Scioto Watershed Action Group

SWAG NEWS

SWAG EVENTS JUNE 2025

Date- Loaction	Event
June 18, 2025 5:30-7pm In person at, FSWCD 1404 Goodale Blvd And by ZOOM	**SWAG Monthly Meeting** **ZOOM LINK**
June 28, 2025 9am-noon Westmoor Park, 3015 Valeyview Dr	Honeysuckle removal to prepare for fall tree planting with CRPD Signup: Conservation at Westmoor Park.
June 29, 2025 1:30-3:30 Holton Park, 303Eureka Ave	**Stream Quality Monitoring** SQM monitoring may have to be rescheduled depending on weather

PARTNER EVENTS JUNE 2025

Date - Location	Partner	Event
June 11, 2025, 8:30 Glacier Ridge Matro Park, Shelter House	Metro Parks	Strawberry Full Moon Hike
June 14, 2025, 9:30-11am **McKnight Outdoor Education Center** **3232 Indian Village Road**	**CRPD**	**Conservation Stewardship Training** **CRPD-volunteerhub**
June 14, 2025, 9am-noon Smith Park, 1270 Fishinger Rd	Friends of UA Parks	Honeysuckle Removal
June 24, 2025, 2-3pm Dublin Rec Center DCRC, 5600 Post Rd	Dublin Parks	Scioto River Water Quality: Past Present and Future, *Petra Schmalbrock*

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SWAG MADE A BIG STEP FORWARD TOWARDS BECOMING A NONPROFIT

On May 21, 2025, we held our first official Board Meeting, approved the Bylaws and elected officers. IRS 1023-EZ was filed to get IRS approval as a non-profit. That is the final step! Meet the Board (left to right): Lillian Whitcomb (Secretary), Petra Schmalbrock (President), Alaina Engdahl (Co-Treasurer), Tori Robinson (Treasurer), Madaline Gresham (we'll find a job and a title for you 😊). Thank you, Jody Dzuranin for helping us getting incorporated.





WESTMOOR PARK TREE PLANTING, HEALTHY TREES, HONEYSUCKLE REMOVAL JUNE 28 AND PREPARING FOR MORE TREES IN THE FALL

On April 12, 2025, we planted about 200 tree seedings at the south end of Westmoor Park. Thank you volunteers from Burns & McDowell and all others. We checked out the tree planting on May 27 and it's looking very good. We plan to continue working at Westmoor Park on June 28, 2025, with honeysuckle removal to prepare more space for planting more trees in the Fall.



Mary Rathke and Joe Carter Demonstrating











May 27, 2025, progress

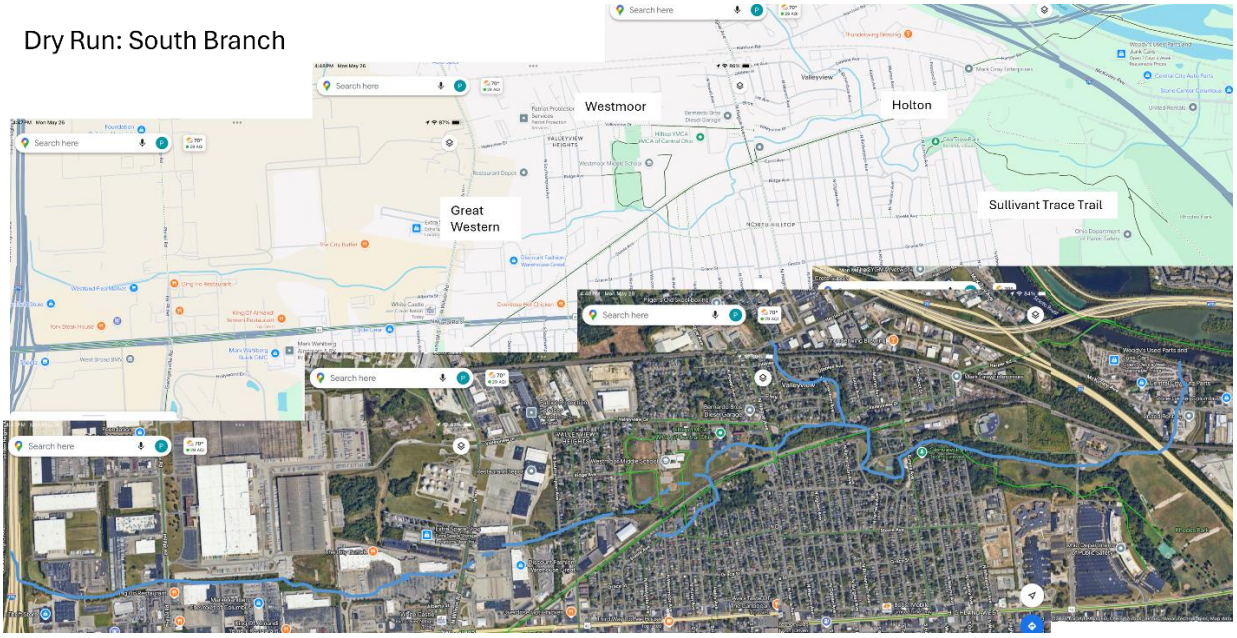
CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP AT CARRIAGE PLACE AND MCKNIGHT CRPD POLLINATOR HABITATS

The SWAG Conservation Stewardship Team has adopted 3 of CRPD's in most need Pollinator habitats for 2025: Carriage Place, McKnight Center and Raymond. We have made some progress with thistle and prickly lettuce removal at Carriage Place and dug out a patch of burdock and McKnight. Stay tuned for future work sessions.

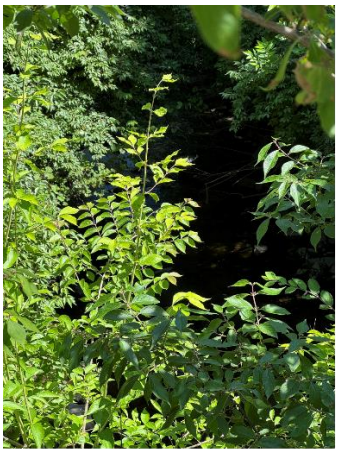




DRY RUN FROM ITS MOUTH WITH THE SCIOTO TO THE END OF ITS SOUTH BRANCH & SWAG TOUR MAY 11, 2025



Dry Run joins the Scioto River 1/8 mile north of McKinley Ave between Grandview and I670. McKinnley is the closest public access to the river here, because Railroad tracks and industrial businesses limit access. A deep honeysuckle tunnel gives only a limited view of Dry Run to the north, to the south the stream runs through gigantic stone and rock lined trench. This ditch continues near railroad tracks, a culvert under I70, and then along Rhodes Park where it is again in a tree and honeysuckle lined bed. Next it crosses Buckeye Pkwy, runs on the north side of a 250ac state owned parcel housing ODOT, Ohio Dept of Public Safety and the Columbus PD Heliport. To the south of Dry Run is a large open space, maybe planed as a large retention pond, or perhaps a historic quarry. Sullivant - Trace Trail runs through here to Glenview Park and Holton Park.





Following Dry Run upstream from Holton Park, the stream runs south of Valleyview Dr. Near Richardson Ave by a parcel of city owned land, the north fork of Dry Run comes in. We did not yet explore the north branch; it is the larger portion of Dry Run with two north branches carrying about double the flow than the south branch. Instead, we followed the south branch across Hague Rd. ***Today***, from there, the stream runs on the south side of Glenwood United Methodist Church, the Hilltop YMCA, Westmoor School and Westmoor Park, and north of the Camp Chase railroad tracks and bike path. This is not the stream course shown on google maps, instead they show the stream crossing under the railroad tracks, looping through the residential neighborhood and then crossing the tracks again. There is, however, a significant bridge on Camp Chase Bike trail indicating that at some time, this was the

main course of the stream. ***Today*** there is only a small branch joining just west of Hague and it can be seen on Haldy. The story of humanmade stream alterations along this stretch of Dry Run is an interesting story for another day. From Westmoor Park the stream goes into the neighborhood west of the park. We didn't follow it there. According to maps, the South Branch of Dry Run then continues north of National Rd (US40)across the Great Western Shopping Center, past warehouses and trucking companies all the way to I270. On maps, it seems to be mostly underground, sometimes in a ditch or shrubby area.


Westmoor


Westmoor

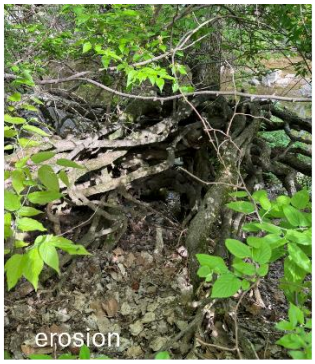

Ditch at old creek bed


From Camp Chase Trail


Camp Chase Trail Bridge

On May 11, 2025, SWAG Team Member Sean Cunningham gave us a tour of Holton Park and Sullivant Trace Trail. Sean lives nearby and has observed nature in this area carefully, and is thus very knowledgeable about the plants, critters and stream features. We started our tour at the Holton Community Center. Our first stop was the raingarden/retention pond which was planted with natives but is now somewhat invaded by prickly lettuce and could use some TLC. Sean pointed out that the raingarden only captures water from the parking lot; most of the drainage of the area enters the Dry Run through two very large culverts fed by storm sewers.


Holton


erosion




Sullivant Trace Trail

Dry Run loops around Holton Park. A "waterfall" in the stream is a concrete dam that covers and shields a sanitary sewer that is separate from the storm sewers. While the Park is a turf grass field, the stream bank has self-revegetated nicely with cotton woods, maples, sycamores and tulip trees. it would be interesting to learn more about the natural history of Holton Park. Likely it was part of the flood plain for Dry Run, but now there is an old stone block retention wall.

Our walk then led us through Glenview Park with some nice old trees. Along the bank of Dry Run, one can observe significant stream erosion exposing the large roots of hackberry and sycamore trees trying to stabilize the bank. This shows how flashy the stream is, meaning that the stream flow increases very significantly after some rain because of all the impervious surfaces upstream. The stream bank to the north side is very steep and mostly covered with honeysuckle, but we found a nice display of spring ephemerals including fawn lilies, waterleaf and Salomon seal. Keeping honeysuckle in check here would help preserve native spring wildflowers.

Sullivant Trace Trail is on a boardwalk crossing a vernal pool. Fairy shrimp found in the pool indicate that this is a seasonal pool; near the boardwalk it is tree-lined, but further out there is an open area, and this may lead to significant algal growth. The pool does not seem to have a connection to Dry Run, but that may depend on the water level. We did see a frog indicating a pretty good habitat. We continued to follow Sullivant Trace Trail past the large state own open area. It would be interesting to find out if this is a recently constructed retention pond for the ODOT and other State Buildings and parking lots, or if this is a historic quarry.

Stream Statistics from StreamCat Dataset | US EPA

Section	Area	Percent Impervious Surface 2019
Main at McKinley	2.4km2 = 253ac	50.6 %
South branch	**5.6km2 = 1384ac**	**62.5%**
North Branch before 2nd branch	0.8km2 = 198ac	51%
North branch: South Portion	7.2km2 = 1779ac	51.8
North branch: North Portion	2.5km2 = 618	58.5%
Total Dry Run Watershed	18.5km2 = 4571	55.8 % average all watershed

Dry Run in its entirety as a huge amount of impervious surface and is especially high for the South Fork: 3.5km2 paved on the South Fork and 10.2km2 overall, and very little green space to absorb the water in the ground.

Just "playing" with the numbers, even a moderate amount of rain pf e.g. ½ inch (=1.27cm), will produce enormous amount run-off from all these impervious surfaces. One-half inch of rain the impervious are of the south Fork is 44 million liters or 11 million gallons, on all impervious areas in the watershed, that is 133 million liters or 33 million gallons. A large size Olympic swimming pool holds about 1 million gallons of water. This amounts to about 20 large pools rushing by Westmoor Park and the YMCA, no wonder that the stream restoration area there is strained. The total rushing by McKinley Ave is about 60 large pools, so no wonder that there is such a huge ditch. And this is for just a moderate amount of rain of ½ inch.

SAVE THE DATE: EVENTS JULY AND LATER

July 18, 2025, 5:30-7pm FSWCD.104 Goodale Blvd	SWAG Monthly Meeting ***Speaker: Sarah Hippensteel*** The Miami Conservancy District
July 19, 2025, 9am-11am Ferris Wright Park, 4400 Emerald Pkwy	Stream Habitat and Water Quality Monitoring Stream Habitat & Water Quality Monitoring in Dublin - WebTrac Activity Single Icon
Aug 16, 2025	Mike Utt Scioto River Clean up
Aug 23, 2025	Arborfest at Whetstone Park, SWAG info Table
Sept 11, 2025, South Fork Indian Run	Macro Invertebrate Sampling
October 4, 2025,	Water Quality Blitz, South Fork Indian Run

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SWAG monthly Meeting

Time: Jun 18, 2025 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82558551794?pwd=x5mBatTFHSKmGl7lAwDLvCnCf1BelX.1

Meeting ID: 825 5855 1794

Passcode: 221745

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