2026 HUDSON GARDEN CLUB GRANTS UPDATE / Marcia Carsten

JC GARDEN WEST EDGE FLOWER ADDITIONS:

On May 9th, a team of FOHP and community volunteers and Hudson High School students from the Conservation Club, planted the west edge native grasses, sedges and flowering forbs that were purchased from Avonlea Nursery. Wild geranium, Virginia waterleaf, Penstemon hirsutus, Virginia bluebells, Blue-stemmed goldenrod, Carex appalachia, Lance leafed coreopsis, and Heliopsis helianthoides, were planted and watered. Over the coming week the whole area was mulched. Park staff used a newly purchased watering system to keep the new plants watered during the summer heat and drought.



VOLUNTEERS PLANTING THE JC HABITAT AREA ON MAY 9TH



LOOKING NORTH TO THE WEST EDGE PLANTING AREA

JC GARDEN MONARCH GARDEN EXPANSION:

On May 9th volunteers also planted a total of 239 individual native flowering forbs, sedges and grasses in both the newly enlarged main Janet Cheeseman Native Habitat Area. (An additional 29 grasses and native sedges and flowering forbs were added in September.) The Butterfly milkweed hosted a record number of Monarch caterpillars both in the JC Habitat Area and the adjoining meadow. A team of FOHP Conservation Crew members spent many hours weeding and mulching and watering the newly planted area. Visitors to the park are enjoying the newly flowering habitat and there is a great increase in pollinators in Hudson Springs Park as a result of these habitat additions.





VOUNTEERS PLANTING THE JC HABITAT MAY 9TH



BUTTERFLY WEED BLOOMING

HUDSON SPRINGS PARK MEADOW RESTORATION:

Paradise Natives was hired by FOHP to do the 2026 grant restoration work on the meadow. Thirty-eight species of wet meadow seed were purchased from Ohio Prairie Nursery for the fall planting. PN has made three applications of grass-specific herbicide to kill the non-native grasses that were spreading through the meadow area. Native sedges, Monkeyflower, Verbena, Boneset and Marsh milkweed were not harmed by the grass-specific herbicide and flowered through-out the summer. As soon as the growing season ends with a frost

(October has been unseasonably warm and dry and plants have not yet gone dormant) PN will mow the meadow and rake it in preparation for late fall/early winter seeding. (In addition to the seed purchased from OPN, FOHP volunteers will spread native seed collected by FOHP from Guy Denny's native meadow in Fredrickstown, Ohio.



HSP MEADOW AFTER FIRST GRASS-SPECIFIC HERBICIDE



MONKEYFLOWER STILL BLOOMING



MARSH MILKWEED STILL BLOOMING

HUDSON SPRINGS PARK MAY PAVILION STREAM RESTORATION:

Paradise Natives was hired to remove the invasive honeysuckle, privet, autumn olive, buckthorn and multifloral rose and other non-native species from the entire stream bed that runs along the park road entrance all the way to the May Pavilion. The work will begin once the plants become dormant (hopefully in the next two weeks). The plants will either be cut and the base treated with an applied herbicide or they will be backpack sprayed if very small. All detritus will be hauled away by PN. The work should be finished by the end of November.

A side note about Darrow Road Park:

The stream restoration done by EnviroScience with an Ohio EPA 319 grant through Tinker's Creek Watershed has been an enormous success. The two newly added meanders are filled with small fish and amphibians. Before the restoration, the stream bed was mostly devoid of all life with poor water quality. On the eastern end of the park, the stream bed was routed into a low basin that used to be a beaver pond in the late 1980s. This slows the water down and disperses it into the natural wetland basin. As a result of this restoration, during heavy rains, the newly built meanders and rerouted basin area will help to slow and retain the flow of water thereby mitigating downstream flooding. The Meadow/Tall Grass Prairie is also a great success. It is filled with insect species and birds that use the flowers and grasses for food and nesting habitat. Every year, the prairie changes depending on weather conditions. Last year during a fierce heat wave and drought, the prairie grasses grew tall. This year, a more seasonal summer allowed the flowering plants to grow taller and stunted the height of the native grasses. The second section of prairie will be burned this fall by Mad Scientists out of Westerville Ohio. The Hudson Parks Department has commissioned an update to the Darrow Road Conservation Management Plan for 2027- 2031 by Davey Resource Group.



DRP PRAIRIE SUMMER DURING DROUGHT 2025



DRP PRAIRIE MID SUMMER 2026



DRP PRAIRIE FALL 2026