



Volunteers working on the Worthington Rain Garden

**Worthington Residents
Working together to:**

- Develop a more walkable, bikeable, bus-friendly community
- Encourage year-round access to locally grown food
- Support a greener community
- Build a more vibrant community and local economy
- Develop regional sustainability practices

Spring 2009

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URBAN AGRICULTURE

Urban agriculture can be defined briefly as the growing of plants and the raising of animals within and around cities. While farming is traditionally viewed as an activity confined to rural areas, much can be done in your own backyard. In fact, many people in central Ohio are ideally positioned to become farmers right where they are. Whether you are a banker, politician, parent, restaurateur, entrepreneur, or student, there are infinite numbers of entry points into the local food economy. Participating in urban agriculture in Central Ohio can include: growing a small vegetable garden (planting beds or containers), community gardening, composting, raising chickens, beekeeping, planting fruit trees, and purchasing locally produced and grown food.

With food costs on the rise, growing your own food can offset some of these costs. Importantly, urban agriculture practices are sustainable and improve the connectedness and richness of the local community. A vibrant community is one that's producing food, art, music ... all the great things that people can produce. Urban agriculture taps into giving people the opportunity to do that.

Because urban agriculture is a relatively new urban issue, in which different sectors and institutions are involved, it will require the development of new planning practices, or the adaptation of existing ones, and supportive policies. Local groups such as

Sustainable Worthington and the participation and support of the community will be important in determining the success of such efforts. For more information about upcoming programming and to find out how you can get involved contact info@sustainableworthington.org.

WASTE NOT CENTER

If you missed the very successful visit of the Waste Not Center van to the Worthington Farmers market to receive donations of materials and supplies for use by teachers, artists and non-profit organizations in the Columbus area, you can still easily contribute here in Worthington. On Second Thought in Worthington (<http://web.mac.com/onsecondthought>) is one of 12 neighborhood drop-offs where small quantities of items may be donated.

Supplies most in demand by center members include: paper, pads, notebooks, paint, brushes, glue, fabric, flowers, vases, writing utensils, books, videos, CDs, foam core, poster board, binders, folders, envelopes, and office/desk supplies. Visit www.wastenotcenter.org or call (614) 278-9445 for more info.

COMING IN JUNE!

3 Free Programs on "How To Be More Sustainable" Sponsored by Sustainable Worthington and the Worthington Libraries.

Watch for more details on the SW website and in a future issue of the Library's Page Turner.

In the Works

If you are interested in these initiatives supported by Sustainable Worthington we encourage you to get involved. Contact Sustainable Worthington at info@sustainableworthington.org. There are a variety of sub-groups, including local foods, energy and education.

NEW URBAN FOREST INTEREST GROUP

Sustainable Worthington members have started a new special interest group focused on our Urban Forests. The group is starting off running with a service project lined up for the first week in April. They will be pulling honeysuckle at the Moses Wright Nature Area in the East Granville Park. The park is 5 acres of actual forest within Worthington. It, like many other parks in the area, has a problem with invasive plant species.

The City of Worthington Parks Department is delighted to have the group help in renovating the nature area, which has been neglected in favor of other parks and the Olentangy parkway. It is hoped the honeysuckle pull will be the start of a long-term project to bring the city forest back to health.

The pull date has been set for Saturday, April 4 at 9 AM. Joe Russell, owner of Russell Tree Experts in Worthington and member of Sustainable Worthington, will be the on-site professional, handling chain saws and the chipper.

The Moses Wright Nature Area is set back from 161, behind the East Granville Park and playground. If you are interested in participating in this event contact Paula Deming at pdeming3506@wowway.com.

DATE SET FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF W.O.O.F.

A date has been set for the first meeting of W.O.O.F. (Worthington Organized Off-Leash Friends). The purpose of the meeting will be to provide an update on the status of the off-leash dog park project and to start organizing volunteer efforts.



The meeting will be held at the Worthington Public Library on Monday, March 30, from 7 to 8:30 PM. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Please contact Jennifer Lyon at jlyon@columbus.rr.com.

***Please note** that the library generously makes its meeting room available to community groups like ours free of charge but asks that we do NOT park in the library parking lots.

EFFORTS CONTINUE FOR A COMMUNITY GARDEN

Efforts to develop a community garden in Worthington continue as the Sustainable Worthington Community Garden Committee renews its efforts to find the most appropriate space for the garden. The committee is looking to work with Worthington Parks and Recreation to determine if there is a city owned piece of property on which to develop a community garden.

COME TO SUSTAINABLE WORTHINGTON'S NEXT MEETING

Sustainable Worthington is composed of interested citizens who want to make a difference. Please join us on **Wednesday, May 13, from 7 to 8:30 PM** at the Worthington Public Library to talk about sustainability in Worthington and connect with each other. We will talk about specific areas of interest, including community gardens, educational programs, our newsletter, helping to make Worthington more walkable/bikeable, and local foods. All are welcome! Please invite others you think might be interested.

Sustainable Worthington

Sustainable Worthington is a "grassroots" organization where individual interest and work determines what ideas and projects will move forward. There are no dues for membership at this point and we are not a 501(c)3 charity.

We currently have over 180 people on our email list. Anyone on the list is welcome to email the group at sustainable-worthington@googlegroups.com.

All are welcome so spread the word to anyone you think might be interested. Please come to our meetings or contact us with any questions or ideas.

E-mail: info@sustainableworthington.org

We're on the Web!

www.sustainableworthington.org or

Become a fan on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sustainable-Worthington/57305043469>