunteers who turned out at West Park along Richland Creek to collect debris deposited by the May 2010 flood. This was the first of four RCWA hosted creek cleanups with three more scheduled in March and April. If success can be measured in pounds, the six tons of collected flood debris can be termed a heavy success. Volunteers expressed amazement at having recovered 32 trash containers from this one area that Metro has reclaimed for reuse. Also recovered were salvageable industrial materials returned to the stock of local businesses and a

large quantity of toxic materials, which were removed from the water's edge. Left in place, this debris would have resulted in more pollution flowing to the already endangered waters of Richland Creek and potentially impede stream flow, which could lead to flooding of nearby homes and businesses.

To our 63 volunteers, our sincere thanks. You are RCWA and your creek appreciates you! Get details on the RCWA website about our upcoming creek cleanup events: www.richlandcreekwatershedalliance.org.



Conditions at Delray Court before the clean up.

Richland Creek Clean Up Schedule

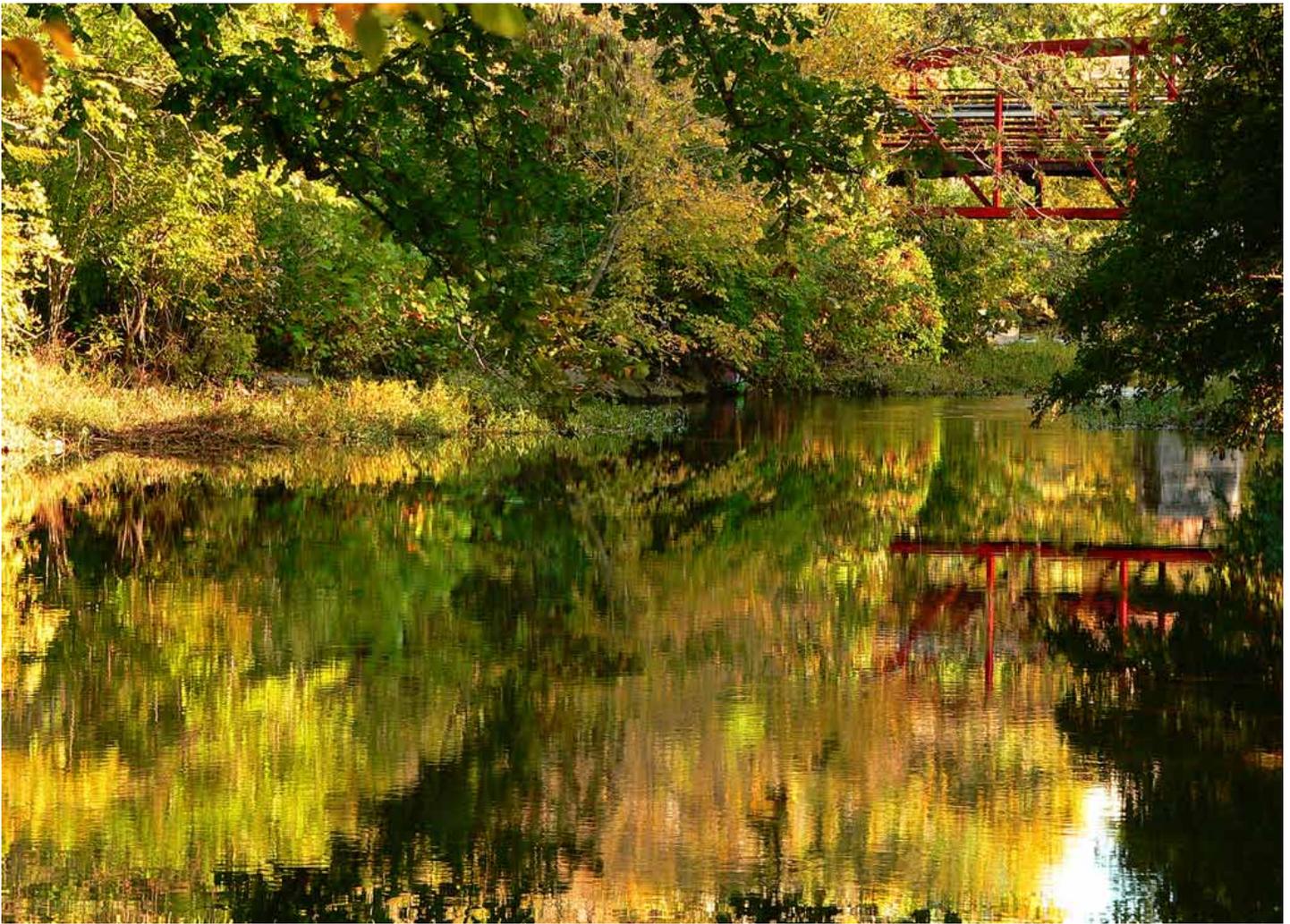
**March 26th
1006 Delray Court**

**April 9th
5495 Charlotte Avenue
at Richland Creek**

**April 30th
733 Hite Street**



West Park - 6 Tons, 32 Metro Bins and More Collected!



We hope that each of our readers will consider joining RCWA for 2011. Your \$15 membership fee will be well spent in helping preserve scenes like this in our Nashville legacy. Mail Checks and the form below to: P.O. Box 92016 Nashville, TN 37209 or submit online at our web site: www.richlandcreekwatershedalliance.org.

Date	Signature	
Print Name		Email
Address (please include zip code)		Phone
Name of stream near your home or business:		
Neighborhood Association:		Are you a member of your neighborhood association? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
What specific concern(s) do you have about our streams?		

RCWA partnering with Mayor Dean's Impact Nashville

By Monette Rebecca

RCWA is enjoying an increasingly significant role outside of the immediate Richland Creek watershed as it begins to interact with important environmental groups with similar goals. Our Alliance and other groups are working together with Mayor Dean's Impact Nashville initiative "to assess the conditions of our waterways and plan volunteer led clean-ups before May." RCWA is proud to be a partner with the recently formed Nashville Waterways Recovery Project and appreciates the support provided by Metro Government.

State and Metro agencies did a superb job cleaning flood debris from the most visible locations immediately following the historic flood but there is still more to do. More recent waterway assessments conducted by the Nashville coalition have identified many locations with debris that could potentially impede natural stream and stormwater flow. Impact Nashville and Hands On Nashville are assisting with promoting the scheduled flood recovery clean ups.

How can you help? Please volunteer your time for clean ups and, should you see an environmental issue, report it to RCWA or one of our watershed group partners.

The union between Nashville government, non-profits and citizens will further reduce flood risk this spring and elevate the water quality in our streams and river.

RCWA is growing and your financial support is crucial



Thank you for past support of RCWA; Richland Creek is the fortunate beneficiary of your gifts. However, our operational costs have grown and our creek "rescues" needs your further support this year. RCWA is seeking funds to meet the growing operational expenditures. Remember, the IRS recognizes RCWA as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and we hope you will consider us for your 2011 charitable contributions. Checks may be mailed to: RCWA, PO Box 92016, Nashville, TN 37209.

The Nashville Waterways Recovery Project partners are:



impactnashville.net



cumberlandrivercompact.org



harpethriver.org



nashville.gov/stormwater



hon.org

The waterways project was funded by a \$25,000 grant by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee's Metro Disaster Response Fund, www.cfmt.org.

A note from the Executive Director

Over the past three years, our organization has achieved impressive and widely recognized progress in the protection of our watershed with very modest funding. But, our success also has bred an increase in both expectations and expenses. The organization's administrative overhead, bookkeeping needs, web service costs and networking requests have increased recently and we need financial support to offset these expenditures and continue our advocacy, research and project activities that sustain the watershed and benefit the community. The organization does make a difference and is now at an inspired crossroads. We have projects in place that will help sustain Richland Creek: Instream Flow Study, Stream Monitoring Program, Nashville Waterways Recovery Project and visions of restorative projects on the horizon. With your financial support, we will be able to expand this momentum and take RCWA to still higher levels of achievement.

Monette Rebecca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling for Richland Creek Stream Monitoring Volunteers

RCWA needs volunteers for an important stream monitoring study this year. A training session will be required to insure the reliability and consistency of collected data. Please contact us to become a monitor. Your help is needed! (525.3379 or rcwa@comcast.net). Thank you. The Richland Creek Watershed Alliance appreciates the assistance provided by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the World Wildlife Fund.



Help us plan the 2011 Annual Membership Gathering

Do you take party planning seriously and are you one of those RCWA supporters that say, "I really want to help the effort but can't commit to anything ongoing?" If that's you, you're the RCWA volunteer we need. Come together with other RCWA members to plan the 2011 party scheduled for October 2 -- our annual membership gathering! Let us know you want to help - call 525.3379 or email us: rcwa@comcast.net.

CREEKVOICE VOLUNTEER STAFF

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Steve Swartz, Monette Rebecca & Shawn Sweeney

RCWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monette Rebecca - President
Stephanie Swartz - Treasurer
Catherine Hayden - Secretary

Carroll Young and Michelle Webber have resigned from the board recently due to personal responsibilities. Their service to the Board is much valued and appreciated. Please consider serving your Alliance by joining the RCWA Board of Directors and assisting with the management of the organization. We would like each neighborhood in the watershed to be represented on the board. Please contact us to learn more about board service and how you can help. rcwa@comcast.net.

The Richland Creek Watershed Alliance mission is to educate, advocate and participate in activities and scientific research that improves, protects and enhances the environmental sustainability of the Richland Creek watershed.

JOIN RCWA - TO SHARE & LEARN MORE

Submit your annual membership of \$15 by snail mail or via PayPal from our website at www.richlandcreekwatershedalliance.org

Submit questions or concerns to rcwa@comcast.net.

For more details, photos or to comment, please visit our blog at rcwa.blogspot.com.

The Richland Creek Watershed Alliance is a tax-exempt, 501c3 non-profit organization (public charity).



Richland Creek Watershed Alliance

PO Box 92016 Nashville, TN 37209

A community-supported volunteer organization promoting environmental sustainability for the Richland Creek Watershed.

www.richlandcreekwatershedalliance.org

Our watershed is rich with stakeholders who share their gifts.